

# Urban & Community Forestry Program

2016 in review



## U&CF Grant Program

The grant program is open for applications January 1 - March 31, with successful applicants being notified July 1, and contracts starting September 1.

Application & project eligibility information is available at:  
[http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/urban\\_grant\\_forms.htm](http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/urban_grant_forms.htm)

In 2016, 9 projects, out of 17 applications, were awarded a total of \$125,933.

- Haywood Community College
- Town of Bath
- City of Graham
- City of Wilson
- UNC-Asheville
- Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks & Recreation Department
- Town of Jamestown
- Asheville GreenWorks
- NC Urban Forest Council

The amount of funding available for the grant program varies from year to year, based on the Federal funds awarded through the Farm Bill to the NC Forest Service.

## Special Projects

Several additional multi-year projects, with regional or multi-state impact, proposed and awarded to the NCFS U&CF Program have been completed recently, with the following deliverables:

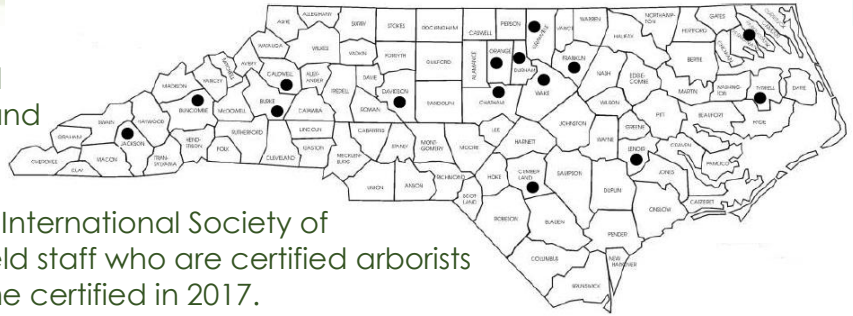
- **Planning Tools for Small Communities** – a multi-partner effort in Chatham County, resulting in information and a case study for communities facing development pressure without appropriate guidance or ordinances:  
<https://chathamconservation.wikispaces.com/Project+Summary>
- **Urban Wood Use** – two assessments within Raleigh’s Parks and Recreation Department: 1) looking at the handling of urban wood debris and identifying opportunities for maximizing value of urban tree removals and 2) assessing the capacity of the program and existing needs through the first municipal **Urban Forest Sustainability & Management Review in the US**:  
<https://urbanforestrysouth.org/resources/library/ttresources/urban-forest-sustainability-and-management-review-checklist> as well as the creation of 3 informational **Forest Fast Breaks**  
[http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/Urban\\_Forestry.htm](http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/Urban_Forestry.htm)
- **Nearing completion is conceptual design assistance for Appalachian communities in NC, VA and KY**, with the final NC project in Blowing Rock. Completed projects include: North Wilkesboro, West Jefferson, Morganton, Burnsville and Stecoah Valley Center which has leveraged their plan through implementation grant funding from the John William Pope Foundation.
- **The most recent project involves 7 southeastern states linking urban tree canopy to stormwater mitigation.** Wilmington and Apex are the partner cities in NC and will be included in a case study guide as well as provided with ordinance language plus strategies and methodologies for linking urban forest systems to urban MS4 requirements.



# More Services Provided by the U&CF Program

## Certified Arborists in NCFS

Providing assistance to individuals and communities requires additional skills and knowledge. NCFS encourages field staff to expand their skillset by becoming a certified arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture. NCFS currently has 18 field staff who are certified arborists plus others who are working to become certified in 2017.



UFSTs provide disaster planning assistance, risk assessment, and FEMA Public Assistance to communities following natural disasters.



In NC, the trained team members include 13 NCFS personnel and 10 private and municipal arborists. UFST is also included in the NC Disaster Recovery Guide, p24: [www.osbm.nc.gov/Disaster-Recovery-Guide-2015](http://www.osbm.nc.gov/Disaster-Recovery-Guide-2015)

In May 2016, NCFS hosted a mock disaster exercise in Durham for 24 team members, to maintain their status. This cooperative effort with the US Forest Service, NC Division of Emergency Management, Durham County EM, and the City of Durham included UFST members from 5 states – NC, SC, VA, MA, and MS.

The NC Urban Wood Group was initiated in 2013 in cooperation with the NC Urban Forest Council. From an initial membership of 22, the group now has 177 members. This collection of arborists, municipalities, utilities, portable mill owners, kiln operators, and final producers who support the reduction of urban wood in the waste stream and utilize the resource for its highest and best use.



- 37 certified arborists attended an Urban Wood Bucking workshop in Charlotte.
- The Southeast Urban Wood Exchange was released in 2016 to provide connections from arborists to the final producers. [www.urbanwoodexchange.org](http://www.urbanwoodexchange.org)
- Urban wood utilization was recognized at the International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta with a presentation session that included representation from the NC Urban Wood Group.



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[www.ncforestservice.gov/Urban/Urban\\_Forestry](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/Urban/Urban_Forestry)



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