



Forest Action Plan 10-Year Revisions: Resources for Urban and Community Forestry



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS
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This document provides state forestry agencies with summaries of national and regional urban and community forestry (UCF) strategic plans and reports that could prove useful as they revise their own Forest Action Plans.

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EMERGING TOPICS

For Potential Inclusion in the UCF Forest Action Plan 10-Year Revisions



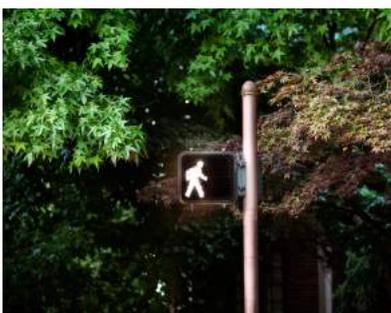
Urban Wood Utilization. There have been many developments in urban wood utilization over the last 10 years, particularly in communities affected by exotic pests such as emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle. Depending on the state, it may be pertinent to include reference to this topic in a 10-year revision.



Rural Community Assistance. Given this administration's values and a new, forthcoming definition for "rural" Landscape Scale Restoration projects, state forestry agencies might consider including language connecting UCF and rural communities in their 10-year revisions.



Watersheds. While this topic is well covered in many existing state Forest Action Plans, the tie between "rural" watersheds to those typically considered urban or UCF watersheds (integrated into city sewer and water treatment systems, etc.) most likely deserves additional attention in 10-year revisions.



Wildland-Urban Interface. Again, this topic is well covered in many existing state Forest Action Plans, but an emphasis on the connection between WUI trees, forests, and watersheds — managed and protected in many cases with UCF programming — is often missing.

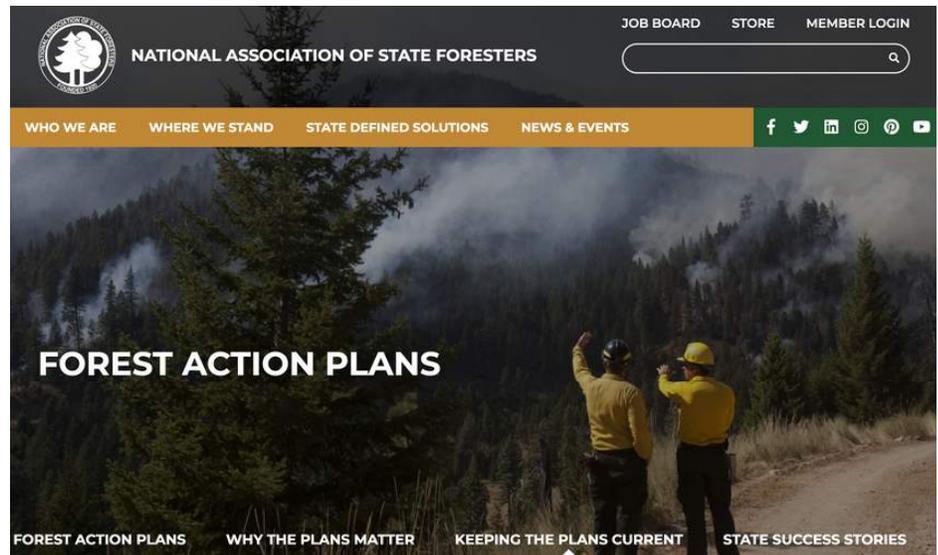
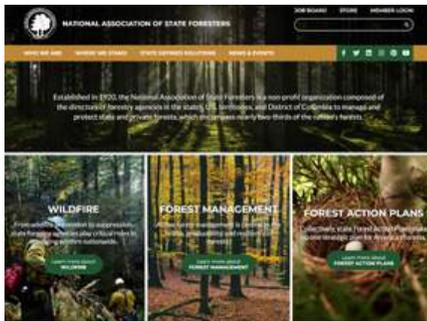


HELPFUL RESOURCES

Helpful Resource #1: National Association of State Foresters Website

Visitors can click on any of the interactive maps on www.stateforesters.org to access state-specific reports and information, including current Forest Action Plans. For more information specific to Forest Action Plans, go to: www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans.

