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Urban and Community Forestry Program Success in Minnesota

The USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program helps support state forestry agencies in their work to provide critical technical assistance for establishing and managing urban forestry resources.

Minnesota has over one billion ash trees with approximately 2.5 million in urban and community forests. UCF funds assist Minnesotan communities in conducting ash tree inventories, developing management plans, removing dead or dying trees, treating others, and also planting new trees.

UCF funds are also leveraged through partnerships to train Tree Inspectors. These professionals survey community tree populations and manage exotic insect and disease problems like emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, and sudden oak death.

Additionally, Minnesota residents are trained in tree pruning, leading volunteer tree plantings, and monitoring the health of newly planted trees through volunteer stewardship programs—developed through a partnership with the University of Minnesota, municipalities, counties, and soil and water conservation districts. In 2018, these programs engaged volunteers in over 600 hours of service in 11 communities.

In FY20, the nation's state and territorial foresters recommend the UCF Program be allocated \$35 million to expand and preserve the wealth of benefits provided by America's most versatile natural capital: trees.



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