

FOREST LITERACY HOT TOPIC

URBAN FORESTS

Urban forests provide key ecosystem services, like purifying water and air, that are essential to healthy human communities.

Research shows that being close to trees and green spaces is linked to improvements in physical and mental health. Urban forests can serve as easily accessible living laboratories for environmental education. Urban forests also absorb heat—helping to keep our communities cool in ways that reduce the effects of climate change. Planting trees near buildings can cut air conditioning and heating costs, which saves energy and reduces emissions linked to climate change.



KEY FOREST LITERACY PLAN CONCEPTS FOR URBAN FORESTS

Forest literacy activities may help to address questions such as:

- What and where are urban forests?
- What ecosystem services and other benefits do urban forests provide?
- How do we manage urban forests to increase the livability of our communities?

Grade Level	Concepts
K-2	Theme 1, A.6 Theme 3, A.1
3-5	Theme 2, A.6 Theme 2, B.7 Theme 2, B.8
6-8	Theme 2, A.5 Theme 2, C.10 Theme 3, B.7
9-12	Theme 3, A.2 Theme 3, C.5 Theme 3, C.8