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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
SFI-00001



PROJECT LEARNING TREE



MANRRS

PLT is an initiative of SFI

GREEN JOB FACT SHEET URBAN FORESTER

All the trees that grow in a city or town make up its urban forest. Although it looks different from a typical idea of a forest, an urban forest provides critical benefits to people and wildlife. Urban foresters inventory and monitor tree health using a variety of tools to track tree condition, location, and canopy cover. Their work often goes beyond tree care to involve urban planning, research, policy and law, and advocacy.

The Big Picture

Urban foresters ensure that urban forests provide social, physical, and environmental benefits for humans and the surrounding ecosystem by:

- **Participating** in community events to promote urban forestry.
- **Developing and supporting** urban forest management plans.
- **Ensuring** that contractors follow city policies and regulations.

Salary

U.S. salaries range from about \$42,500 to \$93,060 per year and average about \$63,980.

Where Can You GROW?

A career as an urban forester can include working as an **arborist, commercial grounds worker, or tree care consultant.** Some possible employers:

- Federal, state, and city government agencies
- Local and city-based nonprofit organizations
- Public utility companies
- Landscape maintenance and architecture firms
- Universities, colleges, and extension services

Moving Forward >>>

Here's a path of study that could lead to a career as an urban forester. You'll likely need a four-year college degree.

- **HIGH SCHOOL:** Focus on biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics (especially pre-calculus).
- **COLLEGE:** Complete a bachelor's degree in forestry or a related field, such as environmental science, biology, and natural resource management.

For more about green jobs, visit www.plt.org/workingforforests

IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

DO YOU CARE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY, URBAN COMMUNITIES, AND TREES?
DO YOU ENJOY WORKING OUTDOORS AND USING A RANGE OF TOOLS?

If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

Urban foresters are excellent observers who can assess tree health and prescribe appropriate treatments. They need to be flexible and innovative, as their job can vary so much. Some days, they write management plans, while other days they use chainsaws and other heavy equipment to remove trees that are infected with disease. To succeed in this job, you need to have integrity, dependability, attention to detail, the ability to cooperate, adaptability/flexibility, independence and good communication skills, as you'll be talking with residents, land-use planners, city managers, and more.

