

# 1998 Annual Report

## Introduction

**The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council was created under the "Urban and Community Forestry Assistance" provision of the 1990 "Farm Bill" legislation. This act of Congress amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (16 USC 2105) to fundamentally change this Nation's approach to managing urban and community forests.**

The specific purposes of the Council are to:

- Develop a national urban and community forestry action plan.
- Evaluate the implementation of that plan.
- Develop criteria for, and submit recommendations with respect to, an urban and community forestry challenge cost-share grant program.

The Council is composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to represent all levels of government, citizen action groups, industry and trade associations, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations related to urban and community forestry.

A Vision for the Future...

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council seeks to generate the resolve, the necessary support, and the essential abilities necessary to ensure safe, sustainable, and healthy trees and ecosystems within American communities of all sizes.

As a result of its activities and the enhancement of the nation's urban and community forests, the Council strives to:

- Improve the quality of life for all citizens where they live and work.
- Use trees and vegetation to enhance community pride and identity.
- Create a better understanding of our biological, psychological and cultural connections to the ecological systems that sustain our lives.
- Cultivate appreciation of the social, economic, environmental and aesthetic value of trees and community forests.
- Foster self-sustaining municipal forestry programs and volunteer-based organizations.

- Encourage the coordination and development of multicultural professional training and educational programs related to urban forestry.
  - Stimulate additional urban forestry funding from traditional and nontraditional sources.
  - Support expanded research and assure widespread distribution of findings.
  - Promote partnerships that include the private sector and that lead to the creation of new jobs and contribute to healthier economies.
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## **Recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture**

*To the Honorable Dan Glickman:*

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council wishes to express appreciation for your support in helping the Council meet its mandates as expressed by Congress in the 1990 "Farm Bill" legislation and subsequent acts. Your personal interest, as well as that of Undersecretary Jim Lyons, and the exemplary staff support provided by the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, have been essential in helping the Council to move closer to its vision of enhancing urban and community forestry throughout the Nation.

In the coming year, the Council respectfully recommends that:

- The USDA Forest Service and others continue efforts to develop criteria and standards for assessing and inventorying our nation's urban forests.
- The Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program remain as a critical component of the Urban and Community Forestry Program. The Challenge Cost-Share Program will: (1) encourage education, communication and outreach that fosters public understanding of and appreciation for urban ecosystems, (2) facilitate creative and innovative projects that address the intent of the founding legislation and the vision of the Council, and (3) help expanded research and technology transfer that will serve as the foundation for all aspects of improved community forestry.
- Efforts to provide information, communication, and the dissemination of technology continue to be key components of the USDA Forest Service urban and community forestry programs.
- Research and program efforts that focus on restoring ecosystem health and assessing the values, perceptions, and social needs of our nation's diverse population be continued and strengthened.
- Urban and community forestry programs of the USDA Forest Service continue to cover the full spectrum of community sizes from large metropolitan areas to the small towns of rural America with increased emphasis on education and assistance for rural communities. This would include developing a process to address countywide community forestry efforts and strengthening services to these rural communities.

- The USDA Forest Service emphasize urban and community forestry in environmental education.  
The USDA Forest Service better integrate urban and community forestry with other national efforts to support the sustain ability of communities.
- The USDA Forest Service support efforts to expand funding for urban forestry research and practice.
- The USDA Forest Service assist the Council in disseminating important advances in urban and community forestry research and practice.  
The USDA Forest Service participate with the Council in expanding partnerships with all private and public sectors including business, non-profit, and government in supporting urban and community forestry.

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## A Statement of Principles

Through the collective experience of members of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and with the input of the nation's experts from a wide range of disciplines, a body of principles has emerged to provide guidance for developing future urban and community forestry policy.

