

### Montana DNRC Forestry Division

#### **FORESTRY ASSISTANCE**

**Biomass Utilization** 

**BMP Field Review** 

Fish Habitat and Road-Stream Crossing

Federal Engagement Program

**Forest Pest Management** 

**Forest Practices** 

**Forest Stewardship** 

Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery

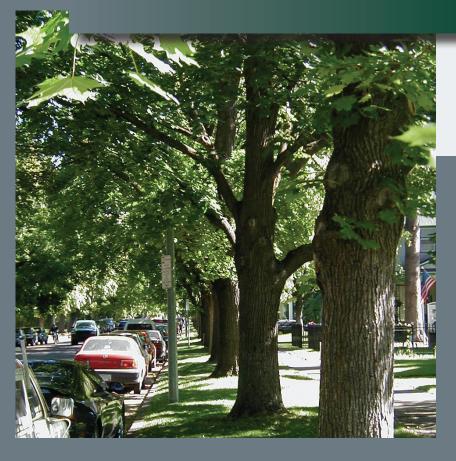
Urban and Community Forestry

# Urban and Community Forestry

Promoting Stewardship of Montana's Urban and Community Forests







Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

## Forestry Division Forestry Assistance Bureau Urban & Community Forestry Program

Urban & community forestry is the care and management of trees in urban settings. Montana's Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program promotes urban and community forestry best-practice management resulting in attractive, healthy, sustainable and safe community forests.



#### Trees provide a wide range of benefits to Montana communities.













Air Quality

Water Quality

Community

Commerce

Livability

Human Health

#### **U&CF Program Goal**

Empower communities and people by enabling them to improve the health of their community through managing and caring for trees in their urban settings.

#### **Program Highlights**

- Nearly **\$150,000** in DNRC grant funds help communities each year.
- Montana communities have been able to leverage millions of dollars to enhance their urban and community programs.
- On average, Montana U&CF helps 75 communities through technical, educational and financial assistance each year.



#### **Collaborative Efforts**

- Montana Urban & Community Forestry Association, which represents various agencies, nonprofits, industries, tree board members and volunteers across the state, advises the U&CF program and State Forester on community forestry issues and concerns.
- In partnership with several state and region-wide associations, the U&CF Program provides resources for tree care professionals to receive training and maintain continuing education credentials.
- The U&CF Program works with the Montana League of Cities and Towns
  promoting awareness and outreach regarding community forestry for
  decision-makers and leaders within the state.

#### **Helping Communities Create Sustainable Forestry Programs**

The U&CF Program provides technical and financial assistance, education, planning assistance and volunteer coordination to local governments, community leaders and volunteer groups.



#### **Technical Assistance**

U&CF staff provide assistance to more than half of Montana's communities for activities such as **tree** inventories, tree care and maintenance and community forest management plans.

Technical services also include project and grant planning, presentations and workshops related to tree selection, planting, care and management.

#### **Financial Assistance**

The U&CF Program offers several grant programs to improve the health of Montana's community forests.

Grant amounts range from \$300 to \$15,000 for a variety of activities related to tree planting, planning, management and local community forestry program development.

Financial assistance is dependent upon continued funding from the USDA Forest Service as well as funds from the State's Resource Indemnity Trust.

#### **Educational Assistance**

Public understanding of the importance and value of community forests is a central goal of the U&CF Program. To bring awareness and focus towards Montana's community trees, the program reaches out to all Montana communities. DNRC staff and partners work with schools, local groups, city councils and anyone with an interest in the urban forest.



Montana DNRC staff also assist communities **coordinate**, **organize** and **sustain volunteer efforts** which are often the heart of community forestry programs.

#### **Tree City USA Program**

The U&CF Program administers the Tree City USA ® and Tree Campus USA ® Programs through the National Arbor Day Foundation. These programs' core standards provide the framework for sound urban forestry management. DNRC's U&CF Program helps communities and college campuses obtain and maintain designations.

#### **Tree City USA® Standards**

- 1. Establish a tree board or department
- 2. Establish a tree care ordinance
- 3. Commit \$2 per capita annually
- 4. Celebrate Arbor Day

- Montana averages 40 Tree City USA communities each year, which account for half of Montana's population.
- Several Montana cities have maintained Tree
   City USA status for more than 30 years.

#### **Montana Community Tree Inventory**

To better understand Montana's community forests, the DNRC developed a statewide public tree inventory database which includes over 63 communities and almost 170,000 trees located within street rights-of-way and parks.



#### **Supporting Green Industry**



Sustainable urban forests include all trees in the community, regardless of ownership.

The Green Industry, which includes **nurseries**, **contractors and arborists**, is a crucial part of the urban and community forest framework. They provide services, expertise and add economic vitality to local communities.

The U&CF program has many resources for potential and existing professionals in the green industry, promoting current principles, standards and best practices.

#### **Arbor Day in Montana**

Montana's Arbor Day legacy is deep-rooted. Montana recognized its first Arbor Day in 1887, two years before becoming a state.

#### Each year in Montana

- Over 50 communities celebrate Arbor Day
- Through DNRC Arbor Day Grants, over 1,000 trees are planted
- Over 3,000 Montanans attend Arbor Day celebrations



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