



## **National Association of Conservation Districts**

### **Urban and Community Forestry/Green Infrastructure**

#### **NATIONAL**

##### **U.S. Forest Service-State and Private Forestry-Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF)**

[www.fs.fed.us/ucf](http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf)

This Program provides financial, technical and research assistance to plan, protect, establish, and manage trees, forests, and related resources in cities and town. It helps strengthen the vitality of towns, communities, and cities by improving the stewardship of urban natural resources. The FS U&CF Program works in partnership with State Forestry Agencies, along with national and local organizations, to provide a comprehensive approach to the stewardship of urban trees, natural areas and forest resources. This approach helps ensure the vitality of communities by engaging people where they live, work, and play.

##### **Green Infrastructure**

[www.greeninfrastructure.net](http://www.greeninfrastructure.net)

Green infrastructure is the planned interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats, parks and other natural areas that form a system of hubs and linkages. It is this system of hubs and links across the landscape that maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources, support wildlife and contribute to the health and quality of life for America's communities and people. The FS, in collaboration with a wide range of partners, has developed training programs and information resources to help communities and their partners make green infrastructure an integral part of federal, state, and local government plans, policies, practices and community.

The Green Infrastructure Community of Practice (GI CoP) is a collaborative network of organizations and agencies that are actively involved in promoting and/or implementing the green infrastructure approach to strategic conservation. The FS is a founding member of the Green Infrastructure Community of Practice. Many other agencies and organizations are involved. More information is available at [www.greeninfrastructure.net/content/community-practice](http://www.greeninfrastructure.net/content/community-practice).

##### **National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council**

[www.treelink.org/nucfac](http://www.treelink.org/nucfac)

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) was created by Congress to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on matters related to urban and community forestry. The Council carries this role by: developing a national urban and community forestry action plan; evaluating the implementation of that plan; and developing criteria and recommendations for an urban forestry challenge cost-share grant program. The 1990 Farm Bill authorized this advisory body, representing a broad range of public and private urban forestry interests. NUCFAC's vision is to "seek to generate the necessary support and abilities to ensure safe, sustainable, and healthy urban trees and ecosystems within American communities of all sizes "

## **STATE**

### **State Forestry Agencies**

[www.stateforesters.org](http://www.stateforesters.org)

Closer to home and more accessible to conservation districts are the state level agency and advisory committee. The State Forester's office provides leadership for forest resource management, including urban and community forestry. Most have an Urban Forestry Coordinator who can provide information on current activities around the state as well as federal and state resources. The state agency is advised by the State Urban Forestry Council or Committee, composed of agency and organization representatives.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

### **Alliance for Community Trees**

[www.actrees.org](http://www.actrees.org)

The ACT mission is to support grassroots, citizen-based nonprofit organizations dedicated to urban and community tree planting, care, conservation, and education.

### **American Forests**

[www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)

The AF mission is to grow a healthier world.

### **Arbor Day Foundation**

[www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

The ADF mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees.

### **Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition**

[www.urbanforestcoalition.com](http://www.urbanforestcoalition.com)

The SUFC mission is to advance a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities

## **GETTING YOUR DISTRICTS INVOLVED**

- ✓ Visit with your State Forester and State Urban Forestry Coordinator to learn about the urban and community forestry program and resources.
- ✓ Secure a state association position on the State Urban and Community Forestry Council/Committee and actively participate.
- ✓ Educate districts about the U&CF program and resources in your state. Invite the State Forestry Agency and citizen urban forestry groups to speak at your meetings.
- ✓ Encourage district employees to seek training and certification in urban and community forestry and green infrastructure.
- ✓ Get to know the citizen urban forestry groups in your state. Encourage districts to offer technical assistance and resources to their efforts, and engage them in district activities.
- ✓ Support funding at the federal and state level for urban and community forestry programs and grants.