



# What City Foresters Do

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BULLETIN

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*To some it sounds like a contradiction of terms, but many foresters do work in cities. Their work may not be as well known as that of their rural colleagues who protect and manage the nation's timber resources. But urban foresters play a vital role in the health and future of some of America's most important forests — the trees along our streets and in our parks and yards. City foresters are the unsung heroes who champion the green features of our country's finest places to live. Citizens in communities of all sizes benefit when the services of a city forester are available.*

Every citizen wants professional police protection, a high quality fire department and the best possible administrators the city can offer. But how many people insist that the welfare of their community's treasure of trees be entrusted to professional management?

One university study indicates that only 39 percent of our municipalities systematically care for their publicly owned trees, and fewer than 15 percent hire foresters.

A city forester instructs a volunteer group in the art and science of pruning young trees. Working with volunteers and other public groups is all in a day's work for a city forester.

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The result is that many of our urban forests are in trouble. Throughout America's cities, more shade trees are dying than are being replaced. Scarce financial resources are being wasted on plantings that are doomed from the start, and life-extending practices such as pruning and disease control are neglected.

By contrast, communities that employ a professional to manage their trees are the big winners. In this issue we explore the role of city foresters and see why every citizen benefits from the services of these dedicated men and women.



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