

**VT Urban & Community Forestry Program Quarterly Report**  
**June 2022 - September 2022**

<b>Desired Future Condition 1: Biological Diversity</b>		
<b>Conserve biological diversity across all landscapes.</b>		
<b>Strategies</b>		<b>Priorities</b>
1.1	Promote sustainable planning, use, and management of public greenspaces in villages and downtowns, such as village greens, town forests, parks, trails, playgrounds, and other public gathering spaces.	✓
1.2	Increase awareness, support, and implementation of planning for urban and community forests at local, regional, and statewide scales.	✓
1.3	Encourage long-term conservation efforts such as acquisition and planning by partners to keep forests forested and address forest fragmentation.	
1.4	Promote biological diversity and resiliency in urban and community forests through planning, use, and management that sustain diverse forest types and tree species, conditions, and age.	

**Forest Planning**

- **Forest Integrity Project:** This 5-year US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Project wrapped up on 6/30/22. Project partners have been the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative (FEMC), Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC), the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC), VT Fish & Wildlife, and VT Forests, Parks & Recreation. Final project updates for this quarter include:
  - The final component of the project was a **communications effort** to develop a series of short videos to communicate planning requirements under Act 171 and the tools that have been developed to support municipalities. Peregrine Productions LLC (Vince Franke) was the contractor. The videos are completed and available on our [UCF Youtube Page](#) as a playlist here. The individual videos are:
    - [Forests Matter: Introduction to Planning for Forest Integrity](#)
    - [Forests Matter – Step 1: Assess Forest Blocks & Habitat Connectors](#)
    - [Forests Matter – Step 2: Identify Community Values & Engage the Public](#)
    - [Forests Matter – Step 3: Identify Community Goals & Policies](#)

- [Forests Matter – Step 4: Create your Future Land Use Map & Policy](#)
- [Forests Matter – Step 5: Implementation & Action](#)
- VT Fish & Wildlife’s Community Wildlife Program is hosting a training series this fall that will incorporate the video series; UCF’s Joanne Garton will participate.
- We are working with the Agency of Natural Resources new Communications Director to update the [Act 171 Forest Planning website](#) with the videos and other resources developed through the project.
- We are working on the final project report for the US Forest Service and will submit later this month.

### **Vermont Tree Selection Guide and Tool**

In 2021 Joanne and Elise met with Bob Popp, a Biologist with VT Fish & Wildlife, to discuss edits to our VT Tree Selection Guide and VT Tree Selection Tool. The discussion focused on specific species that are on the state’s rare, threatened, or endangered plant list, as well as those that might be potentially invasive if planted outside of a “horticultural setting”. Updates this quarter:

- The [online guide](#) and [online Tree Selection Tool](#) have been updated.
- 150 print copies of the guide were produced. A portion of these will be funded and distributed through the VT Chapter of ASLA to landscape architects and designers and we are still working with the ASLA board to iron out logistics of distribution.

Desired Future Condition 2: Forest Health & Productivity		
Maintain and enhance forest ecosystem health and productivity.		
Strategies		Priorities
2.1	Identify, facilitate, and/or transfer research by academic, government, or community-led science initiatives that improves our understanding of urban and community forests, including urban forest inventory and analysis (Urban FIA).	
2.2	Survey, monitor, and support slow the spread and prevention efforts of invasive species that impact urban and community forests.	
2.3	Expand resources to assist communities to prepare for, mitigate, and recover from threats to urban and community forests including severe weather, fragmentation, climate change, and invasive pests.	✓

2.4	Increase communities' capacity to create resilient urban and community forests through growing or acquiring high-quality trees and a diversity of species.	
2.5	Encourage landscape level planning and management activities that maintain health, productivity, and ecological functions of urban and community forests in light of climate change.	
2.6	Conduct technical assistance to communities, including volunteer groups, in order to help them understand, evaluate, and/or implement actions to advance sustainable urban and community forestry programs.	✓

