



Natural Resources organizations support House Bill 3016

House Bill 3016 creates a **Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program** at the Department of Land Conservation and Development to fund communities to develop projects that increase tree canopy, improve livability, and support water quality and conservation. Projects that are prioritized include school campuses, rights of way, projects with a workforce and economic development component, and projects in areas with low tree canopy or rural and remote areas.

Green infrastructure means projects that mimic natural systems at the neighborhood or site scale, the implementation of ecological knowledge or regenerative food production as part of an integrated approach in residential, municipal or industrial developments to sequester carbon and provide environmental or social benefits.

HB 3016 creates a partnership between nurseries and communities on green infrastructure projects through a **Community Green Nurseries designation** for nurseries that help prevent pests and diseases, use good labor practices, and partner to provide non-invasive nursery stock for community projects. Oregon nurseries are global leaders in developing cultivars that can withstand changes in climate and harsh urban settings, and provide shade and carbon sequestration for the duration of their life.

HB 3016 **provides resources to address pest and disease threats** such as Emerald Ash Borer and Sudden Oak Death. It establishes a technical and financial assistance program at the Department of Forestry to help communities proactively plan, mitigate, and recover from pests, diseases and both present and future threats. Diseases, pests, and drought threaten the green infrastructure that is in place across Oregon. We must better plan and respond in ways that protect, improve, and maintain the trees and plants that help our communities thrive.

Oregon's Natural Resource community are the original environmentalists, and partnerships like these can help us mitigate climate change, improve urban living, and repair riparian habitat. We appreciate the inclusion of resources for pest and disease. This public-private partnership for Community Green Infrastructure grants can be a national model for improving livability and carbon sequestration at the same time.