From this landing page, you can access: (1) the basics on Forest Action Plans (why they're important, why they work, and where they came from) at www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans/why-the-plans-matter, (2) resources for 10-year revisions (including how-tos, a check-list for revision requirements, and planning contacts) at www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans/keeping-the-plans-current, and (3) a sampling of state success stories made possible by Forest Action Plans at www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans/state-success-stories.

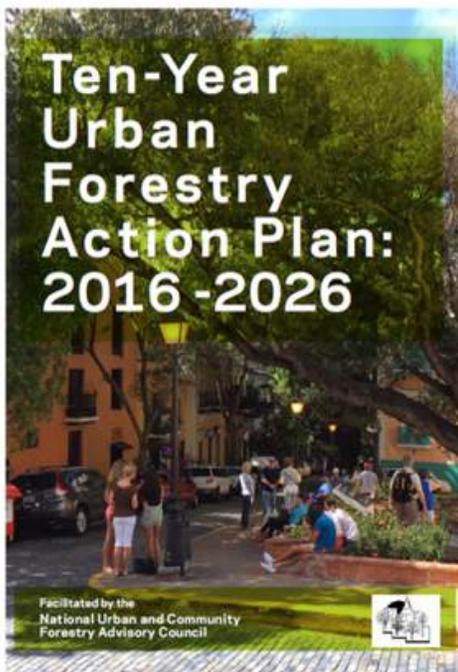


RESOURCES CONTINUED

Helpful Resource #2: USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program Strategic Plan

The USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program utilizes the expertise and help of state partners to deliver fact-based and data-driven best practices and financial resources to more than 140 million acres of community forest land across the United States annually, supporting forest health, creating jobs, contributing to vibrant regional wood economies, and enhancing community resilience and sense of place.

The program's priorities, resource allocation, and direction are all outlined in the Ten-Year Urban Forestry Action Plan (2016-2026), collaboratively developed by and for the urban forestry community. Many of the plan's overarching principles may be applicable to your state or territory's Forest Action Plan:



Available at www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf

Goal 1. Integrate Urban and Community Forestry Into all Scales of Planning

- A: Support inclusion of trees and forests as elements of all community comprehensive and master planning efforts
- B: Support the integration of urban forestry into all scales of city, regional, and state-scale master plans
- C: Launch a public awareness and education campaign to elevate recognition of the value of urban trees and urban forests ecosystems as essential contributors to community sustainability and resilience
- D: Increase community capacity to use urban trees and forestry in public space planning, infrastructure, and private development

Goal 2. Promote the Role of Urban and Community Forestry in Human Health and Wellness

- A: Expand opportunities for collaboration with the health community
- B: Champion a nationwide marketing campaign that links trees to human health and wellness.
- C: Plan, design and manage urban forests to improve human health and wellness
- D: Develop tools to improve and highlight the relationship between improved public health, wellness, and urban and community forestry and green infrastructure

Goal 3. Cultivate Diversity, Equity, and Leadership Within the Urban Forestry Community

- A: Increase diversity, equity, and accessibility in urban and community forestry
- B: Engage underserved communities in urban and community forestry
- C: Develop effective leadership at all levels to build a national voice for urban forestry.
- D: Increase workforce development opportunities and green jobs in urban and community forestry, with particular attention to underserved communities
- E: Promote expanded collaboration, training and communication within the field of urban and community forestry to build workforce professional development



RESOURCES CONTINUED

Goal 4. Strengthen Urban and Community Forest Health and Biodiversity for Long-Term Resilience

A: Increase the biodiversity, health, and resilience of trees in urban and community forests

B: Foster resilience, restoration, and sustainability of urban and community forests facing climate change challenges

C: Support use of urban forests for increasing community food resilience and access to local foods

Goal 5. Improve Urban and Community Forest Management, Maintenance, and Stewardship

A: Improve urban and community forest management, maintenance, and arboricultural practices

B: Develop comprehensive programs, policies, and resources for enhancing urban forestry stewardship

C: Promote better use of technology and tools in urban forestry

D: Facilitate expanded research and delivery of scientific findings to all stakeholders

Goal 6. Diversify, Leverage, and Increase Funding for Urban and Community Forestry

A: Increase funding and grants for urban and community forestry

B: To leverage and diversify funding, expand collaboration between urban forestry and related fields, agencies, and sectors

Goal 7. Increase Public Awareness and Environmental Education to Promote Stewardship

A: Create environmental education programs that focus on urban and community forestry issues.