- Good research, information, communication and the exchange of technological knowledge are keys to strengthening urban forestry programs and empowering communities and urban forestry professionals.
- A holistic view of urban forestry reveals a continuum of urban and community forestry-related issues and concerns from inner city gardening programs to wildfire and pest problems at the urban/rural interface. Similarly, concern for urban trees cannot be separated from concerns about air quality, storm water runoff, wildlife habitat and other parts of the urban ecosystem.
- Providing information to people about the importance of urban and community forestry programs is a necessary first step in a long-term strategy to develop and maintain safe, healthy urban and community forests.
- As part of a long-term plan for meeting public needs and building healthy urban and community forestry programs nationwide, it is important to assess and address the perceptions, values and needs of our nation's growing multi-cultural population with respect to urban vegetation and its management.
- The development of multi-lingual educational materials will be important for reaching new and often under-served populations with information about urban and community forestry.
- Urban ecosystems damaged by construction, storms or invasive species require special attention, tools and techniques. Planning for species diversity and the use of indigenous species where appropriate are among the ways to prevent recurrence of past problems.

Understanding and practicing good urban forestry can benefit many small communities that are struggling to retain businesses or attract businesses back to newly revitalized downtown areas. Healthy urban forests give communities a

more livable image and can assist in improving the economic strength of individual malls, shopping areas, or entire cities.

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## Our Forests are Everybody's Business



*A Message from the Chair, Genni Cross*



Our forests are public assets. Whether a forest is made up of redwoods, hardwoods, or exotic ornamental species, and whether it is in an inaccessible wilderness, a suburban green belt, or in the backyards and parks of an urban neighborhood, the value of a forest extends beyond the boundaries of the land it occupies. When forests improve air quality, everyone benefits. When forests reduce runoff and help to recharge underground aquifers, the benefits are shared by people many miles from the forest itself. And when forests provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, we are all richer for their contribution. How we treat our forests public and private, urban and rural is everyone's business. Everyone who breathes air and drinks water, whether in an urban or rural area, has a stake in the future health of our forests.



How do we effectively manage an asset that belongs to everyone but is owned and controlled by various public and private interests? There is probably no simple answer to this question, though people have been trying to find an answer for thousands of years.

One solution is to have qualified professionals, such as city foresters, manage our forests and charge them with looking out for the public's interest. But this may be easier to do in some instances than in others. For example, in an urban area plagued with a rapidly spreading pest or disease problem, removing infected trees quickly may be the solution that a qualified professional would recommend to stem the spread of contamination to other nearby trees. But what if the trees that need removing are on public property, and public funds are not available for their removal? What if the trees are in a private yard and will cost hundreds of dollars for

a homeowner to remove? Should the property owner be required to spend his or her personal funds to remove the trees? What if the homeowner is unconcerned with the welfare of other trees (or people) in the city or doesn't understand the significance of the problem?



Our rural forests are no different. If forests are managed to maximize their multiple long-term benefits, as one might expect a qualified professional to recommend, our forests can provide for our needs forever. If, on the other hand, our forests are managed with an eye to ward maximizing short-term profits, important public assets can be squandered overnight whether the forest itself is publicly or privately owned. How do we ensure that the managers who steward our public forest assets both urban and rural have the capital and political support they need to do the job well? How do we ensure that private landowners both urban and rural take responsibility for the public assets they control?



Education is the answer I favor. Forests are a prominent feature of the world's natural systems and understanding their interrelationships with other parts of the environment and with our own lives is essential to making good forestry decisions. Helping people to understand the value of forests and their own responsibility in protecting and stewarding these communal assets is everyone's business. Education of the broadest group of people should be our goal.



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## The Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program

An important way the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council can fulfill its vision and make a positive impact on community forests nationwide, both now and in the future, is through its annual challenge cost-share program.

Each autumn, a request for pre-proposals is distributed nationwide. Brief proposals are then evaluated by the Council on the basis of meeting the specified criteria and demonstrating merit relative to the other proposals. Selected applicants are then invited to submit full proposals for final judging in this competitive program. In all cases, project funding must be matched on at least a 50-50 basis from non-federal sources.

Grant categories are established annually and are used to meet the Council's goals. For the past three years the categories have been:

### Research and Technology Development

- **GOAL** - To understand the relationship between urban and community forest resources and humans.

These are projects that examine the effects of urban and community forest resources on human development, experience and behavior, as well as the effects of human activities on trees and community forests. Other research-related projects are considered that have the potential to contribute in a practical way to the better understanding of other social or biological aspects of urban ecosystems.

