

Planning the Urban Forest (PAS 555) Ecology, Economy, and Community Development 2009

Trees, as part of a regional or urban green ecosystem, help create a better quality of life. Urban forests act as green infrastructure that conserves natural ecosystems and sustains clean air and water. They reduce stormwater runoff, cool the urban heat island, reduce air pollution, and provide wildlife habitat. Communities can offset the ecological impact of land development by utilizing the urban forest's natural capacity to mitigate environmental impacts. Urban forests also provide social and health benefits for individuals, as well as economic benefits for communities.



This report, prepared by the American Planning Association (APA) in collaboration with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and American Forests (AF), and supported by the U.S. Forest Service, addresses the need for planners to adopt a green infrastructure approach and presents the technical means to incorporate trees into planning. Thirteen case studies illustrate best practices in planning for urban and community forestry.

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- A Guide to Organizational and Research Websites about Urban and Community Forestry
- Establishing and Preserving the Urban Forest

The report also compliments State Guide Element 156, *Rhode Island Urban and Community Forest Plan*. This Plan establishes a vision, goal, and policies and recommendations focused on the management of tree resources for the built environment of the State. See <http://www.planning.ri.gov/forestplan/default.htm> for a complete copy of this State Guide Plan Element.

The Report is available for review from the Division of Planning Library. Contact Karen Scott, Principal Planner at 222- 4411 or KScott@doa.ri.gov for more information.

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