

## Climate-Smart Communities Program



Photo: Jantzen

The National Wildlife Federation is working where people live to promote **wildlife-friendly & climate-smart** approaches to urban sustainability.

- Climate change is intensifying existing stresses on wildlife and their habitats and amplifying natural hazards that threaten people and property.
- The Climate-Smart Communities program helps cities and towns use **nature-based** approaches to prepare themselves for the impacts of climate change in ways that **support people, wildlife, and habitats**.

### Climate-Smart Communities

- Are ready to meet new challenges presented by climate change.
- Use nature-based approaches to prepare for the impacts of climate change in ways that support people, wildlife, and habitat.
- Are prepared for heat waves, drought, wildfires, water shortages, flooding, sea level rise, wind storms, tornados, hurricanes, economic losses, and more.

### What do Climate-Smart Communities Look Like?

- Robust urban tree and forestry programs
- Green-roof systems
- Water saving landscaping
- Low impact development strategies
- "Climate Smart" Certified Backyard habitats
- Invasive species management
- Wildfire preparedness programs
- Wetland conservation/restoration efforts
- Wildlife-friendly development patterns
- Networks of parks & wildlife conservation areas

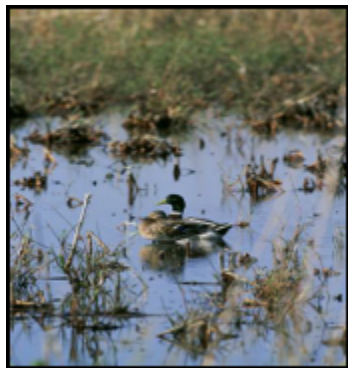


Photo: USGS

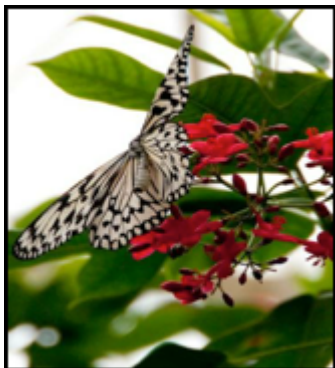


Photo: White



Photo: Light



Photo: Bors



Photo: Jantzen

Climate change is intensifying existing stresses on wildlife and their habitats and amplifying natural hazards that threaten people and property. In many communities, the typical response to intensified storms, droughts, and other climate impacts is a call for more and bigger engineered structures - higher levees and sea walls, more dams, and larger drainpipes. Unfortunately, poorly designed responses to climate impacts are likely to further undermine the already precarious health of our wildlife and natural ecosystems.

## Climate Change Impacts in Cities and Towns

NWF is working with cities and towns to help them be prepared for a set of climate change impacts, including the following:

- Inland flooding along rivers and in flood plains
- Flooding from urban stormwater
- Flooding along coastlines
- Urban heat islands
- Drought, water shortages, and increasing aridity



Photo: USDA

## Climate-Smart Example: King County Forestry CPR (Climate Preparedness & Response)

NWF worked with King County, Washington, to help develop a tool for landowners to understand the climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits of healthy trees.

- Quantifies and explains existing land and forest characteristics (i.e. total forest carbon stored at a particular site) using an embedded Geographic Information System (GIS) tool.
- Provides customized management recommendations from a Forest Health Assessment.
- Shows landowners that healthy trees can help reduce carbon pollution and helps communities be better prepared for the impacts of climate change by reducing stormwater runoff and erosion, and by providing shade in hot summer months.
- Try the tool here: <http://gismaps.kingcounty.gov/ForestryCPR/>



Photo: USFWS

## NWF In Your Community

NWF is working with a set of pilot communities to better understand their adaptation needs, challenges, and to generate early examples of successful nature-based adaptation approaches. NWF will work with these communities to develop and/or share resources that can be used by a broader audience. Please **contact us** if you would like more information about getting involved with this new program!

*For more information, please contact:*

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