

## Trees Need Care

Urban & Community Forestry programs ensure more livable communities through the care and management of trees. Neglect and urban stress limit the life span of the average downtown tree to only ten years. With proper care, trees live longer, look better, and increase in value as they age. Without care, they decline in health and value and become liabilities. Trees deserve to be managed with the same skill and diligence as any other community asset.

## Ways You Can Help

- If there is no organized effort to care for public trees in your community, offer to help start the process.
- Apply for grants to improve and manage your local urban or community forest.
- Organize a group of volunteers to plant and care for local trees.
- Participate in workshops and other educational opportunities.
- Celebrate Arbor Day, which is observed annually in New Jersey on the last Friday of April.
- Contact the NJ Urban & Community Forestry program for help in getting started.

## Environmental and Economic Benefits of Trees

Studies show that trees and forests are valuable resources and worthy investments.

### Improve neighborhood appeal

Trees attract businesses, shoppers and homeowners.

### Increase property value

Homes with trees sell 4-6 weeks faster and for 20% more.

### Increase sales

People shop longer and will pay 20% more for an item in a treed shopping center.

### Cool cities and towns in the summer

Trees reduce heat generated by hard surfaces by about 12 degrees.

### Save on utility costs

Three properly placed shade trees save an average household up to \$250 annually in energy costs.

### Purify the air

Trees absorb CO2 and filter particulates.

### Mitigate stormwater

Trees absorb water, which prevents sewer overflow and saves communities millions of dollars in water treatment costs.

### Protect roads

Trees shade roads, reducing road maintenance costs by 50% and helping roads last 20-30 years longer due to canopy coverage.

### Improve student performance

In schools that have trees on or near the property, students can score higher on report cards and can be more attentive in class.

### Keep neighborhoods safe

Treed communities have a reduced level of domestic violence and foster safer, more sociable neighborhood environments.



photo credit:  
J. Franzini,  
New Jersey Tree  
Foundation,  
Camden Urban  
Promise Rain  
Garden



## Support Urban & Community Forestry in New Jersey

Purchase the "Treasure Our Trees" license plates for your passenger and commercial vehicles. These plates show that you care about trees in New Jersey.

Proceeds from the "Treasure Our Trees" plates fund Urban & Community Forestry activities statewide.

The one-time fee and yearly renewal are tax deductible.

**Call 1-888-486-3339**

**or visit [www.TreasureOurTrees.nj.gov](http://www.TreasureOurTrees.nj.gov)**

## Partners & Resources

NJ Community Forest Council

NJ Tree Foundation - [www.njtreefoundation.org](http://www.njtreefoundation.org)

NJ Shade Tree Federation - [www.njstf.org](http://www.njstf.org)

Rutgers Urban Forestry Program of NJAES -  
[www.urbanforestry.rutgers.edu](http://www.urbanforestry.rutgers.edu)

USDA Forest Service - [www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/)

## For questions or more information


NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry

NJ Forest Service

Urban & Community Forestry Program

[www.communityforestry.nj.gov](http://www.communityforestry.nj.gov)

(609) 292-2532

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# Urban & Community Forestry in New Jersey



*To encourage and support the stewardship and effective management of trees and forest ecosystems in New Jersey communities*



State of New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
**NJ Forest Service**

Phil Murphy, Governor  
Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor  
Catherine McCabe, DEP Commissioner

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## What is Urban & Community Forestry?

Urban forestry is the art, science and technology of managing trees and forest resources in and around urban community ecosystems for the physiological, sociological, economic and aesthetic benefits trees provide society.

The urban forest is all of the trees and other vegetation in and around our cities and towns. It includes trees in home landscapes, schoolyards, parks and greenbelts, utility rights-of-way and cemeteries. It also includes trees along streets and streams and anywhere else that trees can grow in and around a community.

A community forest is a forest owned and generally managed by a community such as a village, town, tribal authority or local government, the members of which share its benefits.

The urban forest is a complex ecological network that combines the natural and built environments. Shrubs, wildflowers, ground covers and wildlife are elements of the urban & community forest. Streets, buildings, utilities, soil, water, and most importantly – people, are part of the urban and community forest.

## New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry Program (NJUCF)

To RECEIVE accreditation (*approved status*) by the NJUCF, a local government must satisfy these requirements:

- 1. Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)**
  - A five-year CFMP must be prepared according to NJUCF guidelines and approved by the State Forester.
- 2. Training and Education**
  - At least two representatives (*one municipal employee and one volunteer*), active in the local Urban & Community Forestry program and the care of its tree resource must complete CORE training.

To MAINTAIN accreditation (*approved status*) by the NJUCF, a local government must satisfy these requirements each year:

- 1. Community Forestry Management Plan**
  - An approved five-year CFMP must be in place; an expired plan will not count toward accreditation.
- 2. Training and Education**
  - CORE training requirement must be maintained. If a CORE trained representative is no longer active in the local Urban & Community Forestry program another representative must be trained to fill the vacancy.
  - Eight or more continuing education units (CEUs) must be earned by at least two individuals annually.
- 3. An Annual Accomplishment Report** consistent with NJUCF forms and format, must be submitted annually by February 15.

Additional details about these requirements can be found at the NJUCF website at [www.communityforestry.nj.gov](http://www.communityforestry.nj.gov)

### Benefits of having a NJUCF accredited Urban & Community Forestry Program

**Grants** - NJUCF provides grants for the development and implementation of Urban & Community Forestry Management plans.

**Liability** - A basis for local governments to reduce or eliminate liability associated with local tree care programs and shade tree commissions.

A healthy, safe and resilient urban and community forest can provide environmental, economic and social benefits now and for generations to come.

## Outcomes of an Effective Urban & Community Forestry Program

- Accredited by the State's Urban & Community Forestry Program.
- Established a Shade Tree Commission or tree board by ordinance.
- Employs or retains an arborist, forester or other professional in a related field.
- Develops tree ordinances that provide for the overall care of the Urban & Community Forest.
- Is recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA. [www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/](http://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/)
- Established a tree budget (*\$2 per capita minimum is required to qualify as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation*) and brings in funding through grants and other sources to support all the work involved in a comprehensive program.
- Provides outreach and education about trees and forests for all who live, work, play and learn in the community.
- Engages local government leadership, employees, and community volunteers in the stewardship of the urban & community forest.
- Abides by arboricultural industry standards and forestry best management practices.
- Advocates for the conservation of the urban forest and all of the benefits that a healthy urban forest provides.



We plant and care for trees  
not just for ourselves,  
*but for future generations.*