



# Montana DNRC Forestry Division

## FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

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Fish Habitat and  
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Program

Forest Pest Management

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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<sup>®</sup> and Tree Campus USA<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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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