### **Municipal Technical Assistance**

- Ash Inventory and EAB Planning: UCF continues to support municipalities performing ash inventories and monitoring the health of public and private ash. Between June and September 2022, the towns of Alburgh, Chelsea, Roxbury, and Rochester received assistance with inventory methodology and data management. Additionally, we worked with Addison County Community Trust at the Otter Creek mobile home park to assess the susceptibility of their properties to the threat of EAB and have begun to plan for a fall student project to support an ash inventory in Colchester.
- Public Tree Inventory: Our public tree inventory tool was first launched back in 2014; we have now modernized the tool, added new fields, and integrated with ArcGIS Field Maps and Survey 123 to replace the outgoing Collector app. This quarter we assisted the towns of Windsor, Lyndon, Brandon, Shrewsbury, Mount Holly and Rochester with inventory of their public village/street trees using our existing Public Tree Inventory tool.
- Ordinances and Policies: In this quarter, we supported the Towns and Cities of Waterbury, Mount Holly, Montpelier, and Brandon in drafting new tree ordinances. We are planning to reach out to all municipalities with an existing tree ordinance or tree policy to ensure consistency with the amended Tree Warden Statutes.
- Municipal Training: Joanne coordinated technical trainings for municipal staff and tree wardens as part of a 2021 EAB preparedness grant we received from the USFS (delayed due to the pandemic). We worked with Adam McCullough, Montpelier City Arborist, to design a workshop focused on teaching the skill of throwing arborist line into trees to safely guide them to the ground as they are felled. We purchased 14 line throwing arborist kits to offer to municipalities that sent staff to the trainings; only 3 participants signed up representing the municipalities of Shrewsbury and Barre Town, and accordingly, only one training was held in Montpelier. We will hold a similar training again next year and focus on better advertisement of the content and skills learned. The other training was focused on visual tree risk assessment and was open to municipal staff, tree wardens, and other volunteers. The Burlington tree risk workshop was led by Burlington

City Arborist VJ Comai and held at Lakeview Cemetery. There were 10 participants representing the communities of Burlington, Charlotte, Colchester, Essex, Shelburne, and St. Albans City. The Montpelier tree risk workshop was led by Savannah Ferriera, FPR Forest Health Specialist; there were 12 participants representing the communities of Barre Town, Bethel, Bradford, Brandon, Essex, Montpelier, Weathersfield, Williamstown, and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

### **Resilient Urban Forests for All**

VT UCF received special funding from the USFS to design a new [Resilient Urban Forests for All Assistance Package](#) is to support and grow downtown trees and forests in Vermont's most populated areas in partnership with communities that lack capacity and need assistance to advance their urban forestry programs. We received four applications for the project and selected The **Town of Windsor** and the **Village of Lyndonville** as the pilot partner communities. Joanne Garton and UCF intern Julia D'Alessio spent many field days this summer working with these towns to plan for the year ahead; these municipalities will receive a package valued at over \$20,000 that includes funding for strategic planting or tree maintenance, urban tree inventory, tree care supplies and resources, and training for staff and citizens. Highlights this quarter include:

- Updated urban tree inventory in the downtown cores of both Windsor and Lyndon
- Meetings with municipal public works and planning staff to understand municipal capacity for tree planting, watering, and future care.
- A tree steward training for the public in Windsor attended by 6 members of the Windsor public and library community.
- Visits to tree nurseries to source and price trees for downtown planting in both communities.
- Approval of grant agreements for both municipalities; each town will be maintaining and planting a number of trees with a \$10,000 award.

### **Urban Forest Health Outreach and Education: VTinvasives website**

- [VTinvasives E-News](#): 1 produced.
- Continued to support 'Report It' submissions.

