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NCUFC Presents 2026 NC Urban Forestry Awards

Raleigh, N.C. – The North Carolina Urban Forest Council (NCUFC) presented its 2026 North Carolina Urban Forestry Awards at its annual Great NC Tree Conference. The awards recognize communities, organizations, and individuals for their outstanding work to protect and enhance our urban forests.

The winners include:

- Outstanding Individual: Patrick Gilbert, Chair, Western North Carolina Urban Forest Council
- Outstanding Professional: Laurie Reid Dukes, City Arborist, City of Charlotte
- Outstanding Project: Keep Durham Beautiful, Invasive Plant Removal (IPR) Program
- Outstanding Project: NC State University, Campus Urban Wood Utilization Program

"We are proud to recognize the 2026 North Carolina Urban Forestry Award Winners and the significant impacts they have made in their urban forests and respective communities," said NCUFC Executive Director Kim Strazisar. "Their hard work also highlights the many benefits of North Carolina's urban forests including improving public health, increasing economic opportunities, and supporting a healthy environment that makes our lives better."

For more information about photos of the award winners visit: https://www.ncufc.org/uploads-editor/2026%20NC%20Urban%20Forestry%20Award%20Winners.pdf

Nominations for the 2027 North Carolina Urban Forestry Awards open in June. For more information about the awards and to see past awardees, visit https://www.ncufc.org/NC-Urban-Forestry-Awards.php

The North Carolina Urban Forest Council (NCUFC) is a non-profit organization that consists of individuals, citizen groups, non-profit organizations, businesses, and agencies from around the state. All members share an interest in community and urban forestry and are dedicated to protecting and managing trees where we live, work, and play. For more information about NCUFC, visit www.ncufc.org.

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