



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

GF-S \$8 million

Funding and assistance for communities to increase their capacity for equitable, locally driven, and science based urban forestry activities to meet the following bold goals for Washington:

- Maintain and increase equitable tree canopy cover statewide, ensuring that 75% of geographically viable census block groups have a Tree Equity Score of 75 or higher by 2040.
- Deliver 50% of program resources annually to benefit vulnerable populations or within a quarter mile of highly impacted communities.
- Bolster preservation and resilience of urban trees and forests in at least 30 incorporated municipalities.
- Support green infrastructure as a solution to help mitigate multiple hazards statewide.

CONTACT

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Urban and Community Forestry: Empowering communities to equitably increase urban tree canopy

Urban and community forests are valuable local resources, as well as cornerstones of our reputation as the Evergreen State. They are directly linked to the health and wellbeing of residents, wildlife, and aquatic habitat.

The mounting environmental challenges facing our urban forests pose threats to public health across Washington. Investment in urban forests is a cost effective strategy for reducing negative environmental conditions such as heat, flooding, and pollution while helping communities become greener, cleaner, healthier, and more resilient. This proposal gets critical funding and assistance into communities to increase their capacity for equitable, locally driven, and science-based urban forestry activities by investing in:

Community Forestry Assistance Grants:

\$4.2 million will fund expansion of our existing competitive grant program that awards funding with awards directly to communities and community organizations to meet growing demand and support much-needed projects across cities and towns. These funds will empower partners to stem the tide of tree canopy loss and foster a healthier future for our state.

Youth conservation corps crews:

\$2 million will provide funding to youth conservation corps crews to create a workforce focused on helping cities catch up on decades of deferred maintenance on their urban forests, ensuring natural areas and parks remain vibrant and resilient. Not only will this have a direct impact on the acres maintained, this investment will help train a new generation of natural resource professionals.

Tree Equity:

\$600,000 for production of a statewide Tree Equity Map using American Forest's Tree Equity Score Analyzer, a tool for scoring neighborhoods and urban areas that indicates where tree canopy and the health, economic, and climate benefits provided by trees are lacking. This map will be available to communities and used by our agency to guide tree planting investments made possible with this funding and allow setting measurable goals for improving equity through our urban forestry investments.

Support cities in adopting and updating tree ordinances:

\$135,000 to develop an online library of best practices and resources for developing and adopting a tree ordinance. The library will facilitate opportunities to discuss emerging issues which may inform development of new ordinances or updates to existing ones.





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Increased program capacity and data management:

\$1.065M to increase capacity within DNR to deliver on bold program goals and meet the needs of communities while producing a statewide baseline canopy cover data set able to be easily updated at regular intervals and as changes occur.

Timely opportunities to leverage state investments with federal and private resources exist. ES2HB1216 provided the foundation and capacity to define the scale of need. Now is the time to build upon that legislation and commit to meeting the challenge facing our urban and community forests.

