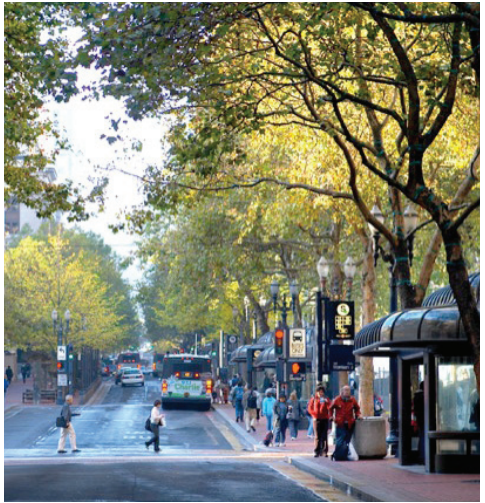


SUFC 2012 FARM BILL PLATFORM



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 (SUFC) considered three questions to frame our Farm Bill agenda:

1. What are the highest priority needs expressed by citizens and policymakers in local communities? AND What challenges do they face in bringing nature to their neighborhoods?
2. How can Federal resources be delivered cost-effectively to promote “green infrastructure” solutions to urban environmental, health and economic priorities?
3. Given the current fiscal climate, what steps might Congress take in the 2012 Farm Bill to meet these needs without additional net spending—creating jobs and saving money for citizens, as well as Federal, state and local governments?



**Sustainable Urban
Forests Coalition**

www.urbanforestcoalition.org

RECOMMENDATION #1

Encourage and facilitate interagency coordination to protect urban forest health

OUTCOME ↘

Enables agencies to manage costs by setting mutually-agreed-to Federal priorities, roles and responsibilities

By breaking down restrictive agency boundaries and facilitating multi-agency coordination and collaboration, the next Farm Bill can help federal, regional and local agencies more effectively and efficiently implement cost-saving and sustainable infrastructure in all communities.



Sustainable Urban
Forests Coalition

www.urbanforestcoalition.org

RECOMMENDATION #2

Address issues at the landscape level and promote urban trees and forests as green infrastructure

OUTCOME ↘

Enables coordination among urban and rural initiatives to restore, protect and maintain watershed health

No ecological boundaries separate urban, community and rural forests. Pests, disease and invasives spread easily from city to suburb to village to rural forests. Likewise, rural and urban forests play vital, indivisible roles delivering clean water to communities; they provide fiscally-sound solutions to stormwater management, water storage, groundwater recharge, pollutant reduction and wildlife habitat.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Provide research, tools and resources that support local initiatives, *minimizing overall costs and maximizing impacts* for every dollar invested

OUTCOME ↘

Municipal governments, planners and non-governmental organizations can more effectively marshal resources in their own communities with common baseline data and metrics to measure urban forest benefits

The right tools help local policymakers establish priorities, direct resources, and help assure more efficient use of Federal funds—whether from USDA or from other agencies, including EPA.