

Patching Together the Urban Forest

The Composition, Management, & Restoration of Urban Forest Patches

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 – 8:00 am to 3:35 pm
Virginia Western Community College (VWCC)
Whitman Theatre, 3099 Colonial Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015



7:15 – 8:00 **Check-in/Registration- Light Refreshments**

Morning Session: VWCC, Roanoke VA- Indoor Lectures

8:00 – 8:05 **Welcome to the Workshop & Announcements**

Lara Johnson, DOF & Clark BeCraft, VWCC

8:05 – 9:05 **An Historical Overview of Eastern Deciduous Forest**

Carolyn Copenheaver, PhD, Virginia Tech

This talk will bring together a variety of historical resources to better understand how the eastern deciduous forest has changed since European settlement. Settlers introduced several land-use practices and non-native species, which resulted in changes to forest composition, structure, and disturbance regimes. A better understanding of historical forest conditions allows land managers to make more realistic management goals for future forests.

9:05 – 10:05 **The Science and Management of Urban Forest Patches**

Nancy Sonti, PhD, USDA Forest Service

Urban forested natural areas often provide a disproportionate amount of ecosystem services to cities relative to other green spaces, yet sustaining healthy forests in urban areas with limited resources remains a challenge for government agencies and non-profit organizations. US Forest Service scientists and collaborators have made recent advances in mapping these spaces, as well as understanding ownership, community perceptions, and on the ground stewardship, and have begun to implement local and regional restoration projects in northeast and mid-Atlantic.

10:00 – 10:15 **** BREAK**

10:15 – 11:15 **Use of Induced Resistance as an Alternative means of Pest and Disease Control**

Glynn Percival, PhD, Bartlett Tree Experts

During their life cycle, urban trees are susceptible to many pathogenic fungi and bacteria that, if uncontrolled, can result in high mortality rates. Conventional management relies heavily on repeat application of pesticides. Induced resistance is the concept of boosting a trees own inherent immunity by the application of organic based soil amendments. This presentation will discuss the range of inducing agents available for professionals involved in tree management as well as their effectiveness, time of application and strategies for use in urban woodland landscapes.

11:15 – 12:15 **Tipping the Balance: Managing Invasive Plants and Supporting Healthy Habitat**

Laura Greenleaf, Founder James River Park System Invasive Plant Task Force

This presentation will introduce invasive plant ecology and cover the essentials of management on urban public lands using the City of Richmond's James River Park System as a model including the challenges and opportunities of working with volunteers and educating park visitors. It will also discuss setting goals, identifying priorities, and developing management plans.

12:15 – 1:15 ****LUNCH PROVIDED**

Afternoon Session: VWCC, Roanoke VA - Outdoor Demonstrations (1:15 pm – 3:35 pm)

STATION 1: The Benefits of Forestry Mulching, Jeff Metz, Jeff Metz LLC Forestry Mulching

Discussion of the benefits of forestry mulching and when to use it.

STATION 2: Chipper Use & Safety, Joey Keefe, CTSP and Lead Training, Bartlett Tree Experts

This talk will cover basic chipper use and safety protocols.

STATION 3: Invasive Plant Walk & Talk, Laura Greenleaf, JRPS

Participants will tour campus and discuss invasive plant management and treatment timing strategies.