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# The Washington Arboriculture Exchange Program



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## OVERVIEW

The Washington Arboriculture Exchange Program (WAEP) is designed for those interested in developing or expanding an urban and community forestry program in their community. Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry program (UCF) will fund travel and basic expenses for professional exchanges. Each participant will spend up to 2 days visiting and working with another city's urban forestry department. An "exchange" may be "two-way", meaning that paired participants take turns hosting the other, or "one-way", where a selected participant only visits a willing host city identified and approved by DNR.

### Why Sponsor an Exchange Program?

The purpose of the WAEP is to create a way to exchange urban forestry expertise, management ideas and technology through direct on-site experience with working municipal arborists. The program will facilitate the transfer of knowledge, develop an understanding of and commitment to local urban forestry programs, expand the community forest information network and ultimately increase the health and viability of the state-wide urban and community forest resource.

### WA DNR UCF Grant Support

The WAEP Grant provides round-trip travel and basic expenses for exchange participants, including overnight accommodations, if warranted. Staff time is not reimbursable. The DNR Urban and Community program staff facilitates the exchange between communities

## GOALS

- Inspire and motivate beginning and developing urban & community forestry program managers
- Exchange technical and program management information between communities to build successful urban & community forestry programs
- Build a knowledge base in communities that have minimal resources available for hiring or training tree care personnel
- Create a state-wide network in the arboriculture community

## **PARTICIPANTS**

- Must apply with a written description of their current program challenges & goals, and anticipated learning outcomes
- Must submit a final written report detailing experiences and what was learned as a result of the exchange (may be included in Tree Link bulletins)

### **HOST City attributes**

- Vibrant programs within Washington State (TCUSA)
- Willingness to share information and host participants

### **PARTICIPANT attributes**

- Responsible for and/or oversees planting, care and maintenance of trees
- Responsible for program management and development
- Community is currently recognized as a TCUSA or *working toward that designation*

### **EXCHANGE: details**

- Anticipate 1-2 day exchanges; dependent on goals
- Round-trip travel and 1 night of accommodation is arranged by the participant; expenses are reimbursed by UCF.

## **FAQ's**

### **Who Can Apply?**

- A candidate must be one of the following: city staff or an individual directly responsible for program development, tree planting, care and/or maintenance within a community. Parks, public works, or planning staff, elected officials interested in developing or expanding their forestry program, and tree board members are encouraged to apply.

### **How will selections be made?**

- Exchange pairings will be made on a “best match” basis. Matches will be based on applicant goals, programmatic needs, size of community, and availability of mentors. The number of participants will depend on available funding.

### **What is required from selected Participants?**

- Participants will spend up to 2 work days with the host city's forestry department or arborist. Each participant will be required to write an article for the Tree Link Newsletter about their experience and what he or she learned from the exchange.

### **What is required of the Host?**

- Hosts will provide an experience geared to the interests of the participant. This includes spending the day or making arrangements for at least a days-worth of meaningful urban forestry-related activities for participants.

### **How do I apply?**

- Fill out and submit an application form. Forms are available by calling 1-800-535-8733 or visit [www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry)

### **What Is the timeframe?**

- Successful applicants will be notified within 4 weeks of their application. The actual timeframe for an exchange will be determined by the participants, and communicated to DNR UCF program coordinators.

The Washington Arboriculture Exchange Program is sponsored by Washington Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program, in cooperation with the US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.