

SFI URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD

MUNICIPALITIES

URBAN FORESTS THAT DELIVER FOR PEOPLE AND PLACES

Municipalities across America can apply certification to the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard to plan strategically for the future. This standard strengthens local resilience, ensures community well-being, affirms environmental leadership, and secures lasting improvements in urban and community forests.

CELEBRATING AN EARLY ADOPTER

The Regional Municipality of York in Ontario was the first Canadian organization and municipality to become certified to the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard. By pursuing SFI certification, municipalities demonstrate their shared commitment to quality of life, and they deliver on this commitment using a credible framework that is third-party audited.



KEY BENEFITS OF SFI CERTIFICATION

STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Certification encourages residents to get involved in urban forestry and ensures fair, equitable access to trees and green spaces across neighborhoods.

IMPROVES HEALTH AND SAFETY

Certification reinforces the public health benefits of trees—cooling streets, cleaning the air, and reducing stress—while ensuring well-managed forests reduce risks of storms, pests, and invasive species.

BOOSTS LOCAL ECONOMIES

Certification enhances quality of life by making neighborhoods and business districts more attractive, increasing property values, and supporting local commerce.

LEAVES A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Certification provides a framework for environmental education, inspiring youth and schools to connect with nature as a living classroom.

BUILDS TRUST AND CREDIBILITY

Certification equips municipalities to answer questions with confidence. Independent audits evaluate urban forests against a clear, consistent standard—recognizing best practices, identifying opportunities for improvement, and strengthening credibility with residents, elected officials, and funders.



CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS

The SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard provides adaptable certification pathways, enabling organizations to pursue their desired goals and outcomes at their own pace

SFI OFFERS TWO UNIQUE CERTIFICATION OPTIONS:

FULL CERTIFICATION

Certify to all 16 objectives to claim your urban or community forest as certified to the full SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard.



COMMUNITY
WELL-BEING AND
HUMAN HEALTH



URBAN
FOREST
IMPROVEMENT



THEMATIC CERTIFICATION

Focus on the areas that matter most to your community. Thematic certification lets your municipality focus resources on priority objectives, showcase existing strengths, and build momentum toward full certification over time.



CLIMATE AND
DISASTER
RESILIENCE



ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND HUMAN HEALTH

PROMOTES public health by embedding equitable access to green space and opportunities for recreation, mental health, and social connection into forest planning and management.

URBAN FOREST IMPROVEMENT

DRIVES continual forest improvement by setting long-term objectives, reinforcing best practices, and tracking measurable results.

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

POSITIONS your municipality to confront climate risks by tracking ecosystem services, reducing carbon footprints, and prioritizing vulnerable communities through equitable urban forestry strategies.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

VALIDATES your community's role as an environmental leader, demonstrating stewardship of biodiversity, water, soil, and habitat while reinforcing sustainable management of resources.

WHEN WE CARE FOR OUR FORESTS, WE CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

By pursuing SFI certification, your municipality gains credibility, recognition and long-term resilience in managing a sustainable forest.

Turn vision into action and create a lasting legacy for your community

Explore how at:

forests.org/sfi-urban-forestry-standard/



Learn how certification can support your community's goals. Connect with Ned Brockmeyer at ned.brockmeyer@forests.org to get started.

