



The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) represents city and county officials, community nonprofits, nursery and landscape professionals, urban planners, landscape architects, city managers, public works professionals, arborists, utility professionals, foresters, scientists, and others nationwide.

We believe that urban and community forests are essential to:

- Stimulate economic development and create jobs;
- Deliver clean air and water;
- Reduce energy use;
- Provide an array of health and wellness benefits to the 80% of Americans who live in urban areas

SUFC Ask:

- **Please support Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities – H.R. 709.** This bill *redevelops* and revitalizes urban areas by re-investing in community parks and recreation facilities that provide multiple community and environmental benefits.

Current Need

Nearly 80% of the U.S. population lives in urban areas, many of which are suffering from deteriorating community infrastructure, limited green spaces, poor health and chronic disease as well as juvenile delinquency.

- Urban parks and recreation facilities play key roles in revitalizing and creating healthier cities stimulating private investment, increasing commercial and residential property values, creating jobs and providing convenient access to safe spaces encouraging increased physical activity.
- Urban parks, green spaces especially those with trees, reduce storm water runoff and pollutants, enhance groundwater recharge and air quality, reduce urban heat island effects, and reduce energy demands.

Alliance for Community Trees

American Forests

American Nursery
and Landscape Association

American Planning Association

American Public Works Association

American Rivers

American Society
of Consulting Arborists

American Society
of Landscape Architects

The Davey Tree Expert Company

International Society of Arboriculture

Keep America Beautiful

National Arbor Day Foundation

National Association
of Conservation Districts

National Association
of State Foresters

National Recreation and Park
Association

Society of Municipal Arborists

Tree Care Industry Association

TreeLink

Utility Arborist Association

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) is a group of national organizations advancing a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities.

Overview of Proposed Legislation

- The Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act (H.R. 709) will invest in the health and well-being of communities across this nation from the standpoint of *economic recovery*, *access to parks and recreation spaces*, as well as *environmental protection*.
- Notably, eligible projects should also use environmentally beneficial features such as “sustainable landscape features,” tree canopy coverage, improved stormwater management practices, and increased green infrastructure
- The Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act authorizes funds to be appropriated annually and provided to urban park and recreation agencies through federal assistance grants (matched with local funds).
- H.R. 709 focuses on projects that:
 - Promote economic revitalization by leveraging private investment around parks
 - create local, green jobs using green technologies
 - provide more places and spaces for engaging in structured and unstructured physical activity
 - connect children to the outdoors
 - encourage physical activity by providing community spaces to exercise
 - connect to public transportation, schools, and public housing
 - foster environmental stewardship components such as sustainable landscape features and materials; increased planting of trees; stormwater management and water conservation
 - use energy efficient components such as energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems

Background/Details on Grants

H.R. 709 provides federal assistance grants (which must be matched with local funds) to rehabilitate and develop urban parks and community recreational infrastructure and for the continued investment in programs that address national issues such as juvenile delinquency and issues affecting at-risk youth. Economically distressed communities can use these grants to improve their recreational facilities and infrastructure, increase economic development, improve safety in communities, and provide healthy recreation options for at-risk children, and through the increased use of green infrastructure help mitigate urban runoff and help improve water quality.

For more information, please contact Mariel Lim in Congressman Albio Sires’ office at 202-225-7919 or SUFC member, Kevin O’Hara, Legislative Analyst for the American Society of Landscape Architects, 202-216-2370.