



VIBRANT COMMUNITIES URBAN FORESTS

A Nation of Vibrant Communities: Through the Lens of Urban Trees

Moderator: Phillip Rodbell, US Forest Service

Kate Corwin, GreenWorks in Kansas City

Nancy Hughes, California Urban Forest Council

David Rouse, Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC in Philadelphia



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Benefits of Urban Forests

- Increase property values
- Reduce energy use
- Improve air and water quality
- Enhance public health (mental and physical)
- Offset carbon emissions
- Reduce stormwater run-off
- Reduce crime
- Improve quality of life





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VIBRANT CITIES & URBAN FORESTS

A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

Expert Task Force convened by
USDA Forest Service in 2011

Vibrant Cities report: roadmap
for urban forestry based on 12
recommendations

Vibrant Communities initiative:
currently led by Sustainable
Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) to
ignite action around 12
recommendations



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Urban forests: systems of trees, other vegetation and water within any urban area.

Green infrastructure: naturally occurring and human-built features that manage stormwater, remove pollutants, conserve energy, reduce erosion and provide other ecological, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable services.



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Vibrant Cities Recommendations

1. Create education and awareness campaigns
2. Foster volunteerism
3. Create sustainable jobs
4. Cultivate public and private partnerships
5. Develop new public administration models
6. Develop Urban Regional Natural Resource Plans
7. Integrate Federal green infrastructure goals



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Vibrant Cities Recommendations

8. Establish energy efficiency programs that emphasize trees
9. Ensure equal access to urban forests
10. Support urban ecosystem-focused, collaborative research
11. Encourage use of social assessment tools
12. Establish Vibrant Cities/urban forestry standards



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Break-Out Discussion:

1. Think of a current or planned project in your community that could benefit from the **inclusion of a greater diversity of people**. What outreach techniques and strategies can you use, and who can you partner with?
2. Think of successful or unsuccessful greening or conservation **communications campaigns** that you have seen. What do you believe contributed to the outcome?
3. What are you doing now and what can you do moving forward to **protect and enhance trees and green infrastructure** in your community?
4. Which **Vibrant City recommendations** resonate with you or inspire particular actions in support of Smart Growth?