

SUSTAINABLE URBAN FORESTS COALITION

Urban trees and green infrastructure are the backbone of urban parks and recreational facilities in communities of all sizes across the country. Investments in urban parks are key to creating and sustaining economically sound, healthy, equitable and livable communities.

PLEASE SUPPORT H.R. 2424 THE COMMUNITY PARKS REVITALIZATION ACT: BI-PARTISAN LEGISLATION TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN COMMUNITY PARKS IN LOCALITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

This bill would provide grants for communities to rehabilitate existing and develop new community parks and recreational infrastructure which includes vital urban trees and green space.

In addition, the proposed Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funding will bolster financial resources for city trees and forests, further leveraging the Urban & Community Forestry Program of the USDA Forest Service.

H.R. 2424 THE COMMUNITY PARKS REVITALIZATION ACT

- These grants could also be used to both develop *and* maintain parks providing much needed access to recreation areas and green space for all urban residents.
- States and localities would be required to provide matching funds.
- Under this legislation, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would:
 - give priority to projects that connect children and other community members to the outdoors for physical activity;
 - connect to public transportation; and contain safe biking and walking trails or routes;
 - prioritize the use of environmentally beneficial features such as “sustainable landscape features,” including tree canopy coverage, improved stormwater management practices, and increased green infrastructure; and
 - encourage community involvement and planning opportunities via grant funds.
- The bill includes an innovative financing mechanism to establish a program for secured loans and loan guarantees for the development of parks and recreation infrastructure (modeled after the popular Transportation Infrastructure Innovative Financing Act). This allows either large scale projects such as trail systems, or for more than one community, to bundle multiple projects to take advantage of low-cost financing.
- Establishing and maintaining urban parks can help revitalize communities by increasing economic development opportunities, improving public health, increasing daily physical activity, reconnecting children with nature, and reducing crime by providing safe, healthy alternatives for at-risk youth.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact SUFC member: **Kevin O’Hara**,
American Society of Landscape Architects
202.216.2370 or kohara@asla.org



The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition encompasses nearly 30 national organizations advancing a unified urban forest agenda. Members work together to integrate trees and green infrastructure as a vital component of sustainable infrastructure for every community.

www.urbanforestcoalition.org