

## Region 6 Pacific Northwest Region

### Program Overview

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program in the Pacific Northwest Region provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to a variety of partners, including State, county, municipal, and tribal governments, as well as nonprofits, universities, public schools, and individuals. Oregon and Washington State comprise the region, which includes 25 million acres of National Forest System lands. The USDA Forest Service regional staff is one half-time position. The Oregon Department of Forestry and Washington State Department of Natural Resources deliver U&CF programs funded by the USDA Forest Service, which include technical assistance, Arbor Day celebrations, community grants, the Tree City USA program, and educational opportunities. The USDA Forest Service-funded community grants offered by both States are highly competitive, and the available funding is much less than the need. Technical assistance provided by the State urban forestry staff is critical for inner cities, small communities, nonprofits, and other partners. Emphasis for the program is on building local capacity.

The U&CF Program is linked to many of the critical issues in the Pacific Northwest, such as salmon recovery; livable cities, communities, and neighborhoods; clean air and water; and economic recovery. Trees are part of the economic development strategies for beautifying downtowns and creating business districts where people will linger and shop. Dr. Kathleen Wolf at the University of Washington has found that in Seattle, and in large cities in other States, survey participants are willing to pay 11 percent more for products in landscaped business districts vs. those with no trees. The USDA Forest Service funded this research through the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council.

More than 62 percent of the cities and communities in Oregon and Washington are participating in the U&CF Program, and the program has generated more than 18,000 hours of volunteer time. Friends of Trees, an



award-winning nonprofit organization, has planted more than 230,000 trees in the five-county Portland, OR, metro area (which includes Washington State). The organization trains volunteers who then help additional people understand the values and benefits of trees and greenspaces.

### Program Accomplishments

In 1996, Oregon and Washington started the Community Trees Conference, and in fiscal year (FY) 2002 the sixth conference was held in Idaho, coordinated by the Oregon Urban Forester. The conference is a joint effort among Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), and is supported by the USDA Forest Service. Held every 2 years, the Community Trees Conference brings speakers and participants from beyond the above-named States, and is aimed at professionals and citizens with an interest in community trees and forests. In FY 2002, Oregon and Washington, with support from the USDA Forest Service, partnered with ISA to present the Tree Academy, a series of classes for arborists at the ISA Conference in Seattle. Oregon, Washington, and the USDA Forest Service worked across State and bureaucratic lines to produce three information brochures about U&CF in general and how to access the program in each State. Matching folders were created to hold materials for sending out in response to requests and at conferences.

# Oregon

## Program Overview

The mission of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Assistance Program is to help Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in urban forests. Primary U&CF issues in Oregon are growth management, urban-rural interface challenges, the need to develop comprehensive community forestry programs in smaller communities, and the constraints caused by limited municipal funding for city and community services. Funding for the ODF U&CF Assistance Program is from the USDA Forest Service. A staff of three professional urban foresters provides leadership and assistance to Oregon cities, communities, and organizations.

## Program Accomplishments

- ODF's staff assisted builder Kevin Rea and the Village Wiestoria project, a 42-unit, mixed-use, residential development near Bend, OR. ODF helped Rea retain large trees on the site, and then used the site to develop an 11-minute educational video to show builders and developers how their investment can be enhanced through trees. Rea won an excellence award from the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of Homebuilders for his efforts.
- Friends of Trees, an award-winning, nonprofit, tree-planting organization in the Portland metro area, used ODF/USDA Forest Service grant funds to develop a youth tree corps program to provide summer jobs in urban forestry for at-risk youth.
- ODF hosted a meeting of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council in Portland. A tour was provided to highlight inner-city projects in northeast Portland, urbanization and growth management issues in Wilsonville, and small community challenges in McMinnville.

## The U&CF Council

The State's U&CF Advisory Council is Oregon Community Trees (OCT), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a board of directors encompassing municipal, volunteer, community, and business interests. This year, OCT hosted its annual urban forestry conference attended by 100 people, conducted an annual awards program, maintained a Web site (<http://www.oregoncommunitytrees.org>), and promoted urban forestry events and activities.

## Volunteer Program

In Oregon, 5 nonprofit volunteer tree-planting groups and 39 volunteer tree boards and commissions receive technical, financial, and educational assistance and organizational development advice from the ODF staff.

## Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 147  
Number of technical assists to communities: 518  
Number of training hours provided: 3,938  
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 600  
Number of trees planted (estimated): 40,000  
(Estimated from 37 Tree City USA communities only; does not include nonprofit sector, transportation agencies, utilities, etc.)

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# Washington

## Program Overview

The Washington U&CF Program mission is to educate citizens and decisionmakers about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of trees. The mission includes helping local governments, citizen groups, and volunteers plant and sustain healthy trees where people live and work in Washington. The primary community forestry issues are local government impacts from the Endangered Species Act, urban-rural interface challenges, the need to develop comprehensive community forestry programs, growth management, and constraints caused by decreased funding sources for municipal services. The U&CF Program is part of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Two professional urban foresters provide assistance to Washington communities and organizations. In FY 2002, only one of those positions was filled. Funding for the U&CF Program is from the USDA Forest Service.

## Program Accomplishments

- WDNR initiated new, improved Arbor Day celebrations in FY 2002. A grant from BP Northwest Operations funded a Web site for educational and celebration materials. The program partnered with corporate sponsors to host the first Arbor Day awards banquet. The banquet honored 45 Tree City USA and 7 Tree Line USA recipients, as well as the State winner of the 5th grade Arbor Day Poster Contest.
- Fourteen communities, six nonprofits, and one university received WDNR community grants. Grants were awarded in the following four categories: (1) local program development, (2) tree planting, (3) education, and (4) tree maintenance. Because community grants are highly competitive, three U&CF grant writing workshops were held around the State to help first-time grant applicants learn how to write grant applications.
- University of Washington graduate students conducted a study of Washington's community forest. Upon completion, the three-phase study will provide a picture of the current state of Washington's community forest to help decisionmakers better manage urban trees and forests.
- To meet increasing requests east of Washington's Cascade Mountains, WDNR/USDA Forest Service funds were used to contract with the Spokane, WA, urban forester to provide technical assistance in smaller, eastside communities, where local urban forestry expertise is not available.

- The WDNR urban forestry staff partnered with the International Society of Arboriculture to host a Tree Academy as part of its 78th Conference and Trade Show in Seattle. The Tree Academy brought together arborists from around the world to learn about topics such as Tree Structure Mechanics, Plant Health Care, Tree Decay, Tree Appraisal, and Tree Worker Health Care.

## The U&CF Council

The Washington Community Forestry Council advises the WDNR regarding urban and community forestry issues. The council includes members from a broad spectrum of stakeholder groups, including municipal, volunteer, community, and business interests. A key project for the council is the development of a public outreach and awareness campaign designed to educate local decisionmakers on the importance of trees in our cities and communities.

## Volunteer Program

Washington has 5 nonprofit volunteer tree-planting and restoration groups, 2 tree advocacy groups, and 35 volunteer tree boards and commissions. The WDNR staff provides technical, financial, and educational assistance, as well as organizational development advice.

## Statistical Information

Number of participating communities: 228  
Number of technical assists to communities: 720  
Number of training hours provided: 2,700  
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,025  
Number of Tree City USA communities: 45  
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 10  
Number of Tree Line USA utilities: 7

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