



# 2025 Annual Report

*Building capacity, managing urban and community forests, and preparing the next generation*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association (MUCFA) is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the health, resilience, and stewardship of Montana's urban and community forests. We work closely with our members, communities, and partners to promote best practices in urban and community forestry. We provide training and technical support, advance public education and volunteerism, foster collaboration across sectors, and help communities plan for and care for their trees according to industry standards.

In 2025, we strengthened our leadership role in supporting healthy community forests across the state. Through training, technical assistance, grant-funded projects, and workforce development planning, MUCFA supported communities of all sizes—especially small towns under 3500 population—while laying the groundwork for Montana's first urban forestry workforce program.

**50**  
*Members*

**21**  
*Communities supported*

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**18**  
*Trainings &  
workshops delivered*

**\$108,000**  
*Annual program  
spending*



## STATEWIDE REACH IN 2025

The communities shown here represent where we partnered on tree planting, maintenance, planning, training, and conferences to build healthier, more resilient urban and community forests.

### MONTANA TREE FAILURE DATABASE

MUCFA launched a Tree Failure Database—an open, statewide tool that helps arborists and communities learn from past tree failures to improve risk assessment and decision making.



# GRANTS & FUNDING IMPACT

## INFLATION REDUCTION ACT GRANT

### - DNRC

- \$40,000 awarded
- Completed a statewide urban forestry training needs assessment
  - 71 (50%+) of incorporated communities participated
  - 90+ urban forestry professionals participated
- 4 pilot trainings on pest and disease diagnosis planned
- Supported 4 communities with tree inventories in Chinook, Deer Lodge, Geraldine, and Wolf Point



## FOREST ACTION PLAN GRANT

### -DNRC

- \$144,371 awarded
- Provided 9 communities with small grants. Grant outcome to date:
  - 2 tree inventories
  - 2 management plans underway
  - 6 hazard trees removed
  - 10 stumps removed
- Hosted educational booths at 4 conferences
- Completed 4 trainings



## COMMUNITY TREE GRANTS -ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

- \$38,000 awarded by Enterprise Mobility Foundation
- 64 trees planted
  - City of Missoula: 34 trees planted at Pleasant View Park
  - City of Hamilton: 30 trees planted downtown and at River View Park
- Volunteer engagement:
  - Enterprise Mobility Foundation employees
  - Trapper Creek Job Corps
  - Community and MUCFA members
- Funding for five years of maintenance to ensure tree survival



# TRAINING & EDUCATION

## TRAININGS

- 6 tree planting & pruning workshops
- Co-led Tree Board Retreat with DNRC
- Sponsored TRAQ renewal and full course with RMC-ISA
- 2-day tree climbing workshop
- 6 tree inventory trainings
- Teacher training for Browning Public Schools
- Helped teach horticulture class at Broadwater County High School



## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, SPONSORSHIP & BOOTHES

- Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals Annual Conference
- Gold Country Master Gardener Symposium
- Green Expo, Montana Nursery and Landscape Association and Northern Rockies Tree School
- Montana Association of Conservation Districts convention
- Montana League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference
- Montana Trails, Recreation, and Parks Association Annual Conference
- Partners in Community Forestry Conference
- Tribal Timber Symposium
- Wyoming Tree Academy



## WORKFORCE

- PowerCorpsPHL Workforce Development Exposure Visit, Philadelphia
- Townsend Career Fair
- Developed trainers/speakers list
- 5 leadership team meetings with youth workforce group



# MONTANA URBAN FORESTRY WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

*Join us in building a paid training pathway that connects Montana youth to urban forestry careers—developing local skills, supporting employers, and strengthening communities.*



## VISION: Engage...

### **youth from Montana communities in:**

- training & education
- connection to employment/opportunity in their home town or state

### **employers in:**

- expanding & amplifying services for local, skilled workers

### **communities in:**

- stewardship for urban & community forestry
- training & upskilling for state, public, private, and nonprofits

## Goals & Impact

- Provide hands-on, paid learning, & mentorship
- Create pathways to certifications & steady jobs
- Build a local workforce to care for & manage community forests
- Employers and communities working together to create meaningful, sustainable jobs

## Why Partner with Us

- Access trained youth ready to enter the workforce
- Align curriculum with your needs & staffing gaps
- Support your entry-level hiring with a pipeline of talent
- Raise your profile as a leader in workforce development
- Join statewide leaders building urban forestry capacity

## Who the Program is for

Young adults (18 -26) who:

- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Find the traditional educational path unappealing
- Have a passion for working outdoors
- Are motivated to give back to their community
- Seek steady employment in their hometowns
- Thrive with mentorship and hands-on learning

## Our Leadership Team

This statewide initiative is guided by a coalition of eight partners:

*Montana Conservation Corps*

*Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation*

*Montana Nursery and Landscape Association*

*Montana State University Extension*

*Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association*

*PlanIT Geo*

*PowerCorpsPHL*

*Reach Higher Montana*

*Rocky Mountain College*

# Get in touch!



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MUCFA.net



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## MUCFA 2025 Sponsors

Montana DNRC Urban and Community  
Forestry (DNRC-UCF) Program

US Forest Service Urban and Community  
Forestry (USFS-UCF) Program

Patrick and Mary Plantenberg

Angora Ridge Foundation

Eocene Environmental Group

Flathead Conservation District

## MUCFA Urban Forestry Coalition

International Society of Arboriculture Rocky  
Mountain Chapter (ISA-RMC) Montana

Nursery and Landscape Association (MLNA)

Northern Rockies Tree School (NRTS)

Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental,  
and Pest Professionals (AMTOPP)

Montana Trails, Recreation and Park  
Association (MTRPA)



MT Urban and Community Forestry Association

369 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave WN  
Kalispell, MT 59901



# MUCFA

MONTANA URBAN AND  
COMMUNITY FORESTRY  
ASSOCIATION



**Montana**  
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY  
ASSOCIATION

**Become a Member, Join our  
Community Today!**

*A member driven  
nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization*

# Our Mission

*To encourage and promote management, expansion, and improvement of community forest programs for the benefit of the people of Montana.*

# Our Purpose

- Facilitate tree planting, maintenance, and management
- Promote public awareness, education, and volunteerism
- Cultivate cooperation among agencies, groups, and individuals
- Provide expert advice on urban forestry issues
- Solicit funds for community grants



# Join us!

## Become a member

- Connect with tree people statewide
- Stay updated on urban forestry matters
- 20% off MUCFA-sponsored trainings
- Apply for available grant funding
- Provide input to DNRC's Urban and Community Forestry Program
- Receive awards such as Urban Tree Steward, Volunteer, Forest Project, and Tree Contractor of the Year, etc.

## Who should become a member

Anyone interested in Urban Forestry: Private, City, Utility, and Tribal Arborists; Foresters; Tree Board Leaders; Planners; Public Works Staff; and Citizens.



Sign up today!

### 2026 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Friend (non-voting member) \$25 \_\_\_\_\_; Individual (voting member) \$50 \_\_\_\_\_; Business \$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
Community \$100 \_\_\_\_\_; Partner (i.e. MNLAs, AMTOPPs, ISA-RMC, etc.) \$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_