### Education, Communication and Outreach

- **GOAL** - To increase the knowledge of the general public and/or specific audiences about urban and community forestry. Successful projects in this category either communicate effectively to a large number of people or they provide innovative and workable ways to reach specific groups with important and sometimes complex information. Messages delivered through these projects vary widely and can range from an appreciation of the

value of trees to detailed information about proper pruning or the legal liabilities of hazard trees.

## Creative and Innovative Projects

- **GOAL** - To support creative and innovative urban forestry ideas, messages or projects.

This category opens the way for projects that are creative, innovative, timely, and have national scope, but are not necessarily addressed by criteria in the other two categories. In some cases, projects not of a national scope, but that can serve as models, are also considered.

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## Projects Completed

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### 1998

The Urban Forest and the Development Community:  
Using Bottom-Line Benefits to Shift the Paradigm

The Davey Resource Group - contact Paul Sacamano (510) 371-2020

Common Knowledge: Turning Local Gems into National Treasures

American Forests - contact Karen Fedor (202) 955-4500 x 224

Growing Hope: Children, Trees and Urban Public Housing

University of Illinois - contact Frances E. Kuo (217) 244-0393

T.R.E.E.S.-Transagency Resources for Environmental and Economic Sustainability

TreePeople - contact Andy Lipkis (818) 753-4600

Public Knowledge of Urban Forest Benefits and Values in Commercial and Retail Environments

University of Washington - contact Kathleen Wolf (206) 616-5758

Colorado Habitat Tree

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo - contact Frogard Ryan (719) 633-9925 x 116

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### 1997

Project Kansas Urban Green

Natural Tree Source, Inc. - contact Duane Dyer (316) 788-7581

The Economics of Tree Preservation in Developing Urban Areas

University of Minnesota - contact Gary R. Johnson (612) 625-3765

Native American Urban/Community Forestry Technical Cultural Transfer Project

Natural Path Forestry Consultants, Inc. - contact Kelly Chalfant (406) 721-3263

A Comparison of Benefits & Costs of Tree Cover Between Two Prairie Communities

South Dakota State University - contact John Ball (605) 688-4737

Teens' Forestry Organization for Russell Community Enhancement T-FORCE

Louisville Central Community Center - contact Sam Watkins (502) 589-8821

Using Benefit/Cost Analysis to Manage an Urban Forest

The Davey Resource Group - contact Paul Sacamano (510) 371-2020

The Forest Where We Live

Louisiana Public Broadcasting - contact Tika Laudun (225) 767-4262

The Impact of Trees on the Sale and Leasing of Business Property in San José

Our City Forest - contact Rhonda Berry (408) 998-7337

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**1996**

Feasibility Study of Urban Forest's Economic Value for USEPA Air Pollution and Carbon Sequestering Emission Reduction Credits and/or Mitigation Trading

ACRT, Inc. - contact Christopher J. Luley (716) 394-6060

Building Effective Partnerships for City Trees

American Forests - contact Deborah Gangloff (202) 955-4500

Urban Forest Benefit/Cost Identification

The Davey Resource Group - contact Sandra L. Burns (330) 673-9511 x349

Economic Benefits and Costs of the Urban Forest in Low Income and Non-Low Income Communities

American Forests - contact Cheryl Kollin (202) 955-4500

Young Citizen Pruners for Today and Tomorrow

New York City Street Tree Consortium - contact Barbara Eber-Schmid (212) 227-1887

Benefits of Large Trees Relative to Maintenance Costs to Private Tree Owners  
National Arborist Association - contact Martin Novom (603) 673-3311

Urban Ecological Analysis - Expanding the Economic Costs/Benefits Model to Include  
Air, Water, and Energy  
American Forests - contact Cheryl Kollin (202) 955-4500

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## **1995**

Hometown Forest Youth Education Package  
Tree Musketeers - contact Gail Church (310) 322-0263

Study of Energy Conservation through Vegetation Management, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
ACRT, Inc. - contact R.J. Laverne (800) 622-2562