B: Create a nationwide urban forestry public awareness and education campaign

C: Increase engagement of underserved and minority communities in urban forestry establishment and stewardship

Helpful Resource #3: SUFC Strategic Plan

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition 2016 Strategic Plan lays out bold and clear direction for the coalition that may be useful for your state or territory to consider as you revise your Forest Action Plan. For example, among its goals and tactics are:

Diversified funding. (1) Identify diversified funding sources to support urban and community forestry operations and other priorities, (2) Aggressively pursue private sector partnerships, (3) Better leverage capacity to build relationships with like-minded groups and stakeholders

Strategic communications. (1) Develop and evaluate communications strategies and communications tools to best support urban and community forestry operations



Available at sufc.org/doc/Strategic_Plan_for_SUFC_Detailed_Version_for_Website_March_2016.pdf



RESOURCES CONTINUED

Helpful Resource #4: Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force Report

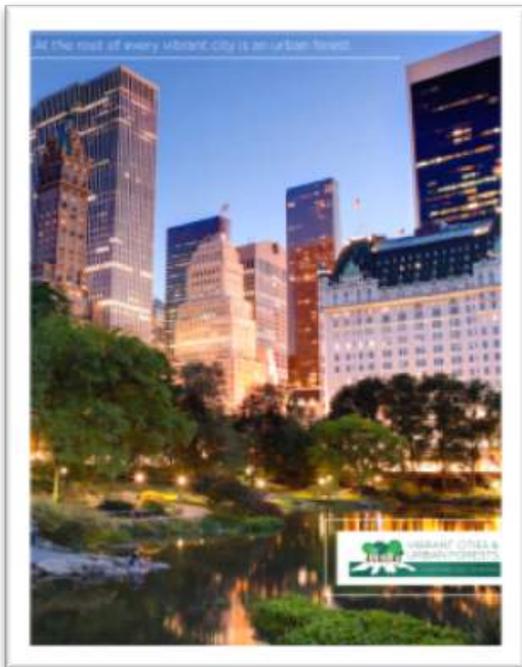
In 2011, the Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force published its plan to help cities become more vibrant places to live, work, and play. Some of the plan's definitions could be incorporated into Forest Action Plans:

CITIES AS ECOSYSTEMS. Recognizing that cities are ecosystems – with interacting human, structural and ecological components – creates great potential for urban forests and green infrastructure to improve life in urban areas.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE. Green infrastructure encompasses the naturally occurring and human-built features that manage stormwater, remove pollutants, conserve energy, reduce erosion and provide other ecological, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable services.

URBAN FORESTS. Urban forests are systems of trees, other vegetation and water within any urban area. They can be understood as dynamic green infrastructure that provides cities and municipalities with environmental, economic and social benefits. Urban forests are forests for people.

As could some of the plan's recommendations:



Available at
www.vcuf.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/vcuf_report.pdf

- Foster urban forestry and natural resources stewardship and volunteerism
- Create sustainable jobs in urban forestry and green infrastructure fields
- Cultivate strategic partnerships between public and private sectors to create a pipeline of support for urban and community forestry programs, through services, materials, funding and other forms of capital
- Provide support to metropolitan alliances to develop comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Urban Regional Natural Resource Plans
- Integrate federal agencies' green infrastructure goals for urban areas to achieve greater coordination and consistency of policies and regulations
- Establish energy efficiency programs that emphasize the use of trees as a best management practice for energy conservation
- Ensure equal access to urban forestry and green infrastructure resources so that communities of all demographics, size, and location can reap their benefits



RESOURCES CONTINUED

Helpful Resource #5: NMSFA and USFS Guide for State Forest Action Plans

This guide to Forest Action Plan revisions was developed by USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance's Forest Resource Planning Committee. The guide sets out the following recommendations specifically for updating Urban and Community Forestry Program strategies:

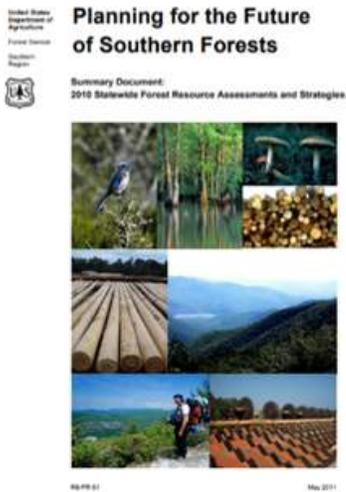
- Increase the number of communities and affected populations achieving 'developing' and 'managing' status. Review data in the Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS)
- Strengthen the value that urban residents place on trees, forests and forestry, and advance the use of tree and forest inventories, monitoring and assessment tools across all lands
- Protect and enhance urban tree canopy cover to maximize benefits, and protect and enhance watersheds in urban and developing areas with green storm water infrastructure
- Support the creation and maintenance of green jobs and economic opportunities for planning and sustainably maintaining trees and forests, and producing and using forest products
- Address exotic invasive pest species that typically affect and emanate from urban forests
- Work across jurisdictional boundaries, leveraging ideas and resources to provide benefits across the larger landscape and at a greater geographic scale, and support planning, goal-setting, and skill sharing with other professions such as urban planners, engineers, and public health officials
- Encourage preparation for severe storms and the recovery of damaged or deteriorated landscapes to more healthy and resilient conditions. Note: NMSFA has endorsed the Storm Readiness and Response Framework and Checklist documents which are available in the Urban and Community Forestry folder of the NA S&PF Resources for SFAPs Portal
- Encourage individuals, groups, and organizations in the communities served to become engaged participants in urban forestry, especially those in communities that are under-resourced

This report is available online. Go to www.stateforesters.org. Find "State Defined Solutions" in the top menu bar, hover your cursor over the section title, and click "Forest Action Plans" in the drop down menu that appears. From there, scroll down to find the "Keeping Plans Current" tab and click on it to access NASF's 10-Year Forest Action Plan Revision Toolkit.



RESOURCES CONTINUED

Helpful Resource #6: SGSF and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans



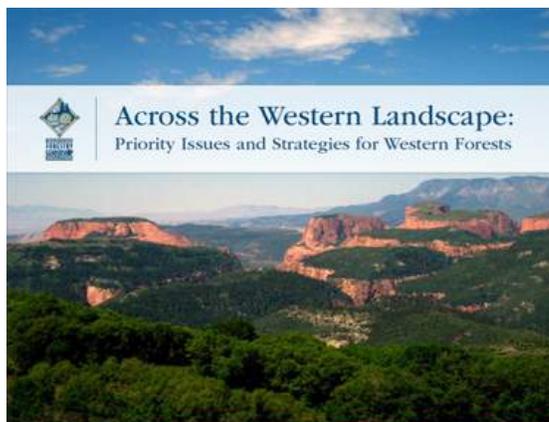
In 2011, the USDA Forest Service Southern Region and the Southern Group of State Foresters published a summary of the southern states' 2010 Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies. The common themes they identified specific to urban forest management were:

- The benefits of urban and community forest resources, including stormwater management, energy conservation, and improved quality of life AND
- The threats to urban and community forests, including inadequate conservation, utilization, and management.

Six states (GA, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX) and the U.S. Virgin Islands identified urban and/or community forest priority areas in their 2010 Forest Action Plans.

This report is available online: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5352251.pdf

Helpful Resource #7: WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans



In 2011, the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition identified the major themes present in the western states' 2010 Forest Action Plans.

All five themes connected in some capacity to urban and community forestry: (1) Forest Health and Invasive Species, (2) Wildland Fire and the Wildland-Urban Interface, (3) Sustainable Communities and Economies, (4) Climate Change, Carbon Sequestration, and Biomass Energy, and (5) Water Quality and Quantity.

This report is available online: www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/wflc-priority-issues.pdf



SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY TOPIC

For language on Climate Change/Storms/Resiliency

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts

See USDA Forest Service UCF Program Strategic Plan, go to sections on:

- Fostering resilience, restoration, and sustainability of urban and community forests facing climate change challenges
- Increasing the biodiversity, health, and resilience of trees in urban and community forests

See SGSF and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Climate change identified as a major topic shaping southern forests

See NMSFA and USFS Guide for State Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Encouraging preparation for severe storms and the recovery of damaged or deteriorated landscapes to more healthy and resilient conditions

For language on Air and Water Quality

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- Actively and sustainably managing trees, forests, and watersheds
- Encouraging smart growth and a green infrastructure approach to conservation and development planning will support the integration of trees, forests, parks, and open spaces for the benefit of residents and the local ecology
- Conserving and enhancing the urban tree canopy through assessments and inventory, planting, hazard tree removal, forest health monitoring, and other activities can contribute to energy and water conservation, air and water quality, and public health

