



MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

*Caring for the trees and forests
of Mississippi since 1926*

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Our Mission



Is to provide active leadership
in **forest protection, forest
management, forest inventory,**
and effective **forest
information distribution,**
necessary for Mississippi's
sustainable forest-based
economy.

*The Mississippi Forestry Commission
is an equal opportunity provider.*

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About Us

The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC):

- Protects the state's valuable forest resources from wildfire.
- Sustainably manages approximately 485,000 acres of forested non-federal public land (480,000 acres of which are 16th section School Trust lands).
- Delivers quality forest management services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners.

The MFC has been serving the public and protecting Mississippi's forestland for over 95 years.

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Program Areas

- Forest Protection
 - Wildfire Suppression/Prevention
- Forest Information
- Forest Management
 - Private Landowner Services
 - Forest Health
 - Urban & Community Forestry

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Urban & Community Forestry

Caring for the trees where we live, work, and play.



Misty Booth
Urban & Community
Forestry Coordinator



Alex Ballard
UCF Partnership
Coordinator – R1/R2



Vacant
UCF Partnership
Coordinator – R3/R4



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Urban and Community Forestry Program

Purpose & Implementation

The purpose of the Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is to provide technical, financial, educational, and research services to communities so they can plant, protect, and maintain community trees and forests, and utilize wood from these trees, to maximize environmental, social, and economic benefits.

The Forest Service provides national UCF Program leadership and coordination.

Program delivery primarily occurs at the regional and state level, through State Forestry agencies or equivalent State agencies and other key partners.



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Urban and Community Forestry Program

Community Assistance

Elements of a Municipal UCF Program:

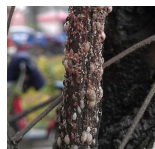
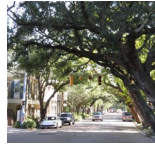
- Professional **S**taff
- Policies / **O**rdinances
- Advocacy / **A**dvisory Organizations
- Management **P**lan



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Urban and Community Forestry Program Community Assistance



Technical Assistance

- Municipalities & Communities
 - Assistance and training for urban areas in developing community forestry programs and components such as tree ordinances, street tree inventories, and urban forest management plans
- Developers & Building Contractors
 - Technical advice for tree preservation during site planning and construction
- Homeowners & Residents
 - Advice on insects, diseases, and other tree care problems
 - Many urban residents owning forestland are reached with information about improving the condition of their rural timberland through the MFC's UCF Program.

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Urban and Community Forestry Program Community Assistance

Volunteers



You are invited to a dedication ceremony on Wednesday, May 29th at 10 am at Bright Park at 3720 Flynn Drive in Pearl. The Spring Lake Garden Club will hold a dedication ceremony for the new Bright Park Arboretum, an area devoted to various types of trees, shrubs and plants. Also, courtesy of the Mississippi Forestry Commission, about 30 different shrubs will be given away.



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Urban and Community Forestry Program Community Assistance

Professionals



Professional Arborist
Association
of Mississippi



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Urban and Community Forestry Program Partnerships



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Urban and Community Forestry Program Community Assistance

Tree City USA®

- Twenty-three cities designated in Mississippi in 2022
- Standards
 - Tree Board or Department
 - Tree Care Ordinance
 - Community Forestry Program with Annual Budget of at least \$2 per capita
 - Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation
- 2023 Applications due online December 15.

<https://applications.arborday.org/community/city/>



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MS Forestry Commission @MSForestryComm