### **EAB Response & Planning**

- UCF received funding from the USFS for a Sustainable Urban Forests Resilience project. Part of this project will involve strategic planning for EAB in Vermont. Specific components that we have begun to plan for include:

- VT UCF staff conduct a GIS analysis of data on existing street tree inventories, existing EAB preparedness efforts, urban tree canopy coverage, socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, and geographic health and heat vulnerability data to guide identification of the municipalities that are most vulnerable to combined threats of EAB, climate change, poverty, lack of health resources, and environmental injustice. This analysis will be combined with social science data collected from surveys to municipalities and a broad range of community groups.
- The resulting maps and analysis will be used to identify priority regions and municipalities that will guide grant award selection, program outreach, and direct technical assistance. This assistance will focus on integration of EAB preparedness with other essential and required municipal and regional planning efforts, including for hazard mitigation, flood resiliency, forest integrity, and climate change. VT UCF will then provide strategic EAB planning assistance to at least 6 non-traditional program partners that support vulnerable and underserved urban populations in the state, including school districts, affordable housing and community development organizations, faith-based institutions, and new municipal partners.
- **Black Ash Field Naturalist Project:** UVM Graduate Student Charlotte Cadow has launched into the many facets of a Vermont-based community science data collection project focused on the current location of black ash, the expected ecological impact of the loss of black ash due to EAB, the cultural implications of the loss of black ash for the Abenaki people, and the logistical challenges surrounding preservation of black ash trees for future study. Highlights this quarter include:
  - Setting up black ash research plots in approximately 12 locations on State Lands. See locations and summaries of site visits on Charlotte's [StoryMap](#). Black ash monitoring plots are 10 meters in radius and capture overstory, understory, and herbaceous layer data, and note further tree size and health of black ash on site.
  - Attended a basket making workshop in Greensboro to weave a black ash basket.
  - Visited black ash stands in Milton and Essex to support outreach and education initiatives.
  - Planned for UVM undergraduate class NR 206 to bring students to four different municipal forests to collect community science data in iNaturalist.

### **Pest Outreach**

- The Forest Pest Outreach Program (FPOP), had been primarily focused since 2018 on EAB and hemlock wooly adelgid. The program has more recently broadened its education and outreach to include other invasive pests, such as jumping worms, and ones that are likely to

be established in Vermont soon, such as beech leaf disease and spotted lanternfly and common vectors, such as moving firewood. Highlights this quarter:

- 18 new Forest Pest First Detector graduates of the “For the Birds” course received educator packets, including new materials on spotted lanternfly, tree of heaven, beech leaf disease, and jumping worms. **They have done direct education in at least 7 communities reaching at least 120 individuals, and indirect outreach in at least 11 towns, reaching a minimum of 445 people.** Their activities have included: writing articles for local newsletters/papers; giving presentations to garden clubs and senior centers; an invasive-pest themed birthday party; posting information on social media; visiting suspect trees; making displays for local libraries and town halls; posting literature on community bulletin boards; and engaging landowners and neighbors in conversations about invasive insects and pathogens and cleaning gear and not moving firewood as preventive measures.
- Began relationship with Addison County Community Trust, a housing trust, to inventory ash and other trees at their mobile home park in Vergennes
- Ginger partnered with Kate Forrer and Lisa Sausville to produce two episodes for their **podcast series**, [Heartwood](#).
  - The cultural and ecological significance of black ash in the face of EAB has been released: [check it out here \(episode 6\)](#)!
  - In [Episode 7](#), they spoke with city arborists and conservationists about the relationship between diversity of tree species in urban forests and resilience to invasive forest pests. The episode includes our own Warren Spinner, V.J. Comai and Elise Schadler! [Listen here!](#)

Desired Future Condition 3: Forest Products & Ecosystem Services		
Maintain and enhance forest contribution to ecosystem services.		
Strategies		Priorities
3.1	Facilitate opportunities to utilize urban wood including after natural disasters or pest infestations.	
3.2	Identify and facilitate opportunities to integrate local agroforestry into urban and community forestry in public spaces.	

