

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

Desired Future Condition 1: Biological Diversity		
Conserve biological diversity across all landscapes.		
Strategies		Priorities
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 and the project has closed. The [Act 171 Forest Planning website](#) houses all of the information about this project. This quarter VT Fish & Wildlife's Community Wildlife program has been hosting workshops using the 6-part Forests Matter video series as foundation for conversations about forest planning in municipalities. As a reminder, 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](#)

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 September and December 2022, the towns of Halifax, Colchester, Rochester, Alburgh, and Chelsea received assistance with inventory methodology and data management. Additionally, we continued to work with Addison County Community Trust at the Otter Creek mobile home park to assess the susceptibility of their properties to the threat of EAB.
- 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, Shrewsbury, Brandon, and Essex with inventory of trees in public ways and places using our existing Public Tree Inventory tool.

- Ordinances and Policies: In this quarter, we supported the Towns of Brattleboro 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: We have started planning for 2023 municipal/professional trainings and are hoping to offer:
  - Another rope throwing/safely guiding felled trees to the ground workshop for road crew staff
  - An aerial rescue course for professional arborists
  - A duo of tree nursery tour/workshops for tree wardens, municipal staff, and volunteers

### **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 planting six bare root trees in the ROW along downtown Lyndonville streets, bringing Windsor's tree planting plans forward for selectboard comment, collaborating with Lyndonville public works staff regarding tree care, and partnering with the cities of Burlington and Rutland to provide support for Lyndonville and Windsor's tree planting programs.

### **New Vermont Urban Tree Canopy Map**

The last time we ran an analysis on statewide urban tree canopy coverage was in 2012. This quarter, we have worked with our ANR GIS team to update the map. Using E911 data to define densely populated areas in the state, the map shows tree canopy coverage and impervious surface cover within the "Urban Landscape Zone". A census block layer is also visible. We hope to use this map to better inform priority areas for technical assistance, funding allocation, and tree equity initiatives. The map will soon be available.

### **Professional Arborist Community**

As one of only a few certified proctors to administer International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) exams in Vermont, Elise tries to offer a couple of in-person exam dates annually. This quarter, an in-person exam was held in Berlin with two exam-takers present.

### 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 for which we have begun to plan 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: presentations to the Vermont Commission of Native American Affairs, data analysis and ongoing production of two StoryMaps ([here](#) and [here](#)), presentation to forest landowners through the Vermont Land Trust webinar on EAB and ash tree management, and continued outreach and networking with black ash basket makers and landowners interested in harvesting black ash trees for splint pounding and storage.

- Private and public land managers continue to ask for assistance and outreach regarding ash tree management. Joanne presented information on ash tree safety and removal along municipal roads at the Windham Regional Road Foremen's gathering in Dover, VT. Joanne and Charlotte presented information regarding EAB spread and ash tree management to landowners via a webinar hosted by the Vermont Land Trust.

### **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. Our Forest Pest Education Coordinator, Ginger Nickerson, was out on extended medical leave for much of this quarter. Ginger is back at work and gearing up for focusing programming efforts on spotted lanternfly, an invasive leaf hopper which is rapidly moving North.

<b>Desired Future Condition 3: Forest Products &amp; Ecosystem Services</b>		
<b>Maintain and enhance forest contribution to ecosystem services.</b>		
<b>Strategies</b>		<b>Priorities</b>
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**

- 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.
- Planning for 2023: The goal for the 2023 program will be 1,500 free trees distributed. We are working to identify potential new partners for the spring and fall events.

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

In 2022 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, 20 project applications were funded across the state representing 54 growing sites. Read more about the program and recipients [here](#).
- With this new grant program, more than 580 individuals and over 1,750 volunteer hours made the planting of approximately **515 fruit and nut trees** and shrubs possible.

This project has been very successful and this quarter we took steps toward replicating it in 2023. A subaward agreement with FPR is in process and the Vermont Garden Network's [2023 grant program](#) is currently accepting applications.

