

URBAN FORESTER

GREEN JOB FACT SHEET



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.

IS THIS CAREER RIGHT 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 be a good communicator, as you'll be talking with residents, land use planners, city managers, and more.

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, mathematics, physics, and pre-calculus classes.

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

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!

SALARY

U.S. salaries range from about \$35,000 to \$78,000 per year and average about \$60,000.

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

