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# Declining Urban and Community Tree Cover in the United States

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## Highlights:

- Between c. 2009-2014, US urban tree cover dropped from 40.4% to 39.4%
- During that same period, US urban impervious cover increased from 25.6% to 26.6%
- Nationally, annual urban/community tree cover loss is 175,000 acres or 36 million trees
- Loss of urban forest benefits is conservatively estimated at \$96 million per year

**Abstract.** Paired aerial photographs were interpreted to assess recent changes (c. 2009-2014) in tree, impervious and other cover types within urban/community and urban land in all 50 United States and the District of Columbia. National results indicate that tree cover in urban/community areas of the United States is on the decline at a rate of about 175,000 acres per year, which corresponds to approximately 36 million trees per year. Estimated loss of benefits from trees in urban areas is conservatively valued at \$96 million per year. Overall, for both urban and the broader urban/community areas, 23 states/districts had statistically significant declines in tree cover, 25 states had non-significant decreases or no change in tree cover, and three states showed

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