



FY 2011 Forest Service Budget Recommendations (Appropriations Committee, Interior and Related Agencies)

- **\$100 million for Urban and Community Forestry**
- **\$16 million for Research on urban natural resources**

US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program Budget

2008 Enacted	2009 Enacted	2010 Enacted	2011 SUFC Recommendations
\$27.7 million	\$29.5 million	\$30.4 million	\$100 million

\$100 million for the Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF)

- **\$40 million for State Cooperative Assistance.** U&CF leverages \$3 for every \$1 in federal assistance and serves 83% of the population. Appropriating \$40 million will help deliver the baseline technical, financial, research and educational services which help communities in every state assess, manage, and optimize the benefits of trees in urbanized landscapes.
- **\$60 million to support an expanded program focusing on the development of new jobs through the following activities:**
 - **Competitive state, multi-state, and regional grants to address forest issues across the landscape.** The U&CF Program will address forest issues in municipalities of all sizes and urban interface areas as part of the agency’s larger landscape scale initiatives promoting forest health. Projects that optimize ecosystem services – such as energy conservation, stormwater mitigation, air and water quality – and create or sustain jobs will be emphasized.
 - **Volunteer coordination.** Cities accomplish more when volunteers are professionally organized to plant, maintain and monitor urban forests. Funds would enable nonprofits to create qualified green-collar community organizers to engage hundreds of thousands of volunteers to improve urban forests, leveraging 1.5 million hours of service.
 - **Urban tree canopy and tree benefit assessments.** Many urban areas and cities lack baseline data regarding the extent, health and function of their urban forest resources. Focus funds would help municipalities assess tree canopy assets and improve urban forest management plans. Canopy assessments are conducted by the small business sector, supporting high tech green jobs.
 - **Technology Transfer and Education** to advance best practices in urban forest management and care.

- Alliance for Community Trees
- American Forests
- American Nursery and Landscape Association
- American Planning Association
- American Public Works Association
- American Society of Consulting Arborists
- American Society of Landscape Architects
- International City/County Management Association
- International Society of Arboriculture
- Keep America Beautiful
- National Arbor Day Foundation
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Parks and Recreation Association
- Society of Municipal Arborists
- Tree Care Industry Association
- TreeLink
- Utility Arborist Association
- US Conference of Mayors

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) is a group of national organizations advancing a unified urban forest agenda for our nation’s communities.

\$16 million for Research on urban natural resources

The coalition supports the recommendations of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council to increase the Forest Service's investment to \$24 million for urban natural resources research by the year 2015.

Consistent with this goal, in FY 2011, the coalition recommends \$16 million for Research and Development in urban natural resources.

Key units:

- Northern Station at Syracuse, NY – urban forests, human health and environmental quality
- Northern Station at Evanston, IL – social science supporting natural resource management and policy
- Northern Station Urban Natural Resources Institute at Burlington, VT – providing tools and information to quantify the value of trees and open space for decision makers
- Pacific Southwestern Station Center for Urban Forest Resources at Davis, CA – urban forest structure, benefits and costs
- Pacific Southwestern Station at Riverside, CA – wildland interface and urban cultures
- Southern Station Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry at Gainesville, FL and Athens, GA– human and natural systems in urban and urbanizing landscapes

Key Benefits of Urban Forests

- **Energy:** Planting and preserving trees in communities is more cost effective than building new power plants. Properly placed, mature shade trees help save as much as 30% on summer electric cooling bills for homes. Tree windbreaks reduce residential heating costs 10-15%.
- **Water:** Urban trees reduce storm water runoff and help municipalities meet EPA Clean Water requirements. Washington DC's public trees alone provide storm water management benefits of \$3.7 million annually.
- **Air Quality:** Trees absorb carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides and other pollutants, and shade cars and parking lots reducing ozone emissions from vehicles. Houston's regional urban forest contains nearly 663 million trees that remove approximately 60,575 tons of air pollutants each year, valued at \$300 million a year.
- **Green Jobs:** The green industries -- urban forestry, arboriculture, horticulture, landscape design and maintenance, and other professions that support the urban forest landscape -- have an estimated annual economic impact of \$147.8 billion and are growth industries that can provide tens of thousands of new jobs.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Increasing tree cover by 10% in New York City would meet over 1/3 of the city's federal air quality compliance needs for ground level ozone.
- **Risk Management:** Professional urban forest management contains threats in the "urban interface"—such as invasive species, exotic pests, and fire—that pose a risk to forestlands.
- **Public Health:** Access to trees, green spaces, and parks promotes greater physical activity, reduces stress, improves mental health and reduces asthma risks.

For FY 2011, SUFC supports the **USDA Forest Health Management Program** with an appropriation of \$145 million for the USDA Forest Service to manage non-native insects and plant diseases that threaten America's forests. SUFC also supports \$10 million for the **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program** (Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations). This new program provides matching funds to help local government entities, Indian tribes, and non-profits create new community forests and provide technical assistance to develop and implement management plans for new community forests. Both programs would expand and enhance the health and sustainability of urban forests and communities nationwide.