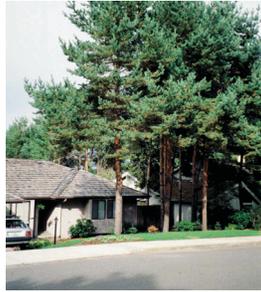


## What is Urban & Community Forestry?

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Ask most people if they live in a forest, and they will answer no - at first. When many people think of a forest, they think of many acres of trees such as those in National Forests or Parks, or rural woodlands and industrial acreages. However, there is another type of forest that we sometimes overlook, perhaps because we are so close to it. The trees in our cities and towns make up this other type of forest; called the *urban forest*. An urban forest is the planted landscape and the native forest remnants left behind as our cities and towns developed. It is not a forest where we are visitors; it is *the forest where we live*.

The planting, management, and care of the urban forest is called *urban and community forestry*. A properly managed, healthy urban forest is an indicator of a healthy community, since trees make important contributions to our quality of life and the sustainability of our cities. Urban forestry isn't limited to large cities; small communities and towns also benefit from planting and caring for trees. In Oregon, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is committed to helping cities manage this valuable asset called the urban forest.



## Urban Forestry Mission Statement

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The mission of Oregon's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program is to help Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in our urban forests.

## Obtaining Urban Forestry Assistance

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Call, write, or email the ODF Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program for more details. Additional urban forestry information can be obtained by visiting the department's website at:  
[www.odf.state.or.us/forestlandowners](http://www.odf.state.or.us/forestlandowners)



**Oregon Department of Forestry**  
Urban and Community Forestry  
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Salem, OR 97310  
Email: [urbanforestry@odf.state.or.us](mailto:urbanforestry@odf.state.or.us)  
Phone (503) 945-7391  
Fax (503) 945-7416



The Oregon Department of Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program is available in partnership with the support of the **USDA Forest Service** through its Pacific Northwest Region.

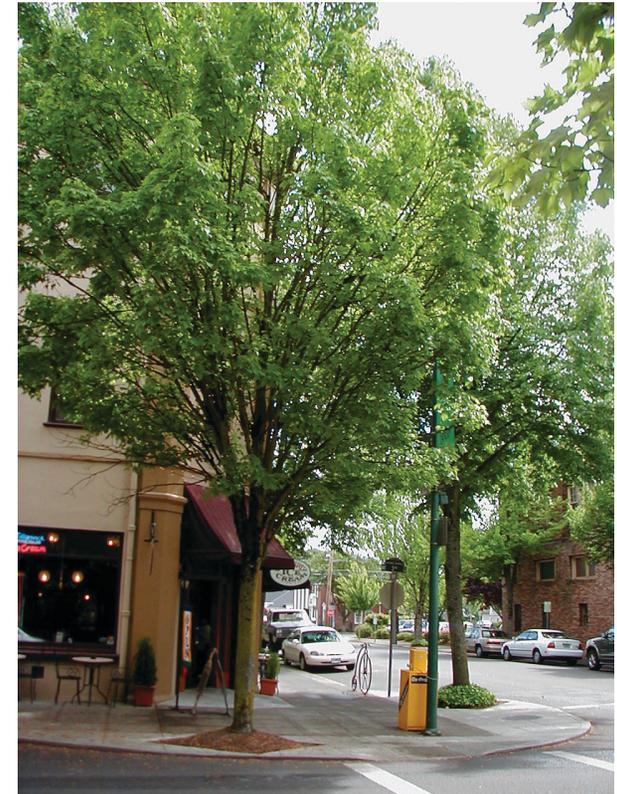
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# Urban & Community Forestry in Oregon

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Investing in More Livable Cities & Communities

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## Benefits of a Healthy Urban Forest



Properly managed urban forests create livable cities and communities by contributing economic, environmental, and social benefits. The urban forest is part of the "green infrastructure" in our cities. Urban forests quietly contribute millions of dollars in services annually, some of which include:

- increasing economic stability by attracting businesses and customers to communities;
- aiding in salmon recovery by shading and cooling streams and filtering contamination;
- saving energy costs by reducing cooling and heating needs;
- enhancing tourism by adding beauty and softening the harsh lines of urban environments;
- reducing storm water run-off and erosion management costs by intercepting, storing, and using rainfall; and
- providing habitat for many species of birds, fish, and mammals—large and small.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is committed to helping cities maximize the many quality of life enhancements that can be gained from the management of their urban forests.



## Partners for Greener Communities



Managing our urban and community forests is a cooperative effort - one from which we all benefit.

### Community Involvement

Local governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, schools and colleges, and community organizations all have a role to play in improving the quality of our urban forests. ODF staff assist public agencies and non-profit organizations by providing training, advice, and technical materials. Oregon Community Trees, a statewide non-profit group dedicated to urban and community forestry efforts, is another valuable partner.



### Tree City USA

The Tree City USA award recognizes cities that have established the foundation of a self-sustaining urban and community forestry program. The Tree City USA program is administered in Oregon by ODF for the National Arbor Day Foundation.



## ODF Services Offered to Communities



The Oregon Department of Forestry helps cities and organizations improve the quality of community life by offering the following:

### Technical Assistance

ODF staff provide technical tree information needed to properly manage public landscapes. The staff can also conduct reviews of draft tree ordinances, management plans, or policies dealing with trees and development. Guidelines for tree selection, tree planting and maintenance, tree inventories, and tree protection during construction are among the types of assistance provided.

### Educational Assistance

ODF publishes a newsletter and other technical educational materials related to urban forestry, and offers continuing education seminars and training for municipal employees, community leaders, and green industry professionals.

### Grant Programs

ODF manages grant programs for cost-share projects that improve the health of the urban forest or facilitate the development of local community forestry programs. Grants are awarded on an annual basis for activities such as educational programs, tree inventories, planning, program development, and more. Grant amounts and deadlines vary.