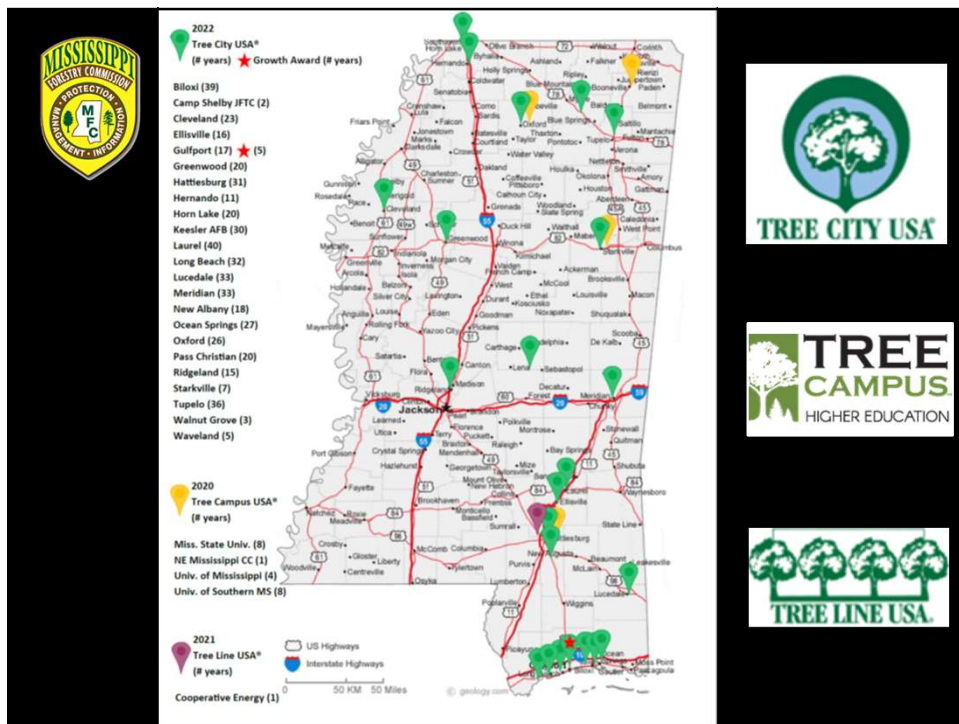
Congratulations to Cooperative Energy in their inaugural year to obtain the Tree Line USA designation!
#MSforestry #urbanforests

Cooperative Energy @CoopEnergyMS · Feb 12
@MSForestryComm and @arborday designated Cooperative Energy as Mississippi's only Tree Line USA utility. Trees and utilities co-exist for the benefit of our communities, our citizens, and our consumer-members.
#ConcernForCommunity #ArborDay #TreeLineUSA

11:15 AM · Feb 12, 2021 · Twitter Web App

<https://youtu.be/V-xtnS-gpGo>

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Urban and Community Forestry Program

Community Assistance

Arbor Day in Mississippi

- Arbor Day was first observed in the State of Nebraska in 1872.
- It became an official day of observance in Mississippi in 1926.
- Arbor Day in Mississippi is the second Friday in February each year.



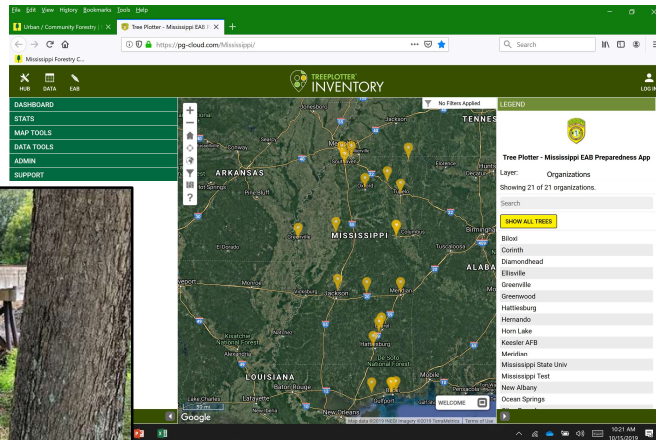
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Urban and Community Forestry Program Community Assistance

TreePlotter Tree Inventory App & the UCF Internship

<https://pg-cloud.com/Mississippi/>



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Urban and Community Forestry Program Community Assistance

Urban Forest Strike Team

- The Urban Forest Strike Team mission is to provide additional professional capacity to municipalities impacted by natural disasters during the late stages of response and during recovery.
- Strike teams provide tree damage and risk assessments and Federal Emergency Management Agency public assistance information to communities.



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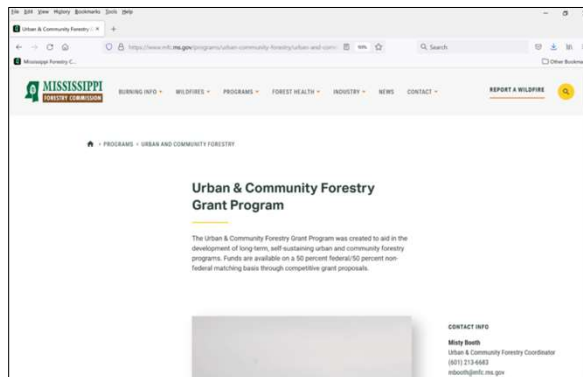


Urban and Community Forestry Program Community Assistance

Urban & Community Forestry Grant

Proposal
Information Package
can be found on the
MFC website.

