

**Nature** in our cities and communities is of great value to us. Trees and other landscape plants, such as shrubs and ground covers; the public parks, woodlots, rivers, and streams; that bird or squirrel in your backyard—this is what we call the **urban forest**. The urban forest plays a key role in the **quality of life** of all its residents and visitors; some of the **benefits** that it offers include:

Trees planted strategically around houses and buildings can save us 10 to 50 percent of heating and cooling costs.

Healthy and well-located trees, and other plants, increase residential and commercial property values.



Trees beautify our cities, attracting investments, new residents, and tourists.



Trees positively affect our physical and mental health, reducing stress and other negative feelings.



Trees clean the air by absorbing pollutants that are dangerous to our lungs.



Trees reduce water runoff and prevent soil erosion, and at the same time increase water supply and quality.



Trees block or filter the noises in our cities and communities.



Trees provide habitat and food for birds and other animals that live in our neighborhood.



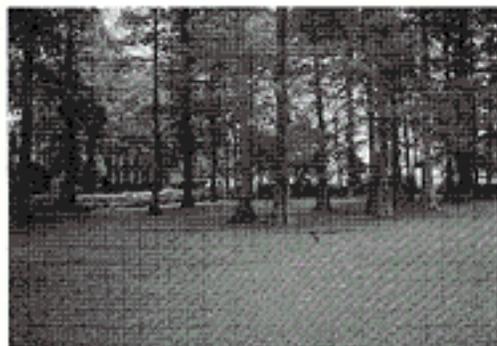
**How can you help your Urban Forests?**

You could become involved in many activities as a citizen concerned for your community.

- Promote an awareness of the importance of caring for the community forests.
- Develop and participate in educational programs in urban and community forestry.
- Develop and participate in volunteer tree groups to encourage tree planting and open-space projects.
- Develop local programs to plant and maintain the urban tree cover.
- Promote the reduction of yard debris, reusing and recycling it.

## Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program

To assure that the urban forest will continue to work for us in the future, and recognizing the importance of nature in our cities and communities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service developed the **Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Assistance Program**. The purpose of this program is to help you to care, protect, and improve the urban forest. The program is delivered to the public in partnership with your State forester. Grants are available to local governments, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and neighborhood and community groups. The emphasis of this program is to build local partnerships to encourage citizens to work together while improving their urban forest.



## For additional assistance and information:

Call or write to your State forestry agency to get more information on the grant program, technical information on tree planting and care, developing partnerships, State urban forest councils, and additional resources.

USDA Forest Service  
Cooperative Forestry  
1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Room 811 N  
Atlanta, GA 30309-2417

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# A Forest For All

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