2008 NUCFAC RECOMMENDED FULL PROPOSAL ABSTRACTS FOR THE NATIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CHALLENGE COST SHARE GRANT PROGRAM

CATEGORY I Assessment of the Extent, Health and Function of Urban Forests: Urban forests assessed for their ecological function.

NA-C1-21- **Establishing a novel forest assessment method: The forestless volume Indicator:**

This proposal investigates a novel geospatial visualization and analysis methodology to assess urban forest changes. We support a detailed insight on urban forest changes by ranking spatial uniqueness of changes as opposed to surrounding spatial distribution of forests. We use a typical GIS distance transformation, the distance to nearest forest (DTF). When DTF is integrated over an area it becomes an explicit measure of non-forested space for that area, which we call forestless volume (FV). We later use FV as an indicator to facilitate comparisons between different areas and assess importance of forest loss/gain (instead of simply identify changes).

CATEGORY II Management Programs: Create catastrophic event mitigation strategies (Best Management Practices).

R2-C2-05 **Storm Recovery Video Press Release.**

The proposed Storm Recovery Video Press Release will benefit urban forestry, and entire communities nationwide, by ensuring that the public is provided accurate and timely information about tree care and urban forest recovery in the wake of a catastrophe. One of the best ways to provide this information is through a high quality video press release formatted for television broadcast. Distributing the video press release by proactively and immediately responding to a storm can assist in educating the public to ensure proper and safe care of the community's forest.

CATEGORY III Outreach: Increase and strengthen partnerships with and among Urban and Community Forestry, (U&CF), nonprofit groups.

NA-C3-27(2) **University Green: University-Community Urban Forestry Partnerships**

University Green will create and document replicable models of urban forestry partnerships between universities and their surrounding community. The project will use UC Green, a successful existing model, to refine, adapt and replicate the model at selected institutions. The results will be documented for statewide and national replication. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will lead this effort with the assistance of UC Green, Penn State School of Forestry and University of Pennsylvania Netter Center for Community Partnerships. Results include improved quality of life, university-community relations, added stewardship by students and residents and a more sustainable local urban forestry program.

CATEGORY IV Program Funding: Provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions on public financing models for funding urban forestry programs.

NA-C4-01 **Understanding and accessing carbon offset markets: A new source of funding for community forestry?**

In consultation with community groups, we will conduct original research and adapt existing information on how the voluntary carbon offset market is evolving, how forest carbon plays a role, and the barriers and opportunities for local communities to help fund urban and community forestry through carbon offsets. This project will identify and profile models in which communities have or could access carbon offset funding to help fund their forestry efforts. Products include a full report and a condensed guide for community members and local governments, which will both be disseminated nationally through established networks and made available on our websites.

CATEGORY V Research: Support Research that is applicable to local needs – Urban Forestry Research and Technology Development with Emphasis on the Social/ Human Dimension.

R8-C5-01 **Developing a Practical Income Approach in Urban Forest Benefit Valuation**

Identification of benefits and costs of urban forestry is a major need and a practical problem. Appraisal of large trees is commonly accomplished using a valuation formula or market comparison methods. These methods have been inconsistent and do not allow for consideration of the total array of benefits. A third standard method, income capitalization, is seldom used because cash flows are difficult to obtain and capitalization methods difficult to apply. This proposal is for developing a framework to use existing forest valuation software to value urban forests using the income approach and allowing for improved cost-benefit analysis.

R5-C5-22 **Beyond Tropical & Quaint: People's Psychophysiological Urban Forest Responses.**

One of the most important and least recognized benefits of the urban forest is its power to improve physical and mental health of people. Although research has documented benefits that plants have to societies and individuals, minorities and underserved populations do not always benefit from the urban forest. This project's purpose is to increase our understanding of the psychological benefits of trees using psychophysiological measures to reveal positive and negative relationships between people and the urban forest. Results will be targeted for educational programs, and assisting in changing policy makers and developers attitudes about the importance of the urban forest.

CATEGORY VI Program Enhancement: Urban and Community Forests Ecosystem Services Education.

NA-C6-05 City Greening National Institute Session & Technical Assistance Follow-up.

We propose to host a National session of the Mayors' Institute on City Design that is focused on city greening. The session will cover tree canopy goals, urban open space, small on-street greening projects, passive stormwater management, and other green infrastructure projects. Additionally, from the 8 attending mayors, we will solicit proposals and offer follow-up technical assistance design charrettes in 3 of the mayors' cities, including other local officials, key city staff, and community leaders, plus a 3-person team of design experts to focus on the cities' greening projects. A white paper will document the qualitative experience of the sessions.

NA-C6-30 Urban and Community Forests Ecosystem Services Education for Counties.

The National Association of Counties Research Foundation's (NACoRF) proposed project will provide education, outreach and training on urban and community forestry ecosystem services and green infrastructure to county government elected officials and professional staff, including planners, environmental and parks and recreation officials. The objective of the project is to build the capacity of county officials to facilitate implementation of county-led urban forestry and green infrastructure policies, plans, programs, codes and ordinances in their communities and schools with the long-term goal of institutionalizing these practices in counties across the United States.