FFY20 – FFY22
9 projects
\$131,760 awarded



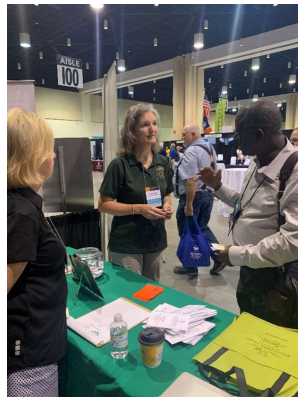
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Urban and Community Forestry Program Community Assistance

Outreach

- Conferences
- Display
- SWAG
- Publications
- Social Media
- Traditional Media
- Video
- Technical Assistance
 - Workshops
 - Training
 - Presentations



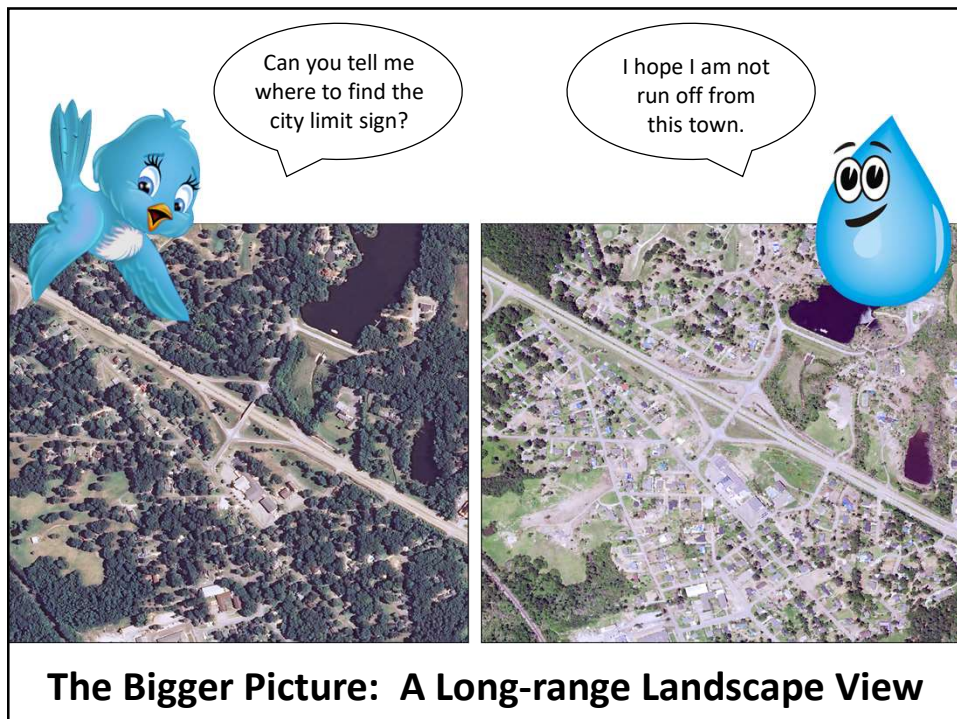
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“cut out and get out”



Source:
Timber: A Photographic History of Mississippi Forestry
by James E. Fickle

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Public Services & Infrastructure



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BENEFITS OF TREES

Environmental “Services”

- ✓ Air Pollution Removal / Improve Air Quality
- ✓ Carbon Storage & Sequestration
- ✓ Erosion Control / Water Quality
- ✓ Urban Heat Island Effect
- ✓ Wildlife Habitat
- ✓ Stormwater Runoff Mitigation

Social “Services”

- ✓ Public Health (Physical & Mental)
- ✓ Recreation / Walkability
- ✓ Connection to Nature / Spiritual
- ✓ Reduced Noise Pollution
- ✓ Education (higher test scores)
- ✓ Reduced Crime

Economic “Services”

- ✓ Increased Property Values
- ✓ Increased Tax Revenues
- ✓ Energy Conservation & Savings
- ✓ Economic Development
- ✓ Tourism (Historic Value / Ecotourism)
- ✓ Aesthetics & Sense of Place

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Urban and Community Forestry Program SGSF UCF Committee

www.southernforests.org

urbanforestrysouth.org

A growing body of research has made a clear connection between access to trees and improved human health.