See NMSFA and USFS Guide for State Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Protecting and enhancing urban tree canopy cover to maximize benefits, and protecting and enhancing watersheds in urban and developing areas with green storm water infrastructure

See SGSF and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Continually updating best management practices (BMPs), paying particular attention to protection of water resources new BMPs or guidelines for urban forest management



SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY TOPIC

For language on Energy Conservation

See Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force Report, go to section on:

- Establishing energy efficiency programs that emphasize the use of trees as a best management practice for energy conservation

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- Facilitating the sustainable use of biomass
- Conserving and enhancing the urban tree canopy through assessments and inventory, planting, hazard tree removal, forest health monitoring, and other activities can contribute to energy and water conservation, air and water quality, and public health

For language on Green Infrastructure

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Encouraging smart growth and a green infrastructure approach to conservation and development planning will support the integration of trees, forests, parks, and open spaces for the benefit of residents and the local ecology

See Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force Report, go to sections on:

- Integrating federal agencies' green infrastructure goals for urban areas to achieve greater coordination and consistency of policies and regulations
- Developing a process to establish national Vibrant Cities Standards that provide guidance and measures of success for communities as they advance urban forestry and green infrastructure efforts

See USDA Forest Service UCF Program Strategic Plan, go to section on:

- Developing tools to improve and highlight the relationship between improved public health, wellness, and urban and community forestry and green infrastructure

See NMSFA and USFS Guide for State Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Protecting and enhancing urban tree canopy cover to maximize benefits, and protecting and enhancing watersheds in urban and developing areas with green storm water infrastructure



SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY TOPIC

For language on Health and Well Being

See USDA Forest Service UCF Program Strategic Plan, go to sections on:

- Expanding opportunities for collaboration with the health community
- Championing a nationwide marketing campaign that links trees to human health and wellness
- Developing tools to improve and highlight the relationship between improved public health, wellness, and urban and community forestry and green infrastructure
- Planning, designing and managing urban forests to improve human health and wellness
- Supporting use of urban forests for increasing community food resilience and access to local foods

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Conserving and enhancing the urban tree canopy through assessments and inventory, planting, hazard tree removal, forest health monitoring, and other activities can contribute to energy and water conservation, air and water quality, and public health

See NMSFA and USFS Guide for State Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Work across jurisdictional boundaries, leveraging ideas and resources to provide benefits across the larger landscape and at a greater geographic scale, and support planning, goal-setting, and skill sharing with other professions such as urban planners, engineers, and public health officials

See SGSF and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Continually updating best management practices (BMPs), paying particular attention to protection of water resources new BMPs or guidelines for urban forest management, such as use of trees to mitigate the heat island effect in cities

For language on Invasive Species

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Effectively controlling forest pests, diseases, and invasive species

See SGSF and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Continually updating best management practices (BMPs), paying particular attention to protection of water resources new BMPs or guidelines for urban forest management and Invasive species control

See NMSFA and USFS Guide for State Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Addressing exotic invasive pest species that typically affect and emanate from urban forests



SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY TOPIC

For language on Funding and Partnerships

See USDA Forest Service UCF Program Strategic Plan, go to sections on:

- Increasing funding and grants for urban and community forestry
- Leveraging and diversifying funding, expand collaboration between urban forestry and related fields, agencies, and sectors

See SUFC Strategic Plan, go to sections on:

- Creating support structures to facilitate networking and collaboration within the urban and community forestry community
- Facilitating collaborative efforts with stakeholders and other state agencies
- Justifying funding for urban and community forestry and diversifying support

See NMSFA and USFS Guide for State Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Working across jurisdictional boundaries, leveraging ideas and resources to provide benefits across the larger landscape and at a greater geographic scale, and support planning, goal-setting, and skill sharing with other professions such as urban planners, engineers, and public health officials

See Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force Report, go to sections on:

- Cultivating strategic partnerships between public and private sectors to create a pipeline of support for urban and community forestry programs
- Integrating federal agencies' green infrastructure goals for urban areas to achieve greater coordination and consistency of policies and regulations
- Developing a process to provide guidance and measures of success for communities as they advance urban forestry and green infrastructure efforts

