

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
FOREST SERVICE GRANT NO. 04-DG-.11052021-106
Period covered by this report: July 29, 2004 through March 31, 2006

NOTE: Please review the following information and revise/complete as necessary.

Issued to: Local Government Commission

Address: 1414 K. Street, Suite 600, Sacramento, CA 95814

Congressional District Number: 5

Project Name: Livable Communities and Urban Forestry: You Can't Have One Without the Other

Contact Person/Principal Investigator:

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Date of Award: July 29, 2004

Grant Modifications: N/A

Date of Expiration: March 31, 2006

Funding: Federal Share: \$13,000 plus Grantee Share: \$13,000 = Total Project: \$26,000

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Please provide an abstract on your project and its results. This abstract will be posted on the NUCFAC internet site. (approximately 200 words or less).

Final Report

Forest Service Grant NO. 04-DG-11052021-106

Period covered by this report: July 29, 2004 through March 31, 2006

Title: Livable Communities and Urban Forestry: You Can't Have One Without The Other
Submitted by the Local Government Commission (LGC)

100-word abstract

The goal of this project was to further the incorporation of forestry in all urban environments. We sought to advance this goal by communicating to local policy makers (local elected officials and key agencies) the role that urban forestry plays in building more livable communities. We delivered this message by 1) including a session on urban forestry at the national New Partners for Smart Growth Conference that LGC is organizing in Miami Beach, January 2005; 2) producing a fact sheet for local policymakers in English and in Spanish addressing the role of urban forestry in community livability; and 3) increasing information about urban forestry on LGC's award-winning web site.

Project Objectives

Few local officials fully grasp the value of urban trees in terms of community water supplies, safety and security, public health, walkability and bikeability, air quality, energy use, jobs, economics and aesthetics. This project sought to make this information available to local officials in order to advance the creation of more livable neighborhoods, towns and cities.

Our target audience was and continues to be primarily city and county officials. However, others who visit our web page and attend our national smart growth conferences included and will continue to include developers, architects and landscape architects, planning consultants, students, nonprofit groups, activists, water districts, and others.

We used three methods to achieve our goal:

- Production of a fact sheet for local policymakers addressing the critical role of urban forestry in community livability.
- Inclusion of a session on urban forestry at our January 2005 national "New Partners for Smart Growth Conference: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities" in Miami Beach, Florida.
- Integration of information about the value of urban forestry within our livable communities web site.

Objectives met successfully:

We produced English and Spanish versions of the fact sheet for local leaders addressing the role of urban forestry in community livability, conducted the first urban forestry session at our annual

national New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Miami Beach, January 2005, and developed the tree section of our livable communities website.

We are pleased to report that we exceeded our objectives by distributing more fact sheets than originally planned due to higher demand than expected. In addition, the high level of interest in the tree session at the Miami conference led to the inclusion of another tree-related session at our 2006 national conference in Denver.

Details are highlighted below.

- We prepared and produced 2,500 copies of a 4-page, two-color glossy fact sheet. The fact sheet is attached with this report. We also posted it on our website for free downloading at: <http://www.lgc.org/environment/trees.html>
- We prepared and produced 1250 copies of the Spanish language version of the fact sheet.
- We held the tree session at the Miami conference, Saturday, January 29, 2005. Over 50 people attended, with standing room only. Speakers included:
 - Shane E. DeWald, Senior Landscape Architect, Seattle Transportation. Topic: trees and City natural drainage program.
 - Frances Kuo, Assistant Professor, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois. Topic: social and public health and safety benefits of trees research and examples.
 - Pepper Provenzano, Executive Director, TreeLink. New information resources to promote urban forestry in local decision-making.
- The level of interest at the Miami session led to sponsorship from the USDA Forest Service — Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program of our New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Denver, January, 2006, and inclusion of another tree session at the conference entitled, "Green Infrastructure and Urban Forestry."
- We distributed 1250 copies of the fact sheets at the 2005 Miami conference in packets to approximately 1000 attendees, at the Forest Service booth and at the urban forestry session. We sent 1250 fact sheets to the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program in Washington D.C. for distribution at conferences of the American Planning Association (APA), International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), American Public Works Association (APWA), and others. We distributed fact sheets at our 2006 Denver conference and other LGC events. We also fulfilled requests for fact sheets from the California Department of Health Services, numerous local governments in California, the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, and the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission. In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requested 350 fact sheets for distribution at the October 19-20, 2005 conference in Milwaukee entitled "Green Makeover - Retrofitting Sites in Urban Areas to Enrich City Environments."

