What is urban forestry?
Urban forestry is the cultivation and management of tree populations in urban settings for the purpose of improving the urban environment. Urban forestry advocates the role of trees as a critical part of the urban infrastructure.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission provides technical, educational and financial assistance in urban and community forestry to local governments and organized groups living and working within established developing and populated areas.

Why is urban forestry important to the citizens of South Carolina?
The 2010 U.S. Census reported that more than 66 percent of South Carolina’s population lives in urban areas. Trees serve multiple purposes in our communities. Many people enjoy their shade, their beauty and the wildlife that live within them. Although people may not take a second to consider what it takes to maintain trees, they are an integral part of a community’s infrastructure for a number of reasons:

- Trees are vital to the health of our community. They provide clean air, clean water and psychological well-being.
- Trees are our legacy. Our children and grandchildren will reap the benefits of the trees we plant and maintain today.
- Trees have a positive impact on business in our community. More attractive businesses draw more shoppers, who bring more dollars to our community.
Benefits of urban forestry

Research suggests humans have an innate preference for natural settings. Numerous studies link access to living trees to:

- Increased employee productivity and reduction of symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children;
- Faster hospital recoveries;
- Less crime;
- Overall reduction in stress and anxiety.

Landscaping with trees can significantly increase property values:

- One large tree can add 10 percent to the market value of residential real estate;
- More frequent and longer shopping trips occur in tree-lined shopping districts, and shoppers are willing to spend more on goods while there;
- When planted around buildings, trees provide shade and serve as windbreaks, which helps reduce energy costs.

Contact an SCFC Urban Forester

URBAN FORESTRY COORDINATOR
Lowe Sharpe
(803) 896-8864
lsharpe@scfc.gov
5500 Broad River Rd.
Columbia, SC 29212

COASTAL REGION
Frances Waite
(843) 571-0136
fmwaite@bellsouth.net
1820 Savannah Hwy., Suite A-2
Charleston, SC 29407

PIEDMONT REGION
Dena Whitesides
(803) 391-0330
dwhitesides@scfc.gov
39 General Henderson Road
Newberry, SC 29108

PEE DEE REGION
Lois Edwards
(864) 910-0139
edwards@sccoast.net
1949 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526