

# VERMONT URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY CONFERENCE



**Thursday, May 23, 2024**  
**8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**  
**Vermont State University**  
**Randolph, Vermont**

**8:30-9am**

**Registration**

**9-9:45am**

**Welcome and Keynote Speaker: Commissioner Danielle Fitzko**

**9:45-10am**

**Break**

**10-10:45am**

**Concurrent Workshops (Choose one)**

- Community Tree Planting Grant (*Judd Hall*)
- Vermont Forest Health Update (*Conant 102*)
- Town Forests Roundtable (*Conant 101*)

**10:45-11:00am**

**Break**

**11:00-11:45am**

**Concurrent Workshops**

- Planting Trees in the State Right-of-Way (*Judd Hall*)
- Community Science for Community Trees (*Conant 102*)
- Speed Networking (*Conant 101*)

**11:45-1:00pm**

**Lunch** (*Provided in Judd Hall*)

**1:00-1:45pm**

**Concurrent Workshops**

- Strategies for Coexistence: Landscape Architectural Concepts and Details (*Judd Hall*)
- Right Tree, Right Place (*Outside, starts at Judd Hall*)
- Branching Out Together (*Conant 101*)

**1:45-2:00pm**

**Break**

**2:00-2:45pm**

**Concurrent Workshops**

- Trees Really Are the Answer! Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategies (*Judd Hall*)
- Tree Pruning (*Outside, starts at Judd Hall*)
- Community Outreach Skills (*Conant 101*)

**2:45-3:00pm**

**Break**

**3-3:30pm**

**Awards Ceremony**

# Workshop Descriptions

## 9-9:45am Keynote Speaker

### Welcome and Keynote Speaker

*Judd Hall*

Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation

Commissioner Danielle Fitzko will highlight the critical role of urban forests in fostering resilient and vibrant communities across Vermont. Drawing upon her expertise in natural resource management, she will delve into the interconnectedness between urban green spaces, public health, and economic vitality.

Commissioner Fitzko's visionary leadership and commitment to sustainability make her an inspiring advocate for the preservation and expansion of Vermont's urban forests. Her keynote speech promises to inspire and empower attendees to become catalysts for positive change in their own communities, as we collectively strive towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

## 10-10:45am Workshops

### Community Tree Planting Grant *(Judd Hall)*

Darren Schibler, Chittenden Co. Regional Planning Commission & Adam McCullough, VT Urban & Community Forestry Program

Want to plant trees in the heart of your community? Now's your chance! The Urban & Community Forestry Program is teaming up with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to administer \$630,000 statewide in grants for tree planting in urban areas. We'll review the who, what, when, where, and how of the program and why small towns should take advantage of technical assistance available as part of the grant. Adam McCullough will share tips on planting plan development for a strong application.

### Vermont Forest Health Update *(Conant 102)*

Savannah Ferreira, Dept. of Forests, Parks & Rec.

Pests and diseases pose significant threats to Vermont's forests. Join Forest Health Specialist, Savannah Ferrerira, to learn about both native and invasive pests, the threats they pose, as well as how to identify, and report any sightings.

### Town Forests Roundtable *(Conant 101)*

Joanne Garton, VT Urban & Community Forestry Program and Julie Frost, University of Vermont

Municipalities of all sizes balance the needs and wishes of their community in hundreds of town forests, natural areas, and reservoir parcels, and statewide. From logging and trail building to invasive plant management and riparian restoration, town forest and conservation committee members like you are busy balancing multiple decision factors. Julie Frost, University of Vermont graduate student, presents the ongoing progress of the 2024 Town Forest Census and Joanne Garton, VT UCF Technical Assistance Coordinator, shares the most recent compilation of resources of town forest leadership committees. Bring your questions, concerns, and new idea to learn more about the multitude of ways we all can steward town forests.

## 11:00-11:45am Workshops

### **Planting Trees in the State Right-of-Way**

*(Judd Hall)*

Bonnie Kirn Donahue, VTrans

Ever wondered how to plant trees in the state right-of-way (ROW?) Learn more about the process and what to consider with Vermont Agency of Transportation's Landscape Architect, Bonnie Kirn Donahue. We will cover how to make a tree plan and look at a recent example in East Middlebury. You will come away with a better understanding of the steps it takes to plant trees in the state ROW.

