



# VIBRANT CITIES & URBAN FORESTS

A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

At a summit in 2011, 25 visionary leaders from multiple sectors developed a roadmap to realize the transformative role that urban forests and green infrastructure play in making communities more vibrant and resilient. Their groundbreaking report, *Vibrant Cities & Urban Forests: A National Call to Action*, puts forth a set of integrated and collaborative recommendations for policymakers, NGOs, the private sector, community groups, funders and the public.

The Vibrant Communities initiative is working to ignite action around the Vibrant Cities recommendations, fostering green and healthy places where people live, work and play.

## VIBRANT CITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Create a national education and awareness campaign exposing all Americans to the value of urban ecosystems and their integration with other urban resources.
- 2 Foster urban forestry and natural resources stewardship and volunteerism.
- 3 Create sustainable jobs in urban forestry and green infrastructure fields.
- 4 Cultivate strategic partnerships between public and private sectors to create a pipeline of support for urban and community forestry programs, through services, materials, funding and other forms of capital.
- 5 Convene multi-disciplinary working groups to develop new public administration models to better respond to urban ecosystem issues at the federal, state and local levels.
- 6 Assist in the creation of and provide support for metropolitan alliances within every metropolitan region that will develop comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Urban Regional Natural Resource Plans.
- 7 Integrate federal agencies' green infrastructure goals for urban areas to achieve greater coordination and consistency of policies and regulations.
- 8 Establish energy efficiency programs that emphasize the use of trees as a best management practice for energy conservation.
- 9 Ensure equal access to urban forestry and green infrastructure resources so that communities of all demographics, size and location can reap their benefits.
- 10 Support urban ecosystem-focused, collaborative research by developing new tools and increasing funding for these efforts among all relevant federal agencies by over 50% (over 2010 levels) by 2015.
- 11 Encourage open access to and use of social assessment tools that amass and distill data regarding all aspects of urban green infrastructure.
- 12 Develop a process to establish national Vibrant Cities Standards that provide guidance and measures of success for communities as they advance urban forestry and green infrastructure efforts.

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To download the full *Vibrant Cities & Urban Forests* report and learn more about the Vibrant Communities initiative, visit [www.vibrantcities.org](http://www.vibrantcities.org).

