Land is a valuable resource and a critical component of the built environment, yet soil is too often destroyed through human activity. The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES), an interdisciplinary effort helping to create healthy functioning landscapes and ecologically resilient communities, seeks to remedy this situation through the alignment of land development and management with innovative design. SITES offers a comprehensive rating system for use by landscape architects and members of related design and planning fields, including foresters, planners, engineers, architects, developers, and policy-makers; it stresses the importance of the outside environment, which the LEED rating system largely overlooked. Can Urban Foresters use this tool in the preservation of soil, which is necessary to trees? How can SITES accreditation meet stormwater requirements through the use of trees, rather than grey infrastructure? How can Urban Foresters promote SITES accreditation as a means to improve and preserve landscapes for trees, provide wildlife habitat, improve air and water quality, and, consequently, improve public health?

9:30 - 10:00 Sign-in and Networking

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome John Noelle, Alexandria City Arborist

10:15 – 11:30 All About SITES and the Urban Forest
Robert Goo, Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Water Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, US EPA

11:30 – 12:00 SITES Project 1: The Washington Canal Park
Rebecca Popowsky, Landscape Designer, The Olin Studies

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and Networking

1:00 – 1:30 SITES Project 2: Anacostia Watershed Society Headquarters; Jo-Elle Burgard, Stewardship Program Specialist and Landscape Designer

1:30 – 2:00 SITES Project 3: The School of International Service at American University; Michael Mastrota, Landscape Architect, AU

2:00 – 2:15 Wrap Up and Announcements

The registration fee for everyone is $5.00. If you would like a box lunch total fee is $15.00. Due to past no shows, all lunches must be prepaid. Registration at www.treesvirginia.org/events

Questions? Becky Woodson, 434-220-9024 becky.woodson@dof.virginia.gov