3.3.	Promote awareness and use of urban and community forestry practices to protect water quality in rural and urban Vermont landscapes through implementation of low impact development (LID), green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), and sound silvicultural practices that support resilient community trees and forests.	
3.4	Promote awareness and use of urban and community forestry practices at the municipal level to adapt climate change strategies that mitigate urban air temperatures, water and air pollution, and support biodiversity.	✓
3.5	Monitor and explore opportunities for forest carbon credits for urban and community forestry in Vermont.	
3.6	Promote awareness and stewardship around the ecosystem services of community forests and other public spaces.	
3.7	Fund, promote, and record progress on implementation of best practices and outreach initiatives that support functional ecosystems at local and regional scales.	✓
3.8	Facilitate impact mitigation of invasive forest pests at regional and statewide levels and the associated ecosystem services and cultural losses resulting from infestations and the decline of specific impacted tree populations.	

### **Energy Saving Trees/Vermont Community Canopy**

- Fall 2022: Planning has begun for the fall VCC program and registration for the trees is open; we'll be working with the communities of Burlington, Barre, Lyndon, and Windsor to distribute 475 trees. Gwen and our summer intern, Julia, have tabled at the following events to promote the program: Decaturfest and the Old North End Farmer's Market in Burlington, Barre library, and Bare municipal pool. Additionally, Gwen put out 100 door hangers in both Lyndon and Windsor.
- Funding: The fall 2022 program will be supported by the Resilient Urban Forests for All USFS (see DFC #2 above) and funding from the Department of Health's Climate & Health Program (see below). The Governor's budget includes \$1 million for UCF for tree planting in cities, which will allow us to expand this program substantially in the coming years.

### **Green Stormwater Infrastructure**

- Lake Champlain Sea Grant has hired a new Green Infrastructure Coordinator, Jill Sarazen, to lead the Green Infrastructure Collaborative. The group includes public and private sector professionals and will be reviving statewide green infrastructure coordination planning this spring.

#### **Department of Health: Climate & Health Funding**

We entered into a MOA with our partners at the Department of Health's Climate & Health Program to support outreach and programming to highlight the public health benefits of trees and forests. This funding expired 8/31 and primarily supported the fall Vermont Community Canopy program and a seasonal FPR staff member under our Climate Forester, Ali Kosiba.

#### **Fruit and Nut Tree Program**

This spring, we awarded a grant to the [Vermont Garden Network](#) (VGN) to support fruit and nut tree plantings at community gardens statewide, with a broad goal of increasing food access and exposure to the benefits of trees. We worked with VGN to design a mini-grant program and select recipients. Metrics of the program:

- 44 applications were received
- With additional support from Branch Out Burlington, 21 project applications were funded across the state. Read more about the program and recipients [here](#).
- VGN hosted a webinar about fruit and nut tree planting and care that had 20 participants.
- VGN hosted a mobile educational classroom at 10 of the planting events.

We are still waiting on the final report with a tally of the total number of fruit and nut trees planted. This project has been very successful and we are eager to replicate it next year; we have begun discussions with VGN and hope to enter a new grant agreement soon.

Desired Future Condition 4: Land Ethic		
Maintain and enhance an ethic of respect for the land, sustainable use, and exemplary management.		
Strategies		Priorities
4.1	Create awareness and foster recognition of the ecological, social, cultural, and economic contributions that urban and community forests provide to Vermont, and the need to sustain forest health and productivity to ensure continued benefits for this and future generations.	✓
4.2	Maintain and expand public outreach, social media, and technology transfer.	



4.3	Educate and engage the public, including students, in urban and community forest stewardship and community science, including Vermont Tree Stewards and Forest Pest First Detectors.	
4.4	Educate landowners, tree wardens, forestry professionals, professional arborists, municipal staff, and land managers on the benefits of urban and community forest stewardship.	✓
4.5	Promote the implementation and demonstration of sustainable forest management on private and public lands, including town forests.	
4.6	Promote urban and community forests as an opportunity to respond to the COVID 19 global pandemic and help Vermont communities restore civic life, build social connections, spark economic vitality, and improve environmental sustainability.	✓
4.7	Support volunteer groups, particularly municipal tree committees, conservation commissions, and town forest committees, in issues of community governance and leadership.	