- We prepared and emailed a post 2005 Miami New Partners for Smart Growth Conference electronic survey to attendees. The survey included questions to help evaluate the impact of the conference tree session and the fact sheet. When asked how useful they found the fact sheet in increasing their knowledge and understanding of urban forestry issues, 171 out of 232 of those responding found it somewhat useful, useful or very useful. In addition, 82 out of 208 respondents reported that based on information obtained at the conference they had undertaken work in their communities that resulted in an increase in the use of trees in public and private development streetscapes and other public spaces. Another 39 out of 185 respondents reported that information from the conference contributed to the development of policies, programs or initiatives to enhance the local urban forest. Finally, the conference survey asked those respondents who attended the urban forestry session to rate the session. 11 out of 24 respondents rated the session "excellent," 10 rated it "good," 2 said "fair," and one said "poor." Relevant pages from the actual survey are included with this report.

Objectives not yet met:

All objectives have been met.

Major research or policy findings

Please see next response below.

How the project increased knowledge about urban forestry. How the public will benefit.

During the course of our research and consultation with urban forestry experts and local governments and staff, we found that a continued barrier to local commitment to urban and community trees is lack of understanding of the value of urban forests and the role that they can play to achieve a wide range of economic, social and environmental goals. The fact sheet, web page and conference session provided local decision makers and staff with increased understanding of how trees create more livable neighborhoods, towns and cities. They also directed local leaders to examples and resources to help them implement urban forests in their communities. Finally, both the tree session and the Smart Growth Conference in general helped bring urban forestry into the center of the discussion among the growing diversity of elected officials, agencies, developers, planners, designers and community interests seeking to implement smart growth solutions around the country.

Recommendations for community foresters or others who might benefit from our project

Tree professionals and activists should continue to learn about and communicate the value of urban trees as solutions to multiple challenges. They should also learn how key local development policy instruments (e.g., zoning codes) are used and can be changed so that trees are included and understood as basic urban infrastructure requirements and are more effectively included in development standards.

Attach copies

Copies of the fact sheet, conference brochures and relevant pages from the post-conference survey are enclosed with this report.

How results were disseminated to the public

We distributed over 3,500 fact sheets at the smart growth conference and other events, and through fulfillment of subsequent requests. In addition we recorded 1,960 downloads of the fact sheet from our web site during the project period.

The fact sheet and web site will continue to be available beyond the grant period for public consumption.

Logical next steps or future direction of project/research

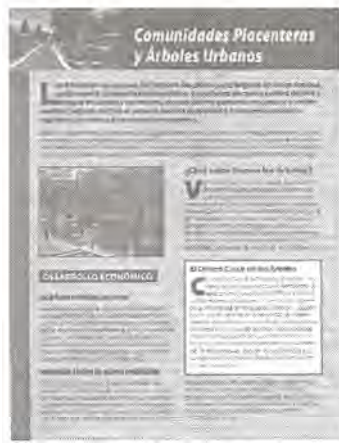
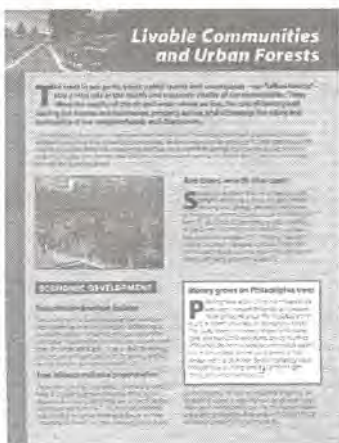
We will continue to look for opportunities to include urban forestry related topics at our annual national conferences. We will also continue to maintain our tree web page and make the tree fact sheets available for downloading. Finally, we will promote urban forestry and green infrastructure as part of our new and evolving water policy development and implementation program.

List the active partners (key individuals or organizations) involved in the project:

We consulted with a number of individuals and organizations regarding speakers and topics for the conference tree session and development of the fact sheet, including:

- Susan Mockenhaupt, Urban & Community Forestry Program, USDA, Forest Service
- Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research
- David Nowak, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station
- Nancy Stremple, Southern Region, USDA Forest Service
- Pepper Provezano, TreeLink
- Shane Dewald, City of Seattle
- Rey Trethway, Sacramento City Council, Sacramento Tree Foundation
- Kathleen Wolf, University of Washington
- Francis Kuo, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Photos or Illustration



Reason for no-cost time extension

We were granted a request to extend the project finish date from December 31, 2005 to March 31, 2006, to enable us to complete activity on the tree section of our web site and both gather and distribute additional information and resources at the green infrastructure and urban forestry session at our national smart growth conference in Denver, January 26 - 28, 2006.

Evaluation of grant process

The grant administrative coordinators (Suzanne del Villar, NUFAC, and Sandy Macias, FS Grant Manager) were very efficient, responsive and pleasant to work with.

Comments not covered above

No additional comments

This report was prepared by:



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July 5, 2006