Coping with Poverty and the Value of Nature in Urban Public Housing  
University of Illinois - contact William C. Sullivan (217) 244-5161

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## **Projects In Progress**

A Model for Urban Forest Sustainability  
HortScience, Inc. - contact James R. Clark (925) 484-0211

Evaluating Air Quality Effects of Urban Trees: Developing Directionally Sound  
Programs for Use in State Ozone Attainment Goals  
ACRT, Inc. - contact Mark Henderson (800) 622-2562

The TreeLink Project  
Tree Utah - contact Meryl Redisch (801) 364-2122

A City Among the Trees  
City of Seattle - contact Liz Ellis (206) 684-5008

The Influence of Trees on the Appraised Value of Urban Land  
University of New Jersey, Rutgers - contact Jean Marie Hartman (732) 932-8893

The Green Infrastructure Guide: Planning for a Healthy Urban and Community Forest  
Ecosystem  
MSM Regional Council - contact Ann Brady (609) 452-1717

Greening the Garden State: New Jersey ReLeaf Community Forestry Materials  
New Jersey ReLeaf - contact Jan Bisco Werner (609) 298-2999

The Economic Impact of Urban Forests in Commercial Districts: A Greater New York/New Jersey Area Study

Trees New York - contact Barbara Eber-Schmid (212) 227-1887

The Influence of Urban Fringe Forest on the Development of Urban Communities

South Dakota State University - contact John Ball (605) 688-5136

50 Careers With Trees

Tree Foundation of Kern, Inc. - contact Dana Adams (661) 325-6650

Examining Ethnic Differences and Shifts in Urban Forestry Attitudes through Group Design of Scale Models

UTMS - contact J. Alan Wagar (206) 546-8251

A Multicultural Survey of the Influences of Childhood Environmental Experiences on Adult Sensitivities to Urban and Community Forestry

Washington State University - contact Virginia I. Lohr (509) 335-3101

The Forest Where We Live

Louisiana Public Broadcasting - contact Ayan Rubin (225) 767-5660

Quantifying the Relative Ability of Tree Species in Intercepting and Removing Particle Pollution

Southern University and A&M College - contact Kamran K. Abdollahi (504) 771-6291

The View from the Road: Costs and Benefits of Roadside Urban Forests for Business Districts

University of Washington - contact Kathleen L. Wolf (206) 616-5758

Demonstrating Community Values of Urban Forests Relative to Their Form and Function

Texas A&M University - contact Scott Shafer (409) 845-5411

TLC - The Landscape Consultation

Urban Options, Inc. - contact LeRoy Harvey (517) 337-0422

Urban Forestry for the 21st Century: Trees, Vitality and Longevity in Older Americans

University of Illinois - contact William C. Sullivan (217) 244-5156 or 244-0393

Impacts of Development on Perched/Seasonal Water Table Fluctuations and its Effects on Urban Woodlands

Village of Redwoods - contact Roy Stanger (847) 945-3990

Trees and Traditions of the Native Americans

T.R.E.E.S. Forever - contact Shannon Ramsay (319) 373-0650

Promote Holistic Effective Management of Forested Parcels  
Maine Department of Conservation - contact Christine Renee Parrish (207) 287-1061

Reducing the Barriers to Urban and Community Forestry: A Policy Approach  
Parks & People Foundation - contact Sally Loomis (410) 396-0730

The National Art and Design Competition for Street Trees  
City University of New York - contact Caitlin G. Cahill (212) 642-2970

Tree Heritage Program  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County - contact Ralph Mitchell (315)  
788-8450 x 231

Restoring the Urban Forest Ecosystem  
University of Florida - contact Mary L. Duryea (352) 846-0896

A Study of the Effect of Vegetation on Micro-Climates and Residential Energy Use in  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
ACRT, Inc. - contact Geoffrey McD. Lewis (734) 665-6665

Tree Planting and Care Public Information Packet for Utilities  
The National Arbor Day Foundation - contact John Rosenow (402) 474-5655

Tree City USA Bulletin Translation Editions  
The National Arbor Day Foundation - contact John Rosenow (402) 474-5655