### **Regional Urban Forest Economic Study**

Funded through a US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Grant, VT UCF has been involved in a comprehensive analysis of urban and community forestry economic contributions across the Northwest-Midwest region, which includes 20 states and Washington DC. The project was led by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the study includes economic impact numbers, employment numbers, industry outlook, and a resource valuation. The final products include regional- and state-level reports, accompanying factsheets and a methodology report.

- **Regional Research Highlights**

- Urban forestry activities in the Northeast-Midwest region of the U.S. had a total contribution of **\$34.7 billion** to the regional economy, employing more than 357,200 people with a payroll of about \$16.05 billion.
- Every dollar generated in urban forestry contributed an additional \$0.97 to the regional economy.
- Trees cover about 28% of the region's urban areas, resulting in an annual savings of \$3.06 billion a year across three broad categories of ecosystem service

- **Vermont Research Highlights**

- In 2018, urban forestry in Vermont directly contributed \$128 million in industry output and \$81 million in value-added by supporting about 1,780 full- and part-time jobs in various businesses and activities.
- We estimated that every dollar generated in urban forestry by the private sector contributed an additional \$0.53 to the state economy.
- Community tree canopy, estimated to cover 38% in our most urban areas, saved an estimated \$3.3 million from the removal of air pollutants, \$3.5 million from the reduction of stormwater and \$7.7 million from the sequestration of carbon.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the study and to access the final report.

[Click here](#) to access the state-specific reports and factsheets.

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 will be reviving the in-person VT Arbor Day Conference!
- The 2023 Growing Works of Art contest is live! The theme this year is: **Branching Out** and entries are due 3/10/23. More information on the [webpage here](#).

### **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 will be applying for 2022 recognition.
- This quarter the Arbor Day Foundation released a new Tree City USA strategic plan, which took into consideration survey results that incorporated feedback from our UCF program staff as well as representatives from the designated Vermont Tree City USA communities.
- Shelburne Community School is officially the first k-12 institution in VT to be designated as a Tree Campus k-12 institution. Our summer intern, Julia, [wrote this case study](#) about their process.

### **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: 39 landowners from Orange and Windsor counties participated in this fall's course. AJ Follensbee hosted 1 question and answer session and an in-person woods walk. Engagement with course materials was low, perhaps in part due to the commitment of a 6-week course. A "short course" with the ecology basics and tools is planned for the spring and will likely be a 2–3-hour commitment.

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

- Professional On Demand Forestry Webinar Library: With Kate's departure from UCF, the future of the professional on-demand forestry webinar library is a topic of hot discussion. We will be meeting soon with partners, including UVM Extension, VT Coverts, and Vermont Woodlands Association to discuss the most appropriate, and sustainable home for this resource.
- ourVTwoods.org 2.0: With Kate's departure from UCF, plans are currently on hold for the redesign of the ourVTwoods website. Partners from UVM Extension, FPR, VT Coverts, and Vermont Woodlands Association are continuing to meet and discuss the best path forward. The funding that Kate had secured from the Vermont Community Foundation will likely be allocated to a contractor to lead and facilitate a scale-down and revisioning process to make the ourVTwoods site easier to manage and a sustainable resource, given the lack of ownership for the site.
- 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, UVM Extension, and VYCC.
  - With Kate's departure from the UCF team, the UVM Extension subaward will be revisited, edited, and likely the WOW funding for that award will be pulled and redistributed to VWA and VT Coverts.
  - VYCC's forestry crew implemented forestry practices on 2 properties, working with women landowners this quarter.
  - UCF's Joanne Garton will be stepping onto the WOW Steering Committee in the new year to keep the program engaged with the project and the group.

- Elise presented on urban forestry topics in two UVM courses this fall: Urban Ecology and Forest Health.

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

With Kate's departure in October, UCF's involvement with this project has stalled. 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. Kate was working on a *demonstration project library*, as well as a *community forest stewardship toolkit*. We are meeting with UVM Extension in December to discuss amending the existing UVM Extension subaward to pull these components out and to work with Keith Thompson at FPR (the lead of the project) to hire a consultant through FPR to finish these project components.

### **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 been very busy populating the pages. The site will have a new look and a revamped architecture (organization); there are still a few outstanding pieces that we are waiting on Tamarack to finalize and we hope to launch the new site in January.

