

### **Key Issue #1: Building Human Health and Welfare through Urban and Community Forestry**

The opportunities for building human health and welfare through urban and community forestry are numerous. Interviewees noted that this is an area that is likely to grow significantly in the coming decade through increased awareness and understanding of human health and welfare benefits from UCF, and thus an increased demand for them. Thought leaders noted the need for expanded research around opportunities in human health and welfare as this has been a largely untapped area thus far, and to make stronger connections between the health care field and urban and community forestry. Research is needed to support this emerging area of collaboration in the coming decade as well.

#### **IDEAS FOR ACTION - Gaps, Needs, Opportunities**

- Create a national campaign related to trees and health.
- Connect to the health community through a message from Surgeon General, as well as other health care professionals, about the promise and potential of UCF to improve health outcomes.
- Promote UCF as a means to enhance public health, decrease the urban heat island effect, reduce energy consumption and decrease carbon production.
- Plant large shade trees in areas most needed for increasing urban health, using technology, community needs and ground-truthing to determine locations.
- Find ways to partner with the health care community around the benefits of UCF and linking them to preventative care, and potential incentives for health connected to UCF.
- Expand opportunities for collaboration with the health community, and the need to create more collaboration with people working on public health and human well-being as it relates to the natural world.