Feasibility Study for "Is the Urban Forest A Natural Resource Public Utility?"  
Bailey O. Hudson Horticultural Consulting - contact Bailey O. Hudson (805) 349-0081

Demonstrating the Value of Urban Forests in New Community Development  
University of Oregon - contact Dr. Ronald Kellett (541) 346-3647

Social and Psychological Impacts of Residential Development Patterns at the Urban  
Forest Fringe  
University of Washington - contact Dr. Anne Kearney (206) 685-7140

World-Wide Publication of the Cumulative Proceedings of the Metropolitan Tree  
Improvement Alliance (METRIA)  
North Carolina State University - contact Dr. Thomas G. Ranney (704) 684-3562

Sustainable Urban Orchard with Urban Produce Marketing Cooperative  
TreeFolks, Inc. - contact Mary McCarthy (512) 443-5323

Trees and Sidewalks - Who Exploits Who?  
Ohio State University - contact T. Davis Sydnor (614) 292-3865

Valuing Urban Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)  
Community Resources - contact Paul Jahnige (410) 448-0640

Roadside Ecosystem Study  
Delaware Center for Horticulture - contact Gary Schwetz (302) 658-6262

Identifying Environmental Constraints Affecting Tree Survival and Growth in Rural,  
Suburban, and Urban Public Settings  
Iowa State University - contact Jan Thompson (515) 294-0024

Nitrogen Relationships of Ornamental Trees in Urban Settings: A First Look  
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point - contact Dr. Robert Miller (715) 346-4189

Public Service Announcement: Trees Are My Friends!  
Eagle Eye Institute, Inc. - contact Anthony Sanchez (617) 776-1238

Getting the Word Out: Graphic Campaign to Communicate Tree-Planting Principles  
University of Delaware - contact Susan Barton (302) 831-1375

Regional Urban and Community Forestry Train-the-Trainer Sessions for Youth Corps  
Staff  
National Association of Service & Conservation Corps - contact Andrew O. Moore  
(202) 737-6272 x 107

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*Completed Projects details*

## **T.R.E.E.S. Project Transagency Resources for Economic and Environmental Sustainability**

*The following project summaries include excerpts from the final reports submitted by grantees.*

**Objective** The goal of the T.R.E.E.S. Project was to devise and implement a series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that could enable Los Angeles to function as an urban forest watershed. Through the use of these BMPs, the T.R.E.E.S. Project addresses such problems as flooding, drought, air and water pollution, excessive and expensive energy usage, and urban blight. These problems can be effectively and simultaneously addressed while also creating approximately 50,000 new jobs for inner-city youth as mini-watershed managers. Abstract A design "charette" was held at the Getty Center over a period of four days in May of 1997. During that time some of the nation's most progressive landscape and building architects, hydrologists and engineers, urban foresters and government representatives developed an array of BMPs for five representative types

of public and private property land uses in Los Angeles. Four of these BMPs were then installed in a demonstration project at a single-family residence in South Central Los Angeles that was formally opened for public viewing on August 13, 1998. The opening ceremony/demonstration was attended by representatives of sponsoring agencies, distinguished guests, and members of the press. Extensive electronic and print media coverage introduced the concepts of sustainable designs to the public.

#### Major Research/Policy Findings

The T.R.E.E.S. Project demonstrated the effectiveness of a systems-based approach to dealing with environmental problems, and the value of cooperation between the separate agencies mandated to deal with separate aspects of these problems. Research indicates that the BMPs we developed can:

- effectively reduce water imports by 50%
- substantially decrease storm water pollution of Santa Monica and San Pedro Bays
- remove the 100 year flood threat on the Los Angeles River
- eliminate green waste by 30%
- improve air quality
- potentially create 50,000 new jobs

#### Active Partners (Key individuals or organizations involved in the project)

- USDA Forest Service
- City of Los Angeles
- City of Santa Monica
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership
- Southern California Association of Governments
- Environment Now
- The ARCO Foundation
- Angelica Foundation
- Global Environmental Project Institute

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## **Public Knowledge of Urban Forest Benefits and Values in Commercial and Retail Environments**