<b>Desired Future Condition 5: Legal, Institutional, &amp; Economic Framework</b>		
<b>Vermont has a legal, institutional, and economic framework in place for forest conservation and sustainability.</b>		
<b>Strategies</b>		<b>Priorities</b>
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 2022 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 QUITE the process and we are working on taking the necessary steps. Our initial proposal for how to spend down the funds was sent back due to concerns about increased burden on FPR's business office. We are now proposing a block grant program to allocate the ~\$700,000 in grants for tree planting. This funding will also allow us to scale up the Vermont Community Canopy Program (see DFC 3 above) and will allow us to hire a 2-year limited service position to implement planting projects statewide.

### **Tree Wardens**

- **Shade Tree Preservation Plans:** We continue to help towns develop these new plans, as needed. The components and goals of the plans are outlined in the statutes, and we work with each community individually to develop a suite of templates for communities of varied size, population, and land use. In this quarter, Joanne supported Brandon's preparatory work towards a draft shade tree preservation plan.

### **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. Some will end in December while others have been extended into spring/summer 2023. [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 to support general community tree programs. Applications are due at the end of December.

### **Financial and Programming Partnerships**

#### UVM Extension:

- Our 2022/2023 grant agreement to support our UCF staff at Extension has been executed, though we are in the process of amendments based on Kate's departure.
- Gwen has taken over as the PI on the UVM Extension grant, and Ali Kosiba (UVM Extension Forester) has taken over as the PI on Ginger's Forest Pest Outreach grant (from APHIS) and is also now supervising both Gwen and Ginger.

#### 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 now implementing the project.
- Elise is serving on the Northeast Midwest State Foresters Alliance (NMSFA) Trees & Public Health Committee.

- The [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#) was passed by Congress and signed by President Biden. Among many other things, this bill has allocated \$1.5 BILLION to the federal Urban & Community Forestry program over the next decade. We are eagerly awaiting the federal advice about how this funding will be distributed, but do know that it will mean an additional \$50k added to our base budget (in addition to other opportunities for additional funding) and that we have been encouraged to be bold and to scale our state programs up.

### **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. We continue 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.
- This quarter, the team is working with a group in Windsor to get a tree planted and dedicated to the Pride community. Initially, the tree was included in the RUFA (Resilient Urban Forests for All) program for Windsor, but the town rejected the group's request. The UCF team is committed to the request and is facilitating discussions with managers of the state owned property, the Old Constitution House to get a tree planted a dedication planned for the spring.

### **Professional Development**

- Joanne and Elise attended the annual County Foresters Retreat in September and participated in a black ash pounding workshop led by Kerry and Aaron Wood, citizens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation.
- Joanne and Elise attended the New England International Society of Arboriculture meeting in Framingham, MA.
- Elise presented on EAB planning at the Vermont Recreation Conference at Lake Morey.
- Joanne presented the Resilient Right-of-Ways project at the Rhode Island tree warden conference organized by the Rhode Island Urban & Community Forestry Program.
- Elise and Joanne presented on tree stewardship in Vermont at Municipal Day.
- Elise attended the National Program Coordinators USFS meeting and the National Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Seattle, WA.
- Elise applied for and was accepted into the 2023 cohort of the [Green Communities Leadership Institute](#) and will start her semester with

the program in January.

### **Program Staffing**

- Maintaining weekly check-ins online.
- We held our quarterly staff meeting in Montpelier and welcomed Ali Kosiba, new UVM Extension Forester, to join and learn about the UCF Program.
- 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 and has continued on with the program to coordinate a senior capstone project focused on providing ash inventory and EAB planning assistance to several partners.
- 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 left VT UCF and UVM Extension on October 11th to lead Vermont Woodlands Associations as their new Executive Director. We are thrilled that Kate will be stepping onto the UCF Council as the VWA rep.

### **Council**

- We welcome **Darren Schibler**, Senior Planner with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to Council as our new at-large member.
- We will begin our new leadership rotation in January; Tim Smith and Warren Spinner will serve for the 2023 calendar year.