



Northwest Youth Corps
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Northwest Youth Corps to invest \$4 Million received from USDA Forest Service to engage Tacoma youth in creating a more climate-resilient city through urban forestry.

Tacoma, WA – Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) is grateful to receive a \$12 million grant from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act to engage youth and young adults in urban forestry stewardship and education activities in Boise, ID, Eugene, OR and Tacoma, WA. Working with local partners, NYC will invest \$4 million over five years in urban forestry programs in the Tacoma metro area.

Urban forests provide numerous benefits, including:

- Reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Lowering energy consumption by providing shade and reducing heat island effects.
- Improving water quality and reducing stormwater runoff.
- Enhancing property values and economic vitality.
- Improving public health and well-being.

Quote: Victoria Woodards, Mayor, City of Tacoma

"I am proud to see this accomplishment by our dedicated forestry staff and community partners," said Mayor Victoria Woodards. "This investment in our community's youth will not only prepare them for the future, it will also help us meet our urban tree canopy goals in Tacoma."

Northwest Youth Corps is excited to work with the following Tacoma project partners:

- City of Tacoma, Urban Forest Program
- Metro Parks Tacoma, Community and Neighborhood Parks and Facilities
- Trust for Public Land
- Tacoma School District, Career and Technical Education
- Pierce County Parks
- Pierce Conservation District
- Pierce County Council

Quote: Jay A. Satz, Senior Director External Affairs, Northwest Youth Corps

Jay A. Satz, Senior Director, External Affairs commented that, "This grant from the US Forest Service is a game changing investment in our community. With this grant, and the

partnerships that it will support, we will help make Tacoma a better place to live. First, we will be increasing our tree canopy and receiving all the environmental and health benefits that a thriving urban forest will bring. Equally important, we will be making these environmental improvements by investing in young people to be the stewards of the communities they live in, as they participate in a workforce development program that will launch them forward in the unique trajectories of each of their lives.”

Each year through 2028, the Puget Sound area will host four Young Adult Conservation Corps Crews for individuals ages 19- 26, who participate in a 12-week, crew-based paid term of service. Each crew will be comprised of up to five young adult participants and one crew leader, who will average 35 hours per week on urban forestry projects and spend up to 10 hours per week in education and training. Participants will receive a stipend, industry recognized credentials, develop 21st Century work skills, and receive post program assistance connecting with green careers in their region.

[Quote: Ryan Mello, Pierce County Council Chair](#)

“A big congratulations to Northwest Youth Corps for all the great work they’ve done to create green spaces in our urban core and support a path to a sustainable future”, said Pierce County Council Chair Ryan Mello (District 4). “Because of their hard work in this space, they are bringing the resources of this grant into our community, and with their commitment to partnership, I know we can leverage these dollars to transform the City of Tacoma - the heart of Pierce County - into a healthier and more sustainable place.”

NYC crews will be helping in the assessment of Tacoma’s current tree canopy and engaging community members to have trees planted and maintained on their properties. Crews will also be leading Saturday service projects encouraging neighborhood involvement. Additional crews will care for trees within green stormwater infrastructure bioswales used for storm water detention and treatment.

This grant is a result of the Biden Administration’s Inflation Reduction Act that includes a \$1.5 billion investment in the [USDA’s Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) (U&CF) and will support nearly 400 projects to expand access to green spaces and trees in communities across the country.

Northwest Youth Corps has received \$12 million of that funding to create urban forest programs in Boise, Eugene and Tacoma.

[Tom Vilsack, US Agriculture Secretary of Agriculture](#)

“Whether it’s reducing heat stress or creating jobs in tree planting and maintenance, this grant funding will support local communities and partners who are working on the ground to advance environmental justice by mitigating the impact of climate change on communities who lack tree cover in urban spaces while giving kids more safe spaces to play outdoors.”

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About the Northwest Youth Corps

Northwest Youth Corps was founded in 1984 to offer teenagers an education-based, work experience modeled after the historic Civilian Conservation Corps. Our core purpose is to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to learn, grow, and experience success, while working to conserve our planet's precious resources. Our conservation service programs focus on education, challenge, community, leadership and empowerment, giving youth critical life skills and confidence. NYC operates in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, with offices in Boise, Eugene and Tacoma. Learn more at www.nwyouthcorps.org.