

News Release

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URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS AWARDED

WASHINGTON, July 2, 2002 – The USDA Forest Service today announced the award of more than \$500,000 in federal grants to benefit the nation’s urban and community forests. Organizations in nine communities will match those funds with over \$547,000 for research and education projects for urban forests.

“This year’s awards once again highlight the opportunity for us to partner with the private sector to work together to establish sustainable urban forests for all communities,” said Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth.

Recipients of the cost-share grants were selected in a competitive process, based on criteria developed by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). The NUCFAC is a 15-member advisory council created by the 1990 Farm Bill to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on urban and community forestry. Council members include representatives from communities, universities, non-profit forestry and conservation citizen organizations, landscape and design consultants, the forest product or nursery industry, professional renewable natural resource organizations, and USDA. The Council reviews the proposals and makes recommendations to the Forest Service, which awards the grants.

“As our cities develop and grow, urban and community forests become even more important,” according to Deborah Gangloff, chair of NUCFAC and executive director of American Forests, Washington, D.C. “These grants will improve the success of our urban forestry programs by providing both professionals and the public with the information and educational tools to understand and appreciate the social, economic and ecological values of our urban forests to the quality of our environment and the quality of life.”

The grants fund projects in three categories involving minority and underserved populations, communication programs, and research and technology development.

Previous grants resulted in developing community forest plans, methods for identifying the costs and benefits of trees in communities, ways to conserve energy, techniques for communities to care for their forests, and educational programs to promote the importance of urban and community forestry.

Since NUCFAC's establishment, the Forest Service has supported 110 competitive cost-share proposals that promote urban and community forestry nationwide. Proposals are submitted in a variety of categories and announced by NUCFAC in the fall of each year.

More information about NUCFAC is available online at www.treelink.org/nucfac.

Recipients of the 2002 grants for urban and community forestry are:

Category 1: **Urban and Community Forestry for and with Minority and Underserved Populations** to improve the involvement of minority and underserved populations in the development and delivery of urban and community programs, and to improve public and private services to minority and underserved populations.

National Urban & Community Forestry Minority Outreach and Education Conference submitted by Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, La.

Forest Service Grant:	\$50,000
Matching Institution Grant:	\$50,000
Total	\$100,000

Learn About Forests™: a Programmatic Tool for a National Network of Community Partners to Engage Multi-Ethnic Urban Youth in Urban and Community Forestry submitted by the Eagle Eye Institute, Inc. in Somerville, Mass.

Forest Service Grant:	\$103,500
Matching Institution Grant:	\$128,500
Total	\$232,000

Arborist Training Program submitted by the Norfolk Botanical Garden in Norfolk, Va.

Forest Service Grant	\$63,000
Matching Institution Grant	\$74,004
Total	\$137,004

Category 2: **Communicating the Value of Urban Forestry** to inform the public about the social, economic, and ecological values of urban forests.

Mobilizing the Web for Urban and Community Forestry Education submitted by the American Forest Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Forest Service Grant	\$83,187
Matching Institution Grant	\$84,465
Total	\$167,652

Category 3: **Creative and Innovative Urban and Community Forestry Research and Technology Development Projects** to increase the understanding and knowledge of the value, health, benefits, and sustainability of urban and community forests.

Mycorrhizal Responses to Anthropogenic Nitrogen Enrichment in Urban and Rural Woodlands submitted by the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Forest Service Grant:	\$48,540
Matching Institution Grant:	\$54,180
Total	\$102,720

Safety, Trees and Urban Transportation: A National Study of the Roadside Urban Forest and Accident Rates submitted by University of Washington in Seattle, Wash.

Forest Service Grant:	\$124,084
Matching Institution Grant:	\$124,102
Total	\$248,186.

The Street Tree/Utility Easement Conflict submitted by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Virginia Beach, Va.

Forest Service Grant:	\$4,880
Matching Institution Grant	\$4,959
Total	\$9,839

Effect of Nitrogen Fertilizer on Insect Pest Populations, Their Damage, and Tree Growth of Selected Landscape Trees submitted by the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension in Derwood, Md.

Forest Service Grant:	\$3,060
Matching Institution Grant:	\$5,060
Total	\$8,120

The December 2000 Ice Storm: Loss of Tree Canopy as an Opportunity to Study the Effect of Trees on Energy Use submitted by the Davey Resource Group in Kent, Ohio.

Forest Service Grant:	\$22,450
Matching Institution Group:	\$22,450
Total	\$44,900

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