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- 6 Point Plan: Building adequate and flexible capacity and funding
- 6 Point Plan: Strengthening partnerships and collaborative approaches
- Employing strategies that engage a diverse set of partners, integrate across multiple agencies and organizations, and deliver innovative projects

See SGSF and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Enhancing capacity through partnerships



SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY TOPIC

For language on Assessment and Planning

See USDA Forest Service UCF Program Strategic Plan, go to sections on:

- Supporting inclusion of trees and forests as elements of all community comprehensive and master planning efforts
- Supporting the integration of urban forestry into all scales of city, regional, and state-scale master plans
- Increase community capacity to use urban trees and forestry in public space planning, infrastructure, and private development

See Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force Report, go to section on:

- Assisting in the creation of and provide support for metropolitan alliances within every metropolitan region that will develop comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Urban Regional Natural Resource Plans

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- Conserving and enhancing the urban tree canopy through assessments and inventory, planting, hazard tree removal, forest health monitoring, and other activities can contribute to energy and water conservation, air and water quality, and public health
- Encouraging smart growth and a green infrastructure approach to conservation and development planning will support the integration of trees, forests, parks, and open spaces for the benefit of residents and the local ecology

See NMSFA and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- Working across jurisdictional boundaries, leveraging ideas and resources to provide benefits across the larger landscape and at a greater geographic scale, and support planning, goal-setting, and skill sharing with other professions such as urban planners, engineers, and public health officials
- Strengthening the value that urban residents place on trees, forests and forestry, and advancing the use of tree and forest inventories, monitoring and assessment tools across all lands

See SGSF and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to section on:

- Continually updating best management practices (BMPs), paying particular attention to protection of water resources new BMPs or guidelines for urban forest management, such as preserving natural landscapes in new developments



SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY TOPIC

For language on Jobs/Employment/Workforce

See USDA Forest Service UCF Program Strategic Plan, go to sections on:

- Increasing workforce development opportunities and green jobs in urban and community forestry, with particular attention to underserved communities
- Promoting expanded collaboration, training and communication within the field of urban and community forestry to build workforce professional development

See Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force Report, go to section on:

- Create sustainable jobs in urban forestry and green infrastructure fields

See NMSFA and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- Supporting the creation and maintenance of green jobs and economic opportunities for planning and sustainably maintaining trees and forests, and producing and using forest products

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- Offering training and certification to private sector nursery, arboriculture, design, and maintenance professionals will increase local capacity

For language on Research and Science Delivery

See USDA Forest Service UCF Program Strategic Plan, go to sections on:

- Promoting better use of technology and tools in urban forestry.
- Facilitating expanded research and delivery of scientific findings to all stakeholders

See Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force Report, go to section on:

- Supporting urban ecosystem-focused, collaborative research by developing new tools
- Encouraging open access to and use of social assessment tools that amass and distill data regarding all aspects of urban green infrastructure

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- Supporting research to inform science-based decision making
- Conserving and enhancing the urban tree canopy through assessments and inventory, planting, hazard tree removal, forest health monitoring, and other activities



SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY TOPIC

For language on Outreach/Education/Volunteerism

See USDA Forest Service UCF Program Strategic Plan, go to sections on:

- Launching a public awareness and education campaign to elevate recognition of the value of urban trees and urban forests ecosystems as essential contributors to community sustainability and resilience
- Increasing diversity, equity, and accessibility in urban and community forestry
- Engaging underserved communities in urban and community forestry establishment and stewardship
- Developing effective leadership at all levels to build a national voice for urban forestry
- Promoting expanded collaboration, training and communication within the field of urban and community forestry to build workforce professional development
- Creating environmental education programs that focus on urban and community forestry issues
- Champion a nationwide marketing campaign that links trees to human health and wellness

See Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force Report, go to sections on:

- Ensuring equal access to urban forestry and green infrastructure resources so that communities of all demographics, size and location can reap their benefits
- Foster urban forestry and natural resources stewardship and volunteerism

See WFLC Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- Gaining support through effective engagement
- Offering training and certification to private sector nursery, arboriculture, design, and maintenance professionals to increase local capacity

See NMSFA and USFS Summary of 2010 Forest Action Plans, go to sections on:

- Encouraging individuals, groups, and organizations served to become engaged participants in urban forestry, especially those in communities that are under-resourced

