

Urban and Community Forestry Program

The purpose of the Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program is to educate citizens and decision-makers about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of trees and to assist local governments, citizen groups, and volunteers in planting and sustaining healthy trees where people live and work in Washington.

Primary community forestry issues include local government impacts from the Endangered Species Act, urban-rural interface challenges, the need to develop comprehensive community forestry programs, growth management, and constraints caused by decreased funding sources for municipal services.

Did you know you live in a forest?

The trees lining our streets and roads, in our parks and yards, on both public and private property, are part of the community forest. The forest is all around us. Like any other forest they support wildlife, clean the air, add remarkable beauty, and contribute to our quality of life.

As a firm advocate for the investment in community trees and forests, the Washington State Urban and Community Forestry Program invites you to explore the pages of this website. You will discover information, resources and connections to help you create and care for your community forest so it continues to thrive and provide benefits for current and future generations.

Trees provide benefits!

- Economic – healthy, well-maintained trees increase property values, reduce heating and cooling costs
- Environmental – trees filter particulates from the air, offset greenhouse gas emissions, reduce storm water run-off
- Social – there is less crime and violence in areas with trees and green public spaces
- Aesthetic - Trees soften and complement architecture

Calculate the benefits your tree(s) provide by visiting the [National Tree Benefit Calculator](#)

Note: You need to know the type of tree and its diameter (the width of the trunk at about 4 ½ feet above the ground).

Trees need support!

| If you are: | Consider this: |
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| Concerned citizen, Civic leader | Contact your local community forestry department to see how you can get involved. No local community forestry program? Help start one! Call 360-902-TREE or email urban_forestry@dnr.wa.gov for more information |
| Elected officials | Check local tree ordinance language to find out how trees are cared for and managed in your community. No ordinance? The UCF can help. Call 360-902-TREE or email urban_forestry@dnr.wa.gov for more information. |
| Municipal directors, Planning professionals | Find out how you can work with trees to benefit your programs. |
| Educators | Check out the Arbor Day Foundation website a great resource for tree education curriculum and activities http://www.arborday.org/ ; call WA UCF: 360-902-TREE or email urban_forestry@dnr.wa.gov for more information about the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest. |