

Vermont Arbor Day Conference
 Friday, May 19, 2023
 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
 Vermont Technical College
 Randolph, Vermont

8:30-9am	Registration & Refreshments		
9-9:45am	Welcome and Keynote Panel		
9:45-10am	Break		
10-10:50am	Concurrent Sessions		
	Right Tree, Right Place: Tree Selection Tips	Utilizing a Municipal Tree Inventory	Urban & Community Forestry Grows Bigger Than Ever
10:50-11:10am	Break		
11:10-12pm	Concurrent Sessions		
	Trees, Forests, and the Future of Your Town: Collaboration Is Key!	Fruit and Nut Tree Panel	Tree Pest & Disease Round Up
12-1:30pm	Lunch (Provided)		
1:30-2:30pm	Concurrent Sessions		
	Building Local Capacity for Urban Forestry Programs	Tree Warden Roundtable	Campus Tree Care Tour
2:30-2:45pm	Break		
2:45-3:30pm	Awards Ceremony		

Credits: Certified arborists that participate in 3 workshops are eligible for 2.5 continuing education units from the International Society of Arboriculture.

Workshop Descriptions

9-9:45am Keynote Panel

Welcome and Keynote Panel

Richard Amore, Planning & Outreach Manager
Vermont, Department of Housing and Community
Development

Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, VT Fish &
Wildlife Department

Jessica Savage, Director of Community Collaboration,
Vermont Council on Rural Development

Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program (VT UCF) is delighted to once again host the Arbor Day Conference. Much has changed since the last conference in 2019 and with unprecedented levels of funding, this is the time to “dream big”. VT UCF is seizing the opportunity to scale up the regional and local community tree programs and charge Vermont’s tree stewards to think creatively on how to make an impact. Invited panelists will share their work and inspire the audience to consider new collaborations and generate ideas towards creating and sustaining Vermont’s urban & community forests.

10-10:50am Concurrent Sessions

Right, Tree, Right Place: Tree Selection Tips

Tim Parsons, Middlebury College
Tim Smith, Rutland City Forester

Healthy community trees are the foundation of healthy urban forests. Proper selection of tree species and planting sites is crucial. Join this session to talk about tree species selection, tree types (container vs balled and burlapped), challenges and successes in urban tree planting projects.

Utilizing a Municipal Tree Inventory

Joanne Garton, VT Urban & Community Forestry Prog.
Nicole Gratton, Town of Lyndon

Proper care and stewardship of trees in our downtowns and village centers starts with a functional and current municipal tree inventory. The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program supports a free, mobile-friendly, and GIS-based inventory tool available to all municipal staff and volunteers. Join this workshop to learn more about it and how the tool and associated training could grow your municipal tree care program and learn from two municipalities that have put the tool to the test over the last calendar year.

Urban & Community Forestry Grows Bigger than Ever!

Elise Schadler, VT Urban & Community Forestry Prog.

This is the moment for community trees: with a historic investment in urban and community forestry nationwide, the Inflation Reduction Act, passed in late 2022, will transform the landscape, quite literally, as well as the field of urban forestry. Join Elise Schadler to learn about VT UCF’s plans, funding opportunities, and how you can help your community plan for action.

11:10-12pm Concurrent Sessions

Trees, Forests, and the Future of Your Town: Collaboration Is Key!

Chris Campany, Windham Regional Planning Commission

Darren Schibler, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Communities engage in town planning, hazard mitigation planning, and conservation efforts that either directly or indirectly speak to the importance of forests and trees and community well-being. Too often these efforts are done in isolation from one another and the work of one doesn't build upon the other. We'll examine how planning commissions, conservation commissions, and other committees and groups can work together to build upon the work they're already doing to strengthen the role of forests and trees in making our communities more pleasant, more flood and climate change resilient, and more supportive of habitat connectivity and diversity.

Fruit and Nut Tree Panel

Marilyn Chiarello, Edible Brattleboro

Angela DeBettencourt, Vermont Garden Network

Michelle Gates, Vermont Garden Network

Trevor Stannus, Edible Brattleboro

Carissa Stein, Montgomery Conservation Commission

The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program has partnered with the Vermont Garden network to increase access to fruit and nut trees statewide. Join this session to hear from 3 communities who will share their project development, species selection, challenges, and successes.

Tree Pest & Disease Round Up

Savannah Ferreira, Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Invasive pests and diseases threaten Vermont's forests. Join this session to learn about beech leaf disease, oak wilt, spongy moth, and spotted lanternfly. Savannah Ferrerira will cover the threats these pests and diseases pose, as well as how to identify, and report any sightings.

1:30-2:30 Concurrent Sessions

Building Local Capacity for Urban Forestry Programs

Darren Schibler, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Maintaining healthy forests, especially in developed areas, is a key strategy with cross-cutting benefits to respond to climate change, improve public health, and foster thriving and sustainable communities. Learn how to prepare your town for a historic infusion of federal funding to build (or grow) your urban forestry program from the ground up. This session will cover topics ranging from recruiting and coordinating volunteers, making the value proposition to elected officials, educating the public, and crafting public policy.

Tree Warden Roundtable

Joanne Garton, Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Tree wardens statewide share basic duties according to the 2020 updates to Vermont's municipal tree laws. However, their experiences differ among Vermont's many urban and community spaces. Join this facilitated discussion to review core responsibilities, ask questions, share expertise, and share what you need to support tree wardens in your region. This session is intended to be a discussion forum for tree wardens and interested volunteers or municipal staff.

Campus Tree Care Tour

Zina Dana, Landscape Contracting

Marlys E. Eddy, Landscape Contracting

Molly Willard, Forestry Program and The Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems, CEWD

Explore the Vermont Technical College campus on this walking tree tour. Learn species, identification, management and tree care work.