Communities can promote healthier living by strategically placing treescapes to have the greatest impact on public health.



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Urban and Community Forestry Program SGSF UCF Committee

www.southernforests.org

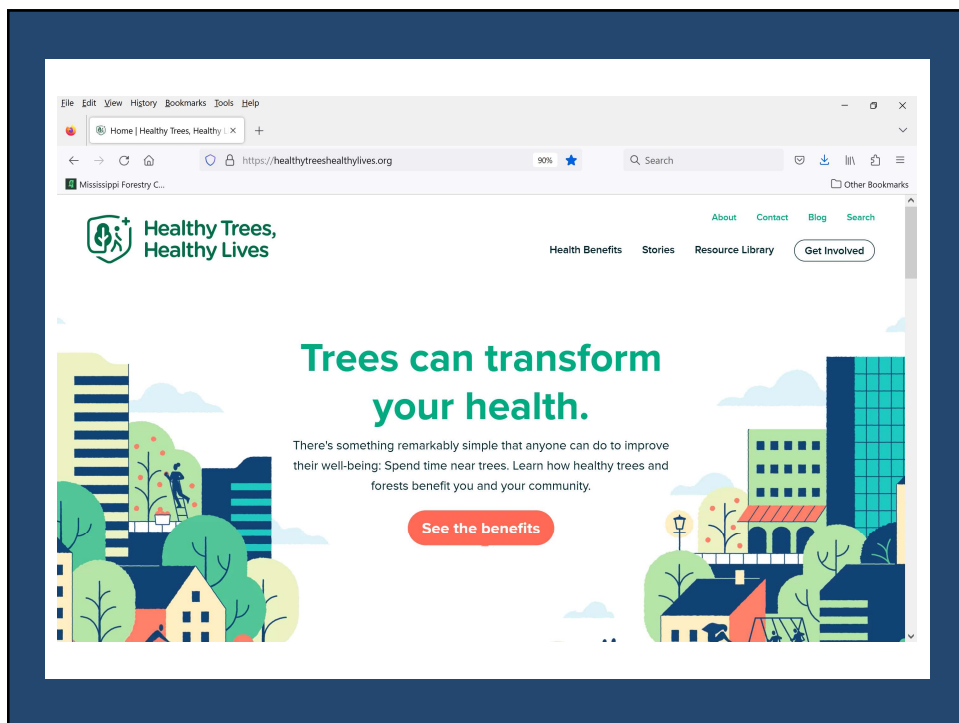
urbanforestrysouth.org



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Trees Care for Your...



Brain



Healing



Comfort



Health



Fighting Power



Healthcare Savings



Fitness



Heart

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Trees Care for Your...



