



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Urban and Community Forestry

The purpose of the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program is to establish and maintain healthy urban and community forests that improve the quality of life for Californians and the quality of urban natural resources.



The structure and delivery of the U&CF Program is built upon cooperative relationships with local governments, non-profit organizations, and private companies. CAL FIRE provides funding, education, technical assistance, and policy advice to advance Urban Forestry per the Urban Forestry Act of 1978 (PRC 4799.06 – 4799.12.1).

As outlined by the Urban Forestry Act of 1978, CAL FIRE's U&CF foresters work to:

- Promote the use of urban forest resources for purposes of increasing mutually beneficial projects in communities.
  - Arrest the decline of urban forest resources, facilitate tree planting in urban communities, and improve the quality of the environment in urban areas through the establishment and improved management of urban forest resources.
  - Facilitate the creation of permanent jobs in tree maintenance and related urban forestry activities in neighborhoods, and regional urban areas.
- Optimize the potential of tree and plant cover to mediate extreme heat, green schoolyards, and benefit human health.
  - Encourage the coordination of state and local agency activities in urban forestry and related programs and encourage maximum resident participation in their development and care.

#### Grants

Eligible entities can apply for U&CF grants for activities including, but not limited to, tree planting, comprehensive urban forest management plans, tree resource inventories, educational programs, green infrastructure, and innovative ideas that promote urban forestry in California.

#### Tree City USA

The Tree City USA program is organized by the National Arbor Day Foundation and is delivered by CAL FIRE in California. Tree City USA provides communities with a four-step framework to maintain and grow their tree cover. It also gives them an avenue to celebrate their work, showing residents, visitors, and the entire country that they're committed to the mission of environmental change. There are over 3,600 cities recognized as a Tree City USA. <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/>



#### Mitigating Climate Change

Urban trees help moderate temperatures on hot days, reducing the urban heat island effect. When trees grow, they capture and store carbon, an important step to mitigate the effects of climate change. CAL FIRE works to ensure urban forest resources are utilized to their highest and best purpose throughout their life so that carbon stays stored as long-lasting wood products and that biomass from removed urban trees can be utilized to develop biofuels and energy. CAL FIRE along with other state agencies and researchers, developed a compliance offset protocol for Urban and Community Forestry in the carbon credit trading market. This protocol has been officially adopted by the California Climate Action Registry and the [California Air Resources Board](#).

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