



Cherry trees in bloom at the State Capitol.



Trees shade a residential street.

Trees add texture and beauty to a dense urban skyline.



A typical Puget Sound landscape: Mt. Rainier, shoreline bluffs, waterfront development—and trees!

## BENEFITS

The benefits of a healthy, well-managed urban forest are myriad: better air and water quality; the well-being of citizens and wild creatures; less flooding and stormwater impacts; better human and economic health.

Healthy urban and community forests are a valuable and potentially powerful tool to support economically viable, sustainable urban areas in Washington.

## SERVICES

The portion of the Evergreen Communities Act administered by the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) provides guidance for communities about tree-related ordinances and urban forestry management plans. The Act creates an awards program to recognize communities for their work in developing excellent urban forest management programs that include community and urban forestry inventories, assessments, management plans, ordinances, maintenance programs, partnerships, and community involvement. Other sections of the Act are administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program (assessment and inventory) and utility agencies (prevention, management and mitigation of tree/utility conflicts).

## TASK FORCE

CTED has assembled a Task Force comprised of public and private professional representatives from conservation, planning, and development organizations and the timber industry. The mission of the Task Force is to aid and advise CTED staff in:

- development of model evergreen community ordinances
- development of model urban and community forestry management plans
- development of criteria for an Evergreen Community recognition program

## INFORMATION

For more information contact:



**Micki McNaughton**  
Urban Forestry Specialist  
360-725-3080  
mickim@cted.wa.gov

**RCW 35.105**  
[www.cted.wa.gov/site/1126/default.aspx](http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/1126/default.aspx)



*Healthy Trees,  
Healthy People,  
Healthy Communities.*

The **Evergreen Communities Act** seeks to assist municipalities and jurisdictions across the state to better manage existing urban forests and plan for improvements to the urban forest infrastructure thereby increasing the value of the ecological, social, and economic services that urban trees provide.

#### **Work Directed Through The Act Will:**

- provide technical assistance in urban forest assessment and inventory;
- create model ordinances and management plans;
- recognize those municipalities that take action to preserve and enhance their urban forests;
- support public and private utilities in efforts to reduce conflicts between trees and utilities that are harmful to both; and
- foster partnerships among a wide variety of agencies toward improving air and water quality through the use of correct landscaping and tree planting practices.

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906 Columbia St SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-2525



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## **Evergreen Communities Act**



**CTED** | Community, Trade and  
Economic Development