

OUR WORK IN PR AND US VIRGIN ISLANDS

PUERTO RICO

In Puerto Rico the Urban and Community Forestry (UFC) program is administered by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) Forest Service Bureau. The agency has appointed an Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator that works with local urban and community forestry partners.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

In the U.S. Virgin Islands the program is administered by the Department of Agriculture . The agency has appointed an Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator that works with local urban and community forestry partners.



USDA photo by Yaneris Soto

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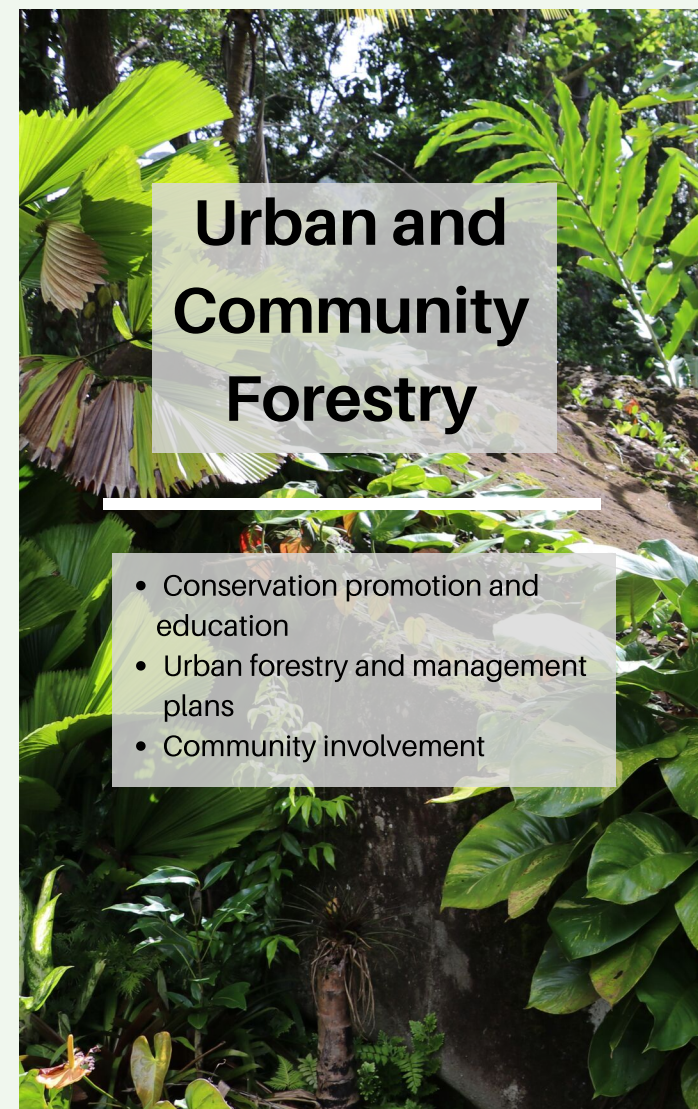
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ABOUT

The goal of the Urban and Community Forest (UCF) program is to promote the conservation of our trees and forests. Each year, community members and volunteers participate in the development of urban forests management plans, tree planting activities, workshops and educational talks, and activities with kids.



USDA photo by Yaneris Soto

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

- **Cost share program:** The Urban and Community Forestry Cost Share Program provides financial resources to community groups for the implementation of conservation and management initiatives and educational opportunities related to urban green spaces.
- **Council:** The UCF council advises the State Forester to plan program implementation, develop public policy for the protection and conservation of urban forests, and administer the Cost Share Program.

CARIBBEAN STRATEGIC PLAN

In March 2015, the Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Urban and Community Forestry Council completed the process of creating a new Caribbean UCF Strategic Plan. The process began in March 2014 when both UCF councils met for a week in Ponce, Puerto Rico. This final plan outlines the activities needed to comply with the joint Strategic Plans. This is the first time that the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Urban and Community Forestry Councils worked together towards several common goals, and it is hoped that in the future, these councils can participate in joint activities to achieve their common goals.

As a result the UCF Councils agreed on the following:

- **Our Common Vision Statement:** Our education efforts and strategic actions ensure the enduring benefits and environmental services of urban forests in the Caribbean landscape, enhancing community well-being and mitigating the effects of climate change.
- **Our Common Mission Statement:** Promote the proper management and sustainability of urban forests to improve the wellbeing of the Caribbean communities through education efforts, technical assistance, and partnerships between the public and private sectors.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Center for Sustainable Development Studies of the School of Environmental Affairs at the Metropolitan University (UMET) partnered with the Urban and Community Forestry Program to develop the first continuing education program leading to a university professional certificate in Urban and Community Forestry. The certificate includes courses that will provide the participants with basic theoretical and technical knowledge to work in the protection, establishment, and management of trees in urban areas, business development, and community participation agreements for the co-management of forests and urban parks.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The program consists of seven core courses and 105 contact hours for a total of 132 contact hours to complete the professional certificate. The certificate provides topics for all students, from architects, horticulturists and landscape design professionals, senior university students, and community members. More information on the Urban and Community Forestry Certificate Program can be found on the centro de estudios para el desarrollo sustentable (CEDES) Facebook page.