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# NATIONAL URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

FACILITATING ALIGNMENT OF FEDERAL RESOURCES



# FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

- Federal Advisory Council Act (FACA)
  - Over 1,000 FACA's
    - Enacted in 1972
    - Provide guidance on implementation of various Federal programs
  - EPA – 23 FACA's
  - USDA – 169 FACA's
    - NUCFAC – Unique focus on urban & community forestry



# NUCFAC (COUNCIL) PURPOSE

## 1990 Farm Bill

- Address the present health & future preservation of our nation's Urban & Community Forests (UCF)

## Council synthesizes full spectrum of views for UCF

- Advises Secretary of Agriculture on UCF Program & its service to UCF community
- Foundation for practical UCF policy



Photo credit: Amigos de los Rios



# THE COUNCIL



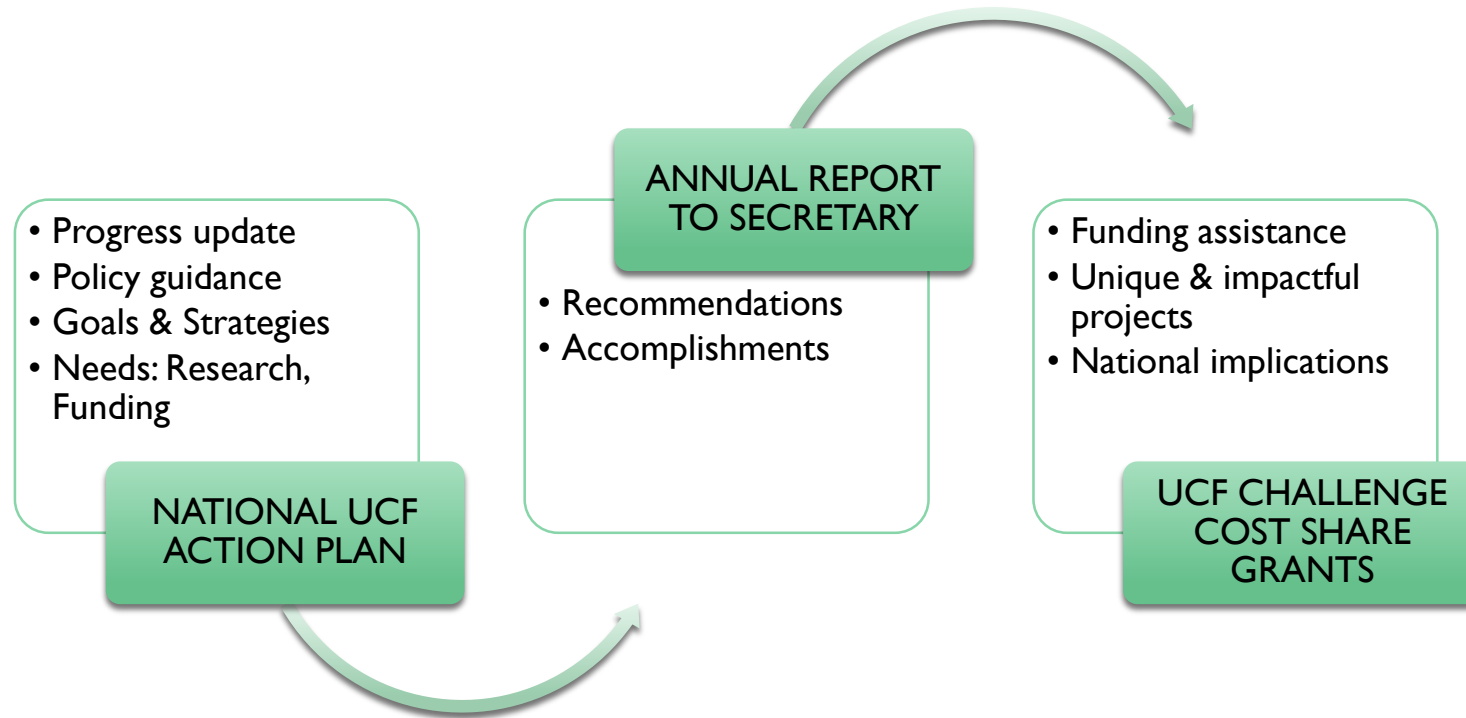
- 15 members representative of UCF
- USDA – FS Executive Staff
- Leadership & Work Teams
  - Council Chair & 3 work team leads
  - Work Teams:
    - National UCF Action Plan Implementation / Outreach
    - Annual Report to Secretary
    - National UCF Cost Share Grant Program



# FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL IMPACT



# COUNCIL CHARTER





# THE NATIONAL UCF ACTION PLAN

- A unifying guide for all of Urban & Community Forestry
  - VISION: Urban & Community Forests increase sustainability, wellness, resilience in all communities
  - MISSION: Help all communities create urban & community forests that are diverse, healthy and accessible for all citizens



## Ten-Year Urban Forestry Action Plan: 2016-2026

Facilitated by the  
National Urban and Community  
Forestry Advisory Council



# NATIONAL UCF ACTION PLAN

## 7 GOALS

- Goals => funding needs => research needs
- Council role
  - Facilitate development
  - Steward implementation
- Plan available at: [www.urbanforestplan.org](http://www.urbanforestplan.org)





# 2016 RECOMMENDATIONS TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

- Promote the National UCF Action Plan
- Create and maintain healthy communities
- Align Federal Agency resources around improved coordination and research to support UCF Program nationwide



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (Council)**, through its enabling legislation, Section 9 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, as amended by Title XII, Section 1219 of Public Law No. 101-624 (Act) (16 U.S.C. 2105g), **advises the Secretary of Agriculture on national Urban Forestry matters**, specifically by: developing a National Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan in accordance with Section 9 (g) (3) (A-F) of the Act; evaluating the implementation of that plan; and developing criteria for and submitting recommendations with respect to the Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Program as required by Section 9 (f) (1-2) of the Act.

**The 2016 Recommendations to the Secretary** are developed in consultation with the organizations and entities the Council represents - a diverse urban forestry community of practice and the USDA Forest Service.

**The 2015 Accomplishment Report** is a snapshot of what has been accomplished in the Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) field of practice in alignment with the Urban Forestry Ten-Year Action Plan (2006 - 2016). In November 2015, through collaboration with a consultant team, the Council and the USDA Forest Service produced a new Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan (Action Plan). This Action Plan will guide activities of the USDA - Forest Service and the UCF community of practice for the years 2016 - 2026 and can be found at: [www.urbanforestplan.org/engage](http://www.urbanforestplan.org/engage).

## 2016 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY

**The Council respectfully submits the following recommendations to guide the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and Urban and Community Forestry Program during the 2016 calendar year.**

By aligning the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Program with these key policy recommendations, the Department of Agriculture will provide important leadership, guiding successful federal programs and partnerships to serve American communities.



### ▶ 1. Promote the Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan

Establish a strong foundation for the 2016 - 2026 Action Plan with an endorsement from the Secretary of Agriculture's office. Support and facilitate funding of an annual messaging program through the USDA Forest Service and its constituencies that will promote implementation of the Action Plan throughout the UCF community of practice.

### ▶ 2. Create and maintain healthy communities

Collaborate with key agencies and organizations, both at the federal and the local level, in the fields of community planning, environmental protection and human health to craft programs that fund, design, build and maintain healthier communities through sustainable urban forestry practices.

### ▶ 3. Align federal agency resources around improved coordination and investment in research to support UCF Programs nationwide

Organize research institutions within USDA to evaluate current urban and community forestry research programs, priorities, and resources. Facilitate strategic investment of USDA research resources to serve the diverse needs of regional and national UCF programs that are directly serving our communities and citizens.

# NATIONAL UCF COST-SHARE GRANT PROGRAM

- Guiding Principles:
  - Further Urban and Community Forestry across disciplines
  - Projects with national significance
  - Innovation that advances management, research and development to support UCF
  - Alignment with priorities established by the National UCF Action Plan
- Grants awarded (2011 – 2016)
  - Average total funding / yr: \$800-900k
  - Average number of grants / year: 3-5 (approx. \$100k – \$300k / grant)



Photo credit: Christine Gyovai



# COUNCIL & USDA – FOREST SERVICE COLLABORATIONS

- 2015 & 2016 Council Recommendations to Secretary
  - Aligning federal research resources
- Partners in furthering National UCF agenda
  - Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC)
    - 30+ national members
  - Smart Growth Network
  - USDA
  - National Association of State Foresters
  - Arbor Day Foundation



Sustainable Urban  
Forests Coalition





# USDA – FOREST SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

- Urban Waters Federal Partnership (EPA & 14 Federal agencies)
- NOAA – Climate Resilience Toolkit
- HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition
- EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- NSF Long-term ecological research program
- American Planning Association (APA) Green Infrastructure



# 14 FEDERAL AGENCIES – URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP IMPACT

- Clean water & healthy ecosystems
- Engaged & connected people = thriving communities
- Local leadership & catalyst for future success
  - Regional
  - State
  - Local



Photo credit: Amigos de Los Rios

