



# Community Trees, Community Nutrition: Urban Forestry and Neighborhood Food Security

New Partners for Smart Growth – Denver, CO  
February 13, 2014

# Alliance for Community Trees



A national network of 200+ nonprofits and agencies that promote the environmental, economic, public health, and social benefits of trees and urban forests.

# What We Do

## ACTrees Programs support local urban forestry efforts

- **National NeighborWoods<sup>®</sup> Month**
- **Tree Planting Grants**
- **Education - Webcast Series**

Learn more at  
[www.ACTrees.org](http://www.ACTrees.org)



# Trees and Human Health



Trees and Green Space improve physical and mental health:

- Stress
- Recovery
- Attention disorders
- Asthma
- Obesity
- Exercise
- Birth outcomes

# Food Security in the U.S.

## 1 in 6 Americans is hungry <sup>1</sup>

- **14.5% of households are food insecure:** at some point during the year, they were uncertain of having, or unable to acquire, enough food to meet the needs of all their members because they had insufficient money or other resources for food. <sup>2</sup>
- **Over 5% of households experience very low food security:** at some point during the year, because of affordability or access, they had to reduce their normal intake of food.

1. Feeding America

2. U.S. Department of Agriculture

# Food Insecurity in the U.S.

- **Over 23 million Americans live in food deserts:** urban neighborhoods and rural towns without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food.
- **49 million people** live in food insecure households.
  - **8.3 million children**
  - Nearly **1 million children** live with very low food security

# Trees of Life



# Growing Public Demand





# Urban Forestry and Community Agriculture

The Atlantic  
**CITIES**  
PLACE MATTERS

Create Surveys.  
Get Answers.

**JOBS & ECONOMY / COMMUTE / HOUSING** **ARTS & LIFESTYLE** **DESIGN / TECHN**

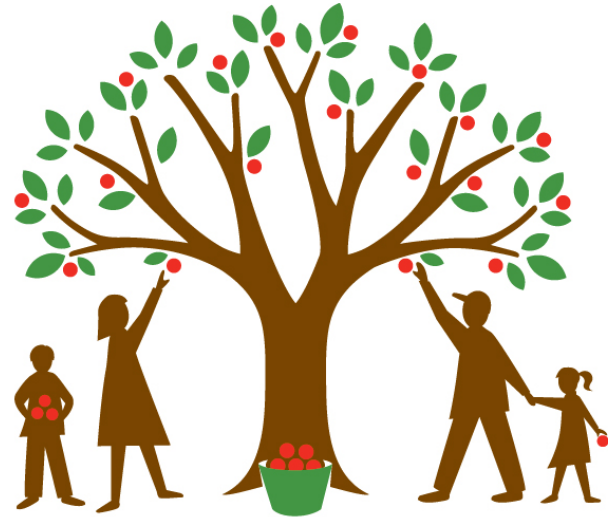
## Should Public Trees Bear Fruit?

AMY BIEGELSEN FEB 10, 2012 25 COMMENTS

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There's a block in San Francisco that will soon be blossoming with cherries, plums and pears, but Tara Hui will not say where. That's because she's worried that backlash from city officials or unsympathetic citizens will halt the progress she and her fellow [Guerrilla Grafters](#) have made splicing fruit-bearing branches on to city trees.

# Introducing...

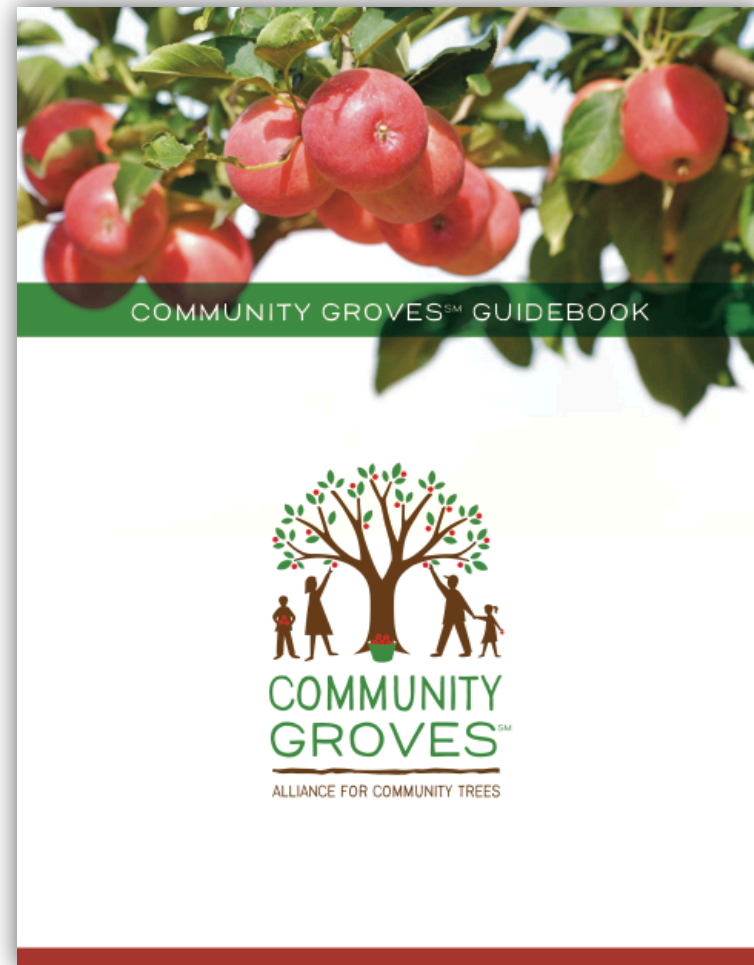


COMMUNITY  
GROVES<sup>SM</sup>

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES

# Community Groves<sup>SM</sup> Guidebook

- The **Community Groves<sup>SM</sup> Guidebook** helps nonprofits, community leaders, and residents plan, establish, and maintain fruit and nut tree orchards.



# Community Groves<sup>SM</sup> Case Studies



+



=

# Community Groves<sup>SM</sup> Pilot Sites



## Urban Orchards Take Root

To advance food security and nutrition in our nation's cities, ACTrees awarded its first ACTrees People's Garden grants, with the support of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

In this pilot year, ACTrees distributed \$125,000 in grants to 30 organizations to plant fruit and nut trees in connection with urban agriculture projects. Throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2012, over 2,700 volunteers donated over 10,000 hours to plant more than 2,000 trees and woody shrubs in or near 30 community gardens in 21 states.

*In future years, this program will deepen the connections between community trees and urban agriculture, and provide training, peer-to-peer networking, and grants to support the care and planting of fruit and nut trees in communities as a local, sustainable food source.*

  
**\$125,000**  
GRANTS

  
**30**  
ORGS

  
**2,700**  
VOLUNTEERS

  
**10,000**  
HRS

  
**2,000**  
TREES &  
WOODY SHRUBS

  
**21**  
STATES

# Community Groves<sup>SM</sup> Projects

## Camden, NJ New Jersey Tree Foundation



# Community Groves<sup>SM</sup> Projects

## Pittsburgh, PA Tree Pittsburgh



# Community Groves<sup>SM</sup> Projects

## Seattle, WA City Fruit





# Community Groves<sup>SM</sup> Projects

## Lincoln, NE Nebraska Forest Service



Photo: Gwyneth Roberts

# Community Groves<sup>SM</sup>





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