



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.

Tree inventory data provides valuable information such as overall species composition and general condition, as well as calculating benefits such as air and water quality.

These trees provide over \$18 million in total benefits to Montana residents every year.

The inventory helps managers and citizens make informed decisions about their trees; advises communities about potential threats such as invasive pests and diseases; and contributes to future management goals and plans.



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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