### **Arbor Day**

- We have started to plan (or started to plan to plan!) for Arbor Day 2023; we hope to revive the in person VT Arbor Day Conference.

### **Recognition Programs:**

- We have supported Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA designees as needed; there are several new communities that are working on their Tree City USA benchmarks this year and hope to apply in December.
- As far we know, Shelburne Community School is the first k-12 institution in VT to apply for Tree Campus k-12 designation. Our summer intern, Julia, [wrote this case study](#) about their process.

### **Vermont Big Tree Program**

- The big tree program has been launched to the public! Check out the [new map and list](#)! The goal of this program is to connect with people as a helpful outreach tool, so staff will continue to balance calls and capacity to ensure viability of the program. VT UCF's summer intern, Julia D'Alessio, supported Gwen this summer in measuring 30 Big Tree candidates in the towns of Milton, Burlington, Washington, Castleton, Wolcott, Eden, Cornwall, Proctor, Fairlee, Shelburne, Newbury, Bristol, Rutland, Northfield, Pittsford, Chittenden.

### **Forest Pest First Detectors**

- Reorganization of materials on our website to create on-line toolkit: Currently materials related to community engagement and working with municipalities on pest preparedness are in several different locations on two of our websites and are a little difficult to locate for someone not familiar with the sites. As part of our website reorganization, we will be placing these materials in one location for Forest Pest First Detectors to use and share with other volunteers.

### **Backyard Woods Course**

- 2022 Course: Gwen is planning for a county-specific round of Backyard Woods that will run this fall and is also creating a “short course” that will be available anytime.

### **Forestry Education Programs and Youth Engagement**

- Professional On Demand Forestry Webinar Library: We continue to maintain an on-demand forestry webinar library for VT licensed foresters to get free CEUs, through a partnership with UVM Extension, Forests, Parks and Recreation and Vermont Woodlands Association. Given the new Extension Forester coming onboard, we will be discussing the most appropriate, and sustainable home for this resource.
- ourVTwoods.org 2.0: Plans are moving forward for redesigning this partner website. Based on feedback from partners, the goal of the website moving forward should be to serve as a collaborative resource for landowners, professionals and partner organizations. We are proposing to remove municipalities and educators as core audiences. With the new Extension Forester coming on board, Kate is hoping to hand-off the coordination of some of this work to that person. Kate has secured the funding from Vermont Community Foundation to do some initial website strategy work, and rebranding/design. The work is planned for this fall.
- Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) VT: We continue to support this partner initiative of VT UCF, Vermont Coverts, Vermont Land Trust, the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, Vermont Woodlands Association, UVM Extension, and the Women’s Agricultural Network.
  - The WOW project funded by the USFS Landscape Scale Restoration grant is moving forward; grant agreements are in place for Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Woodlands Association, Vermont Coverts, and UVM Extension. VYCC’s grant agreement is in FPR business office review.
  - WOW forestry demonstration projects are underway! VYCC’s forestry crews will be implementing forestry practices working with 3 women landowners in September and October.
  - WOW will be hosting pre- treatment educational walks in the demonstration areas:
    - September 18th 10am-12pm WOW Forestry Walk and Talk: Improving the woods through a Crop Tree Release Project

- WOW is planning more learning circle this fall on managing invasive plants

### **Town Forests Stewardship Demonstration and Leadership Training**

FPR, UVM Extension, and the Vermont Land Trust continue to work on the USFS Landscape Scale Restoration project, ***Community Forests as Models of Stewardship***. The goal of this project is to highlight community forests as models of stewardship through planning, developing, mapping, and promoting stewardship demonstration sites, addressing various management challenges, new educational programming that trains community leaders on stewardship, and professionals on working with communities. Highlights this quarter include

- Demonstration Project Library in Development: The community forestry demonstration library will provide access for private landowners to visit places where forest management has been happening. The database will be built using Drupal and will be hosted on vtcommunityforestry.org, and will be built to RSS feed to share projects with Northeast Silvicultural Library. We expect the Library will be up and running by late September.
- Community Forest Stewardship Toolkit: The toolkit development is underway! The toolkit will consist of 4 modules including governance, community engagement, planning and implementation. The toolkit will be integrated with the Town Forest Recreation Planning Toolkit

