



Urban and Community Forestry Program Success in Nebraska

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.

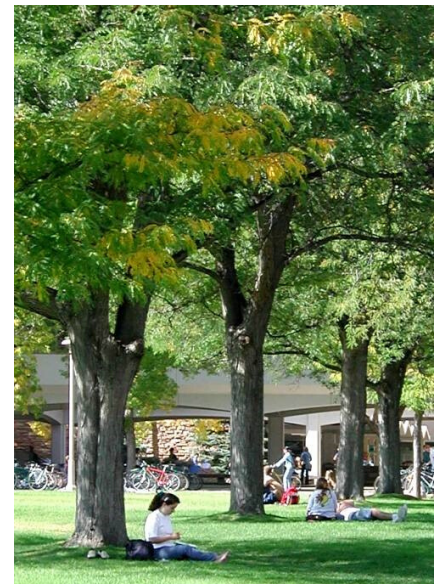
More than 80% of Nebraskans live in a community forest. Statewide, those community forests contain over 13.3 million trees. Unfortunately, due to extreme weather and invasive insects and disease, Nebraskan communities have lost 18% of their tree canopy in the last two decades. And over the next decade, the state is expected to lose an additional 20%.

Given the tremendous value urban forests hold for the state, the Nebraska Forest Service works hard to protect them, even in tough budget times.

Annually, the state agency awards \$500,000 to \$1 million in federal grants annually directly to communities for forestry investments. The agency also supports 170+ UCF educational and training events, which reach more than 22,000 program participants, each year.

On the whole, the agency returns \$29 in local tree plantings, community forest management, and forestry education for every federal dollar invested in Nebraska community forests.

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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