Little Ones



Peace of Mind



Lungs



Skin

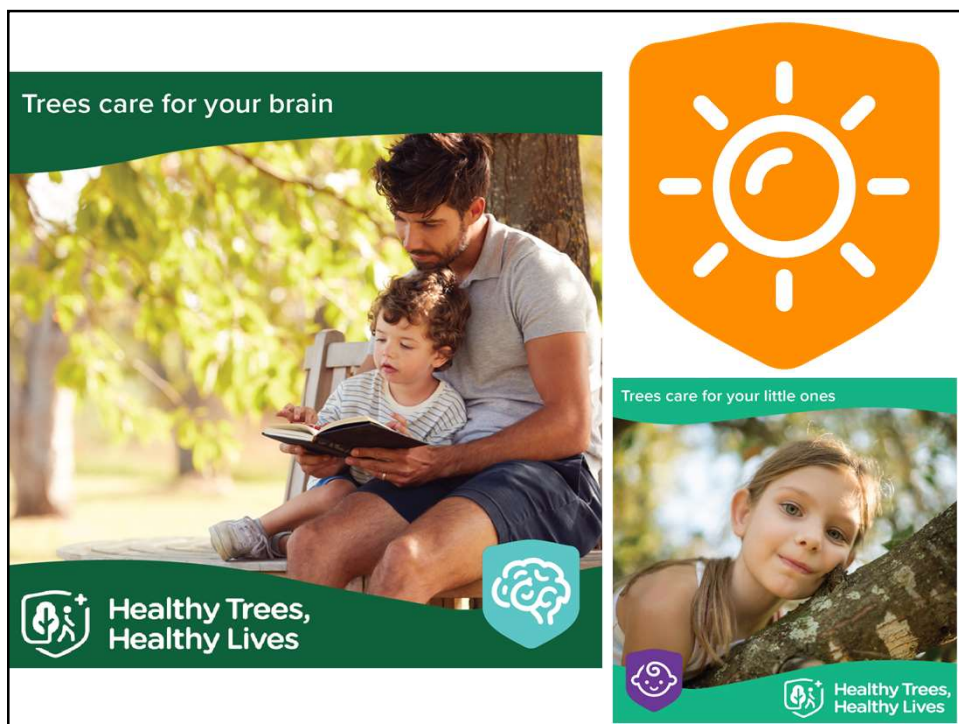


Nutrition



Vitality

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Increase the number of trees in neighborhoods to help decrease childhood obesity.



**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**
HealthyTreesHealthyLives.org

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What do trees have to do with infant health?

- **More trees = healthier birth weights**
- **More trees = reduced premature birth rates**




**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**
HealthyTreesHealthyLives.org

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Take a study break!
Students' mental health improves after just 10 minutes outdoors among trees.



**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**
HealthyTreesHealthyLives.org



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Trees care for your fitness



**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**

Trees care for your healing

**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**

Trees care for your peace of mind

**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**

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**A bigger canopy relieves
heat in communities,
making it more comfortable
to be outside.**



**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**

HealthyTreesHealthyLives.org

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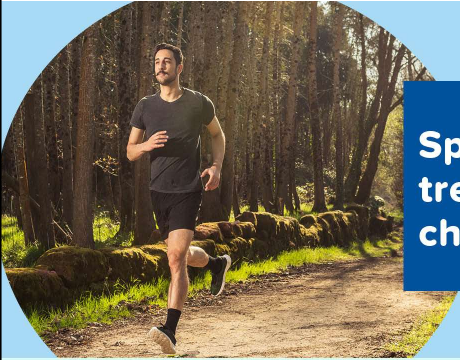
**More greenspaces
= more opportunities for exercise**



**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**

HealthyTreesHealthyLives.org

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Spending time among trees reduces the risk of chronic disease.




**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**
HealthyTreesHealthyLives.org

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Increasing access to treed areas alleviates post-stroke symptoms in dementia patients.




**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**
HealthyTreesHealthyLives.org

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Spend 30 minutes a day outdoors among trees to reduce stress.




**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**
HealthyTreesHealthyLives.org

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Increasing windows and views of trees in the office decreases employee sick days.



**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Lives**
HealthyTreesHealthyLives.org

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A larger amount of trees and nature leads to a better quality of life.

Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives


DECISIONS TODAY, IMPACT BENEFITS IN THE FUTURE

Start today, and create happier, healthier communities

Understanding the urban forest distribution of your community and focusing on enhancement in priority areas can optimize public health benefits from trees.

Communities can promote healthier living by strategically placing treescapes in order to have the greatest impact on public health.

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Where do we start? Take a look at the tree canopies around schools, healthcare facilities, along right-of-ways and neighborhoods.

SCHOOLS AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

- Are trees planted around playgrounds and lunch spots?
- Are there views of trees from classrooms?
- Are there trees near the entrance and in pickup/dropoff areas?
- Are there views of trees outside of patient windows?
- Is there a greenspace that is easily accessible and hospitable for patients and guests?

ALONG RIGHT-OF-WAYS

- Are there hot, exposed sidewalks that could benefit from street trees?
- Are there places where street trees would promote walkability?
- Are there roadways that would benefit from traffic calming?

AROUND NEIGHBORHOODS

- Are there neighborhoods, entire or partial, more than two blocks from a tree-covered green space?
- Are there vacant lots or corners that could be repurposed to pocket parks or green spaces?

healthytreeshealthylives.org

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Urban and Community Forestry Program

Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives

5K4Kids benefitting The Canopy School



Canopy Children's Solutions (Canopy) is Mississippi's most comprehensive nonprofit provider of children's behavioral health, educational, and social service solutions.