*Grant issued to the University of Washington Contact Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D. (206) 616-5758*

**Objectives** The goal of this study was to assess the perceived costs and benefits of the urban forest in retail business districts, with a focus on multicultural, revitalizing business communities. Five general issues were to be investigated:

- business owners' knowledge and understanding of the urban forest
- shoppers' attitudes and values regarding the urban forest
- appraisal of the perceived costs of the urban forest
- assessment of urban forest benefits and satisfactions
- relationship of demographic and cultural factors to perceptions of urban forest benefits

Abstract Public preferences and perceptions of the benefits and costs of trees in business districts were investigated in a two-phase research project. In the first phase, open-ended interviews with business owners and business association staff revealed two dimensions of benefits for business districts: consumer environment enhancements and community capacity building. In the second project phase, photo questionnaires were sent to the businesses and residents of revitalizing communities in Pacific Northwest cities, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Austin.

#### *Major Research/Policy Findings*

While individual business owners and managers often focused on tree costs, staff of business associations and economic development agencies confirmed that trees create positive environments for shoppers and that public perceptions of place are important. Preliminary analysis of the quantitative surveys suggests that districts with urban forest improvements are perceived to be more consumer friendly, are places that consumers are likely to visit more often and are places where consumers report greater willingness-to-pay for products. In general, the general public appears to be more appreciative of urban forest amenities than businesses, suggesting that retail and commercial communities are overlooking a powerful opportunity for revenue enhancement.

Planning is essential to attain the perceptual benefits that trees provide for businesses. A secondary, yet not inconsequential, effect is that tree-program planning enables business communities to address shared needs such as sanitation, security, parking and marketing. Tree programs facilitate capacity building in revitalizing communities.

#### Active Partners (Key individuals or organizations involved in the project)

- Mariza Craig - Economic Development Specialist, City of Tacoma (WA)
- Ty Talbot - Projects Coordinator for Central Area Development Association (Seattle, WA)
- Roger Iwata - Executive Director of Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area (Seattle, WA)
- Nancy Chapin - The Support Group (Portland, OR)
- Harrison Kim - Director of Council of Korean Business Organization of Southern California
- Dennis Whalton - Project Coordinator for Eco-Center (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Stanley Mayes - President of the Urban Forest Council of Washington, D.C.
- Angela Liu - Northeast Trees (Los Angeles, CA)
- University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture

- Tish Carr - Washington Department of Natural Resources Urban & Community Forestry Program
  - Suzanne Malec - Assistant Commissioner of City of Chicago Department of the Environment
  - John Giedraitis - Urban Forester for the City of Austin (TX)
  - Mark Remcheck - Extension Urban Forester at Pennsylvania State University
  - Jerry Clark - Urban Forester for the City of Seattle (WA)
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## **The Impact of Trees on the Sale and Lease of Business Property in San José, California**

*Grant issued to Our City Forest Contact Rhonda Berry (408) 998-7337*

Objective This research project was intended to generate data to determine if trees have a measurable financial impact on commercial properties in the San José (California) metropolitan area. Primary objectives are listed below:

- conduct research - gather data
- compile and analyze data and prepare report
- develop layperson's informational brochure
- develop research project slide presentation
- develop plan to present study findings to business community

**Abstract** - This project conducted research to determine how trees impact commercial properties in the San José metropolitan area. A valid methodology to study the relationship between tree cover and the viability of commercial businesses was developed based on the availability of pertinent data. Aerial photos taken in 1971 and 1996 were utilized to measure the tree canopy of thirty shopping centers and six downtown areas.

A positive association between business viability and tree cover was found. A high degree of association exists between increased tree cover and the presence of high-end offerings of goods and services. That retail offerings have converted from a local market service base to a broad area market where there are many trees is also a good indication that urban land values in these areas have also greatly increased over the same time period. All of the obviously successful shopping centers and down towns have many trees, while the less successful shopping centers have few.