### **Media/Communications:**

- Social Media: Continue to support our social media account (Facebook); the team rotates posting responsibilities.
- Newsletters: Bimonthly TREEmail; monthly VolunTREEmail
- Website: Continue to maintain and improve the site - [www.vtcommunityforestry.org](http://www.vtcommunityforestry.org). Tamarack Media has been working on the upgrade to the site and Gwen has started to design and populate pages. The site will have a new look and a revamped architecture (organization); migration of content will be the focus in the coming quarter and we hope to launch the new site by the end of the calendar year.

## **Desired Future Condition 5: Legal, Institutional, & Economic Framework**

Vermont has a legal, institutional, and economic framework in place for forest conservation and sustainability.

Strategies		Priorities
5.1	Sustain and expand funding opportunities to support local, state, and regional efforts for urban and community forest stewardship, health, and sustainability.	✓
5.2	Educate state leadership, including legislatures, secretaries, commissioners, and division/department directors of programming efforts, opportunities, and challenges.	
5.3	Educate communities, volunteers, and residents about urban and community forest policies, governance models, rules, and laws including Vermont's Tree Warden statutes.	✓
5.4	Advocate for policies, programs, and initiatives that assist in urban and community forest stewardship, health, and sustainability.	
5.5	Strive to strategically identify emerging issues and meet immediate challenges and establish an appropriate level of infrastructure and staffing.	
5.6	Foster strategic partnerships to deliver innovative urban and community forestry programming and support organizational capacity.	✓
5.7	Promote and cultivate cross-program and cross-agency cooperation and communication, within Vermont as well as with regional and national partners, to improve efficiency and effectiveness.	
5.8	Maintain and develop data management systems, ensure indicators are appropriate to monitor progress, and share data among partners to enhance internal and external communications and collaborations.	
5.9	Support professional development, continued learning, and succession planning for program staff.	
5.10	Foster an organizational culture within the program that rewards excellence, celebrates accomplishments, encourages teamwork, and recognizes achievements.	
5.11	Increase access to the benefits of trees and urban and community forests for all Vermonters by applying a lens of environmental justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity across programming.	✓

## **2022 Legislative Session**

- The Governor's budget passed and included **\$1 million for UCF** to plant 5,000 trees in urban areas to support Vermont's Climate Action Plan. This is an unprecedented funding opportunity for UCF and we are eager to start planning. Accessing these funds has proven to be a process and we are working on taking the necessary steps to have an actual funding code. This funding will allow us to hire a 2-year limited service position to implement planting projects statewide.

### **Tree Wardens**

- **Shade Tree Preservation Plans:** As part of the guidance UCF provides related to the amended tree warden statutes, we worked with 10 selected municipalities over 13 months to draft municipal shade tree preservation plans. The components and goals of the plans are outlined in the statutes, but we worked with each community individually to develop a suite of templates for communities of varied size, population, and land use. The program supported East Montpelier, Monkton, St. Albans, Charlotte, Hartford, Johnson, Middlebury, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury, and West Windsor until March of 2022. Unofficially, we're also working with the Town of Shelburne and the Town of Brattleboro to update their comprehensive urban forest management plan and include required components of a shade tree preservation plan and have met with volunteers in the Town of Calais regarding their plan. In this quarter, Joanne supported Brandon's preparatory work towards a draft shade tree preservation plan and trained volunteers in Shrewsbury and Mount Holly on the updated app that will assist in mapping municipal shade trees. The Town of Mount Holly passed their shade tree preservation plan with the assistance of Mount Holly Tree Warden Phil Crane.