### **Community Science for Community Trees**

*(Conant 102)*

Joanne Garton, VT Urban & Community Forestry Program

Get beyond tree genus and species - learn about another way to tell your tree stories! Discuss why community-driven data collection matters and how, when we work together, we can all contribute to long-term success of local and regional urban & community forestry programs. From bird sightings and invasive plant phenology to precipitation and noise monitoring, there is so much in our urban ecosystems waiting to be seen, heard, and loaded into user-friendly maps and graphics. Bring your passions, questions, and smart devices to dive into tips and tricks that will get you outside, noticing nature, and recording important data trends in your public places.

### **Speed Networking** *(Conant 101)*

VT Urban & Community Forestry Staff

Join us for a speed networking workshop designed to connect you with fellow tree advocates. In this interactive session, participants will have the opportunity to meet with several fellow attendees in short, structured networking rounds. You'll have the chance to introduce yourself, share your expertise, and discover potential collaborations.

## 1:00-1:45pm Workshops

### **Strategies for Coexistence: Landscape Architectural Concepts and Details**

*(Judd Hall)*

Scott Wunderle, Terrigenous Landscape Architecture

Scott Wunderle will share a way of thinking that begins with human desire, then incorporates the natural world around us into the construction of architectural elements and outdoor space.

### **Right Tree, Right Place** *(Outside, starts at Judd Hall)*

Adam McCullough, VT Urban & Community Forestry Program

Ball and burlap (B+B) trees remain an integral part of urban and community forestry, offering resilience and stability in challenging environments. Join Adam McCullough for a tree planting demonstration. In this workshop, participants will learn essential techniques for safely removing wire baskets and handling the substantial size and weight of B+B trees. Participants of all experience levels are welcome. Experienced planters are encouraged to share their knowledge and expertise.

### **Branching Out Together** *(Conant 101)*

VT Urban & Community Forestry Program

Let's reimagine a future where everyone has access to the benefits of urban trees and where community engagement is inclusive and empowering. Vermont Urban & Community Forestry staff will share their work and strategies to increase access to trees for all Vermonters. Bring your questions and be ready to share insights of what works well in your community. Join us for an inspiring workshop that will ignite your passion for equity and justice in our urban forests.

## 2-2:45pm Workshops

### **Trees Really Are the Answer! Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategies**

*(Judd Hall)*

Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission and  
Caroline Paske, State Hazard Mitigation Planner

You may have seen the bumper sticker “Trees Are The Answer.” It’s true! Join us for an insightful workshop designed to foster collaboration among urban forestry, hazard mitigation, and municipal planning stakeholders. We will lead discussions on how planning commissions, conservation commissions, and other community groups can synergize their efforts to amplify the role of forests, trees, and their herbaceous kin in enhancing community well-being. They’ll showcase successful initiatives and strategies for leveraging existing work to create more resilient and sustainable communities.

### **Tree Pruning** *(Outside, starts at Judd Hall)*

Adam McCullough, VT Urban & Community Forestry Program

Pruning trees proactively can greatly improve their longevity by stabilizing their structure to withstand expected forces, and to support the weight of future growth. Join Adam McCullough for a tree pruning demonstration, including discussion of tools, techniques, and above all, choosing which cuts to make and why. Participants of all experience levels are welcome. Experienced pruners are encouraged to share their knowledge and expertise.

### **Community Outreach Skills** *(Conant 101)*

Alyssa Johnson, VT Council on Rural Development

*Description coming soon!*

## 3-3:30pm Awards Ceremony

The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program and Council recognizes Vermont 2024 Tree Stewards and the recipients of national Arbor Day Awards for Tree City, Line and Campus USA.

### **Tree City USA**

TBD

### **Tree Campus USA**

TBD

### **Tree Line USA**

TBD

### **Tree Steward Awards**

Hamilton Award

Leader

Unsung Hero

Volunteer Group/Community

Arbor Day Award