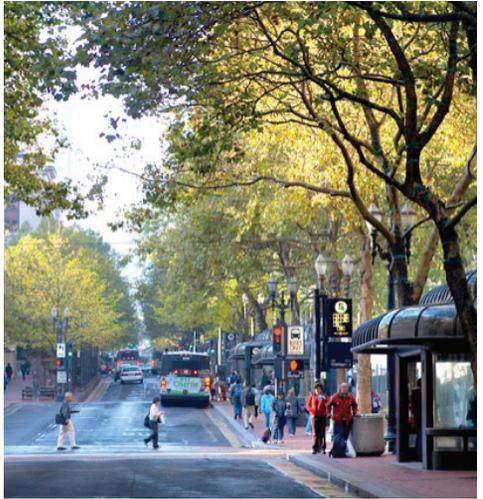


SUFC 2012 FARM BILL PLATFORM



USDA and the Forest Service—with its unparalleled research capacity and its strong network of public and private partnerships—is uniquely positioned to promote efficient Federal investment in creating and maintaining healthy urban forests and green infrastructure.

Better stewardship of urban natural resources can achieve vital national goals: job creation, energy independence, vibrant local economies, clean water and healthy watersheds, reduction in obesity, and improved air quality and public health.

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition Farm Bill agenda:

- Calls for no new programs or increased funding levels;
- Encourages and facilitates interagency coordination to protect urban forest health;
- Addresses issues at the landscape level and promote urban trees and forests as green infrastructure; and
- Supports local initiatives, minimizing overall costs and maximizing impacts for every dollar invested.



Sustainable Urban
Forests Coalition

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THE SUSTAINABLE URBAN FORESTS COALITION URGES CONGRESS TO:

Maintain existing authorities relating to the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program AND support USDA Forest Service research with a high priority on developing best management practices for urban forestry.

- More than 7,000 communities benefited from this program in 2011 alone.
- Outcomes for citizens include clean air, clean water, safer neighborhoods, increased property values, energy conservation and others.
- Best management practices provide technology, tools and information on tree canopy and urban forest health vital to federal and local partners, state agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Direct USDA to increase efficiency, improve outcomes and maximize the value of federal investments by jointly planning and delivering related programs administered by different agencies.

- No ecological boundaries separate urban, community and rural forests. Like pests and diseases, water has no regard for urban and rural boundaries.
- Programs like EQIP [NRCS] which deal with upstream water quality should be implemented in concert with programs like the U&CF Program [Forest Service], which deals with downstream urban water quality programs.

Maintain funding (\$50 million/year) as authorized for the Early Plant Pest Detection and Surveillance Improvement Program (Section 10201, 2008 Farm Bill).

- Monitoring urban forest health and reducing threats from invasive insects and disease helps prevent their spread beyond urban boundaries. Early detection in urban settings reduces huge expenditures for later eradication.



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