### **Major Research/Policy Findings**

The major findings were:

- A high degree of association exists between urban tree cover and the presence of high-end offerings of goods and services

- Tree plantings form a significant part of all the revitalization efforts in the six down towns included in the study, which were changed from local neighborhood centers to broad market centers serving a much wider clientele.
- Sylvan ambiance, shown to be of value in improving residential areas, proves to enhance commercial areas as well.
- All obviously successful shopping centers and down towns have many trees, while less successful shopping centers have few, although a few aberrations are seen.

Active Partners (Key individuals or organizations involved in the project)

- Dr. Richard Ellefsen, Professor of Geology, San José State University
- Cheryl Anderson, Graduate Student, San José State University
- Ken Baurmeister, Graduate Student, San José State University
- Michael Barbour, Graduate Student, San José State University
- Rhonda Berry, President and CEO, Our City Forest
- Irma Balderas, Board Chair, Our City Forest
- Laurel Prevetti, Board Member, Our City Forest
- San José Downtown Association
- Valley Fair Shopping Center - The Hahn Company
- San José Board of Realtors
- San José Metropolitan Area Chamber of Commerce
- San José Mercury News

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## The Colorado Habitat Tree

*Grant issued to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Contact Frogard Ryan (719) 633-9925 ext. 116*

Objective The design, construction and promotion of a "walk-in" tree to provide immediate insight through interaction. The definable objectives were:

- Planning the Tree and exhibits
- Identifying and hiring contractors
- Construction of the Tree
- Exhibit design and installation
- Landscaping
- Introduction of the Tree to the Public
- Evaluation of the project

**Abstract** - In a partnership venture, including the disabled community, educators, environmental organizations, local government, and the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo has built a two-story, "walk-in" tree. Every year, the Colorado Habitat Tree will teach nearly 400,000 residents, newcomers and visitors,

including the disabled, about the importance of forest ecosystems. This interactive tree journey will foster a sense of respect and a stewardship attitude toward forests and the many associated plants, animals, insects and people who depend on them. The exhibit will serve as a model for zoos across the country.

#### Features of the Tree

- Landscaped area with a garden containing plants with animal names
- Trees of different ages demonstrating how long it takes for trees to grow
- An oversized owl's nest in the upper level of the Tree
- Shelf fungus "seats"
- Interpretive signage
- A tunnel under the tree (animal habitat)
- A bat cave
- A bear den and bear sculpture
- The Tree Pledge, encouraging visitors to pledge to do something positive
- Tree rings in the upper level of the Tree
- Lightning damage and signage

Active Partners (Key individuals or organizations involved in the project)

Major Donors:

- Colorado Council on the Arts
- E.L. and Thelma Gaylord
- Great Outdoors Colorado
- H. Chase Stone Charitable Trust
- Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation
- USDA Forest Service/National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado, Inc.

Other organizations:

- El Paso County Parks
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Meeting the Challenge, ADA Assistance Center
- Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
- ECOS Communications

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## Council Members

**Genni Cross, Chair**

The Trust for Public Land/California ReLeaf  
San Francisco, California

**David Bernard-Stevens**

North Platte Chamber of Commerce  
North Platte, Nebraska

**Larry Biles**

USDA Cooperative State Research,  
Education and Extension Service  
Washington, D.C.

**Cara Boucher**

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Lansing, Michigan

**Gordon Bradley**

University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington

**Kim Coder**

University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia

**Richard L. Dubé**

Environmental Information & Design, Inc.  
Lexington, South Carolina

**James R. Fazio**

University of Idaho  
Moscow, Idaho

**Mark Francis**

University of California  
Davis, California

**Deborah Gangloff**

American Forests  
Washington, D.C.

**Phil Janik**

USDA Forest Service  
Washington, D.C.

**Mosi K. Kitwana**



International City/ County Management Association  
Washington, D.C.

**Stewart Pequignot**  
National Association of State Foresters  
Springfield, Illinois

**Carolyn Roof**  
National Council of State Garden Clubs  
Paducah, Kentucky

**Annabeth Surbaugh**  
Johnson County Commissioner  
Olathe, Kansas

**Suzanne M. del Villar**  
Executive Assistant to the Council USDA Forest Service  
Sonora, California