

# Urban Forestry Workforce Training

## Green City



### Climate Issue: Urban Forests

Street trees and urban forest patches provide a range of social, economic and environmental benefits to cities and their residents. They:

- Provide urban residents with safe and accessible access to nature
- Provide habitat for wildlife, and serve as wildlife corridors and refuges
- Help cool the city, improve air quality and reduce stormwater runoff
- Serve as a source of employment for residents.

With intentional planning, urban forestry management programs can be powerful socioeconomic tools, and provide previously untapped economic benefits to cities.

### The Baltimore Urban Forestry Training Program

The Baltimore Urban Forestry Training Program was created to provide urban forestry training to young adults from the Baltimore - D.C. area. The program aims to engage the community directly with the city's urban forests whilst also increasing employment opportunities.

The program trains young adults to become Neighborhood Forestry Technicians. The program provides participants with the following skills:

- Street tree care and management
- Greenspace restoration and management
- Plant identification
- Community outreach and engagement.

By the end of the program trainees are certified in street tree stewardship and invasive species removal, providing them with marketable job skills relevant to urban forest management.

The program engages community stakeholders in the stewardship of their lands by connecting them with relevant organizations and program funding. By prioritizing partnerships, the program is able to actively build community.

### Priorities of Best Practice Urban Forestry Training

- Ethical stewardship of community green spaces and street trees
- Meet the needs of communities by asking: What green space improvements would provide the greatest benefit for your community?
- Provide trainees with foundational skills such as pruning, plant identification, and species selection for planting
- Provide trainees with transferable workplace skills such as resume building, conflict resolution, and clear communication

Community buy-in raises  
the chances of  
**continued stewardship  
and care of green spaces**