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Urban and Community Forestry Program

Additional Funding Sources

RESTORE

"Enhancing Gulf Waters through Forested Watershed Restoration"

<https://www.restorethegulf.gov/funded-priorities-list-3b>

Work with municipalities in the six coastal counties to improve water quality:

- ✓ Data collection (tree canopy assessments, tree inventories)
- ✓ Increased staff capacity (hires, training for tree care professionals)
- ✓ Planning (community tree management, storm preparedness)
- ✓ Green infrastructure installation (bioswales, tree planting)

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Urban and Community Forestry Program

Additional Funding Sources

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

a.k.a.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The MFC will provide a **Tree Removal and Tree Planting Grant Program** with the objective of directly aiding local urban forestry programs in the management of their green infrastructure, eliminating/suppressing invasive species, mitigating climate change, and growing resilient trees and communities.

- ✓ Emphasis will be placed on the **removal of invasive plants** with the potential for trees presenting risk to be considered.
- ✓ **Tree planting** will include native species and tree maintenance plans while promoting the inclusion of municipal personnel and community volunteers.
- ✓ **Professionals** such as ISA Certified Arborists and Mississippi Tree Surgeon licensed tree care companies will be required for each activity.
- ✓ Pass-through grants will be offered to **Tree City USA® designated communities initially** to incentivize participation in the recognition program by disengaged communities.

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Urban and Community Forestry Program Additional Funding Sources

Inflation Reduction Act

2100(c) for projects for the acquisition of land and interests in land; and

(2) **\$1,500,000,000** to provide multiyear, programmatic, competitive grants to a State agency, a local governmental entity, an agency or governmental entity of the District of Columbia, an agency or governmental entity of an insular area (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), an Indian Tribe, or a nonprofit organization through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program established under section 9(c) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105(c)) for tree planting and related activities.

(b) **WAIVER**—Any non-Federal cost-share requirement other-

136 STAT. 2026 PUBLIC LAW 117-169—A

(1) \$1,500,000,000 to provide programmatic, competitive grants to a State agency, a local governmental entity, an agency or governmental entity of the District of Columbia, an agency or governmental entity of an insular area (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), an Indian Tribe, or a nonprofit organization through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program established under section 9(c) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105(c)) for tree planting and related activities.

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The funds made available under this subtitle are subject to the conditions that the Secretary shall not—

(1) enter into any agreement;

(2) that in the case of any agreement, the agreement shall not be in effect after September 30, 2025; or

(3) use any funds which any payment could be outlay or funds disbursed after September 30, 2025, or

Water resources.

Time periods.

(c) **WAIVER**—Any non-Federal cost-share requirement other-

The funds made available under this subtitle are subject to the conditions that the Secretary shall not—

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(3) use any funds which any payment could be outlay or funds disbursed after September 30, 2025, or

- Monumental funding signed into law August 16, 2022.
- Timeline & Questions
- Limitations and Waivers
- Types of work and Interest

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Urban and Community Forestry Program Disadvantaged Communities

Money flees, tree canopy declines

Detroit, MI



RESEARCH ARTICLE (2015)

Trees Grow on Money: Urban Tree Canopy Cover and Environmental Justice

Kirsten Schwarz^{1*}, Michail Fragkias², Christopher G. Boone³, Weiqi Zhou⁴, Melissa McHale⁵, J. Morgan Grove⁶, Jarlath O'Neill-Dunne⁷, Joseph P. McFadden⁸, Geoffrey L. Buckley⁹, Dan Childers¹⁰, Laura Ogden¹¹, Stephanie Pincetti¹¹, Diane Pataki¹², Ali Whitmer¹³, Mary L. Cadenasso¹⁴



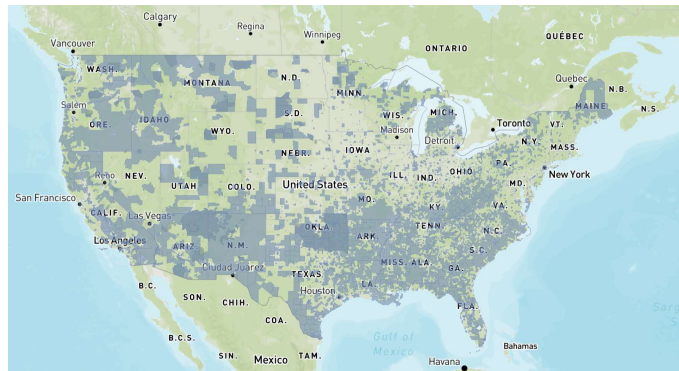
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Mapping Tools for Identifying Disadvantaged and Burdened Communities



Climate and Economic Justice
Screening Tool

- Health rankings
- Economically distressed areas
- Heat mapping



<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/38.7/-97.92>

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