### **Financial Assistance to Communities**

- 2022 Grants:
  - Growing Urban Forests in the Face of Emerald Ash Borer Grants: We funded 7 projects for a total of just over \$60,000. All grant agreements have been executed and projects are underway. [More information here.](#)
  - Caring for Canopy Grants: We funded 10 municipalities to support a variety of projects for a total of just over \$36,000. All grant agreements have been executed and projects are underway. [Learn more here.](#)
- UCF staff are considering how to better tell our story through the projects funded and municipalities supported financially over the years. We are starting to add these to our website and are making some alterations to our [Community Map](#) to be able to show the impact of UCF's funding statewide.
- 2023 Grants: We have launched our 2023 grant programs: \$80,000 will be available for municipalities through our Growing Urban Forests in the Face of EAB grants and \$30,000 will be available for to support general community tree programs. Applications will be due at the end of the calendar year.

## **Financial and Programming Partnerships**

### **UVM Extension:**

- Our 2021/2022 grant agreement to support our UCF staff at Extension has closed.
- In this quarter the 2022/2023 grant agreement was submitted and executed and is supporting Gwen, Kate, and Ginger's UCF-related work.
- UVM Extension's new Extension Forester has been announced: the position will be filled by Ali Kosiba (FPR's current Climate Forester); we are excited that this position has been filled and eager to work with Ali.

### **US Forest Service:**

- UCF submitted a proposal for the Sustainable Urban Forest Resilience grants program (focused on EAB reforestation) and program staff submitted a project proposal requesting ~\$108k; we were funded nearly fully and are eager to engage in another round of EAB-specific support for our audiences.
- Elise is serving on the Northeast Midwest State Foresters Alliance (NMSFA) Trees & Public Health Committee and implemented a survey to state UCF coordinators regarding engagement in public health programming and known resources.
- The [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#) was passed by Congress and signed by President Biden. Among many other things, this bill will mean \$1.5 BILLION to the federal Urban & Community Forestry program over the next decade. We have yet to hear word on what this means for our state programs, but anticipate some big and exciting things to come.

**Urban Forest Economic Study:** VT is one of 11 state partners engaged in an economic impact study of urban forestry in the northeast region. The project came to a close this quarter and we received a robust outreach package, including a regional and state-specific report. [Learn more about this study and the Vermont-specific highlights.](#)

## **Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity (JEDI) work**

- Our staff has finalized our external-facing statement regarding justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity in VT UCF, addressing the work that the team is undertaking to advance JEDI initiatives at personal and programmatic levels. It was approved by ANR leadership and now [lives on the UCF website](#).
- The group also updated measurable goals for the program to approach over the short- and long-term. This quarter we continued to work on our logic model to help us track our work around JEDI issues, and to hold ourselves accountable to the goals and objectives we have identified as priorities. We have set up a recurring monthly meeting to focus on this work.

### **Professional Development**

- Kate continues her EdD program at UVM this spring, remotely.
- Elise attended the Vermont Nursery & Landscape Association summer meeting.
- Elise attended the Vermont Council on Rural Development's VT Community Leadership Summit.

### **Program Staffing**

- Maintaining weekly check-ins online.
- We held our quarterly staff meeting at VINS/Quechee Gorge and focused on connecting and celebrating our team's work throughout the pandemic.
- All UCF staff continue to work primarily from home.
- **Julia D'Alessio** served as our summer intern through the UVM Rubenstein School Perennial Internship Program. Julia assisted with a variety of programming and outreach across the board. Read about [Julia's internship here](#).
- Our UVM Field Naturalist graduate student, **Charlotte Cadow**, has continued to work on her year-long black ash-focused project. See more under DCF 2 above.
- After 16 years, Kate will be leaving VT UCF and UVM Extension on October 11th to lead Vermont Woodlands Associations as their new Executive Director.

### **Council**

- We are still seeking 2 members to sit on the leadership team.
- We welcome **Kyle Mason**, Rutland County Forester, to Council as the new FPR rep and **Scott Wunderle** as the new VT ASLA representative.
- There is currently 1 vacancy on Council: Lee Krohn has decided to give up his ad-hoc seat; we will advertise widely for this opening.