



Thursday, September 16

7:30 – 8:15 **NCUFC Members Breakfast**

NC Urban Forest Council members are invited to join the Council Board of Directors for a networking breakfast.

7:30 **Registration — coffee and continental breakfast snack with exhibitors**

8:30 - 10:00 am **General Session**

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mark Foster, *NC Urban Forest Council Chair*

Keynote Address: Green Space Planning in Historically Disinvested Urban Neighborhoods: Pitfalls, promises, and the path ahead.

Dr. Vivek Shandas, *Portland State University*

With a few notable exceptions, urban and community forestry programs struggle with green space planning in historically disinvested neighborhoods. In recent years, many approaches present authoritative narratives that emphasize nature's benefits for expanding forests into places that have been lacked vegetation for decades. While laudable, such approaches can reflect an 'ecological supremacy' ideology that pits the ascendancy of trees against a community's needs and references. This presentation provides evidence about the woefully disproportionate distribution of green spaces across US cities and argues that issues of procedural justice are central to improving human health through tree canopy programs. Recentering disinvested communities will require advancing programs of urban ecological restoration through restructuring municipal policies, engage arborists, and landscape planners that co-produce urban forestry plans with local community groups. The presentation closes with a call for action that aims to usher-in an era where communities can begin to rebuild trust with municipal agencies with clear understandings about co-ownership and shared authority.

10:00 – 10:30 am **Break with Exhibitors**

10:30 – 11:15 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

BEER (Benefits to Ecology, Equity and Resilience) with Green Heart Louisville

Chris Chandler, *The Nature Conservancy*

Arboricultural Safety is a Team Sport

Dr. John Ball, *South Dakota State University*

We think of incidents as injuries to a worker but the causal agents might reach as far as the sale. This session will examine how safety begins with the bid and scheduling the work as well as the on-site job briefing and operations.

11:20 – 12:15 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

Achieving Equitable Urban Greening: Lessons Learned from the Green Heart Study

Dr. Lincoln Larson, *NC State University*

Despite the many benefits of urban greening, tree-planting programs in diverse communities nationwide often face strong local resistance, especially on private lands. With support from the U.S. Forest Service, our team is working across multiple sectors and disciplines to better understand social and cultural factors that influence the success of urban greening interventions, ultimately identifying effective and environmentally just practices guiding tree planting efforts in diverse urban communities.

Summer in the City: Climate change & urban tree pests

Dr. Kelly Oten, *NC State University*

As predicted trends associated with climate change impact urban trees, insect and disease pests that attack them will also be affected. Learn more about potential impacts and mitigation strategies in a warming climate.

12:15 – 1:15 **Great NC Tree Learning Luncheon**

Erin Kauffman, *Executive Director, Durham Central Park, Inc.*

NC Urban Forestry Conference attendees are invited to join the NC Urban Forest Council for our learning lunch about the Durham Central Park, our field day location. Erin will discuss the history of the park and management of challenges it faces today. Our annual silent auction will be on display for attendees to bid on items. All proceeds from the auction go directly to our Legacy Tree Fund grant program.

1:30 – 2:15 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

[Healthcare Institutions as Community Tree Champions](#)

Logan Donahue, *Arbor Day Foundation*

Around the US, health institutions are investing in the health benefits on and off campus. From creating therapeutic spaces that prevent burnout among hospital staff to cooling the neighborhoods they serve; trees are increasingly earning attention from the healthcare sector. Launched in 2019, the Tree Campus Healthcare program recognizes health institutions that make a mission-aligned impact on community wellness through tree education, investment, and community engagement. Learn what this leadership looks like in action, and the community collaborations that make it possible.

[Incorporating beneficial organisms into your plant health care program](#)

Dr. Kevin Chase, *Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory*

The use of beneficial organisms are widely used in agricultural and greenhouse production. They are less widely used in the urban environment – especially on urban trees. In this presentation, I will discuss the most widely used beneficial insects for urban tree pests and introduce a few insects not currently used that should be considered.

2:20 – 3:05 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

[Urban Vegetation Impacts on Local Air Quality](#)

Dr. Rich Baldauf, *EPA*

Dr. Baldauf will summarize recent research on urban vegetation and green infrastructure can be used to mitigate local air pollution impacts from transportation facilities and other similar sources. His presentation will describe the current scientific understanding of how urban vegetation affects local air quality, including a review of projects conducted by the U.S. EPA investigating roadside vegetation impacts in particular. He will also summarize existing resources developed by the U.S. EPA to assist environmental and health professionals, urban planners, and developers to identify best practices to mitigate local air pollution impacts and avoid unintended consequences where urban infrastructure may exacerbate local air quality concerns.

[Pruning the Neglected Tree](#)

Dr. John Ball, *South Dakota State University*

A common call is to prune a tree that has been neglected for decades. As arborists they expect us to correct this lifetime of neglect in a morning! This session will cover the process of how to manage the neglected tree and, equally important, the client's expectations.

3:05 – 3:35 pm **Break with Exhibitors**

3:35 – 5:00 pm **General Session**

[Getting Down and Dirty- Soil Restoration](#)

Dr. Barbara Fair, *NC State University*

Typically, we scrape off, truck away and otherwise disregard soil that took millennia to create and wonder why our plants do not perform as hoped. We add fertilizer and other amendments. We add loads of organic matter hoping to "fix" what we have left behind. Well, there is no reason that plants should survive in subsoil, it is simply not a growing medium, was never meant to be. So what can we do? In this presentation you will learn about methodology developed by Dr. Susan Day on improving soil structure, fertility and so forth so plants can thrive.

[Leaves, Trees, and Babies: The role of green space in improving lives of the most vulnerable populations](#)

Dr. Vivek Shandas, *Portland State University*

Urban tree canopy is increasingly seen as instrumental to human health through filtering air pollutants, cooling effects during heat waves, and improvement of mental well-being. Yet only emerging is the association between tree canopy and the epigenetic factors that affect long-term human health, particularly those born in already challenging circumstances. This presentation will offer emerging evidence about the relationship between tree canopy and birth outcomes -- specifically examining gestational age and weight -- in a case study city of Portland, Oregon. In the short term, the results suggest a need to support pregnant mothers whose homes are far from green spaces; while in the long term, these results offer insights about developing urban tree planting campaigns in areas where community members may be facing several environmental challenges.

Friday, September 17

9:00 – 3:00 [Field Day at Durham Central Park with demonstrations and a walking tour](#)

Join us for a day in the field! Many of the topics discussed at the indoor education sessions will be demonstrated and discussed in real world fashion. Attendees will be split into groups and will rotate through the different stations, giving them the opportunity to see an expert demonstrate the management practice and ask questions. This is an outdoor field day with a fair amount of walking, so please dress appropriately. Lunch will be provided on site.

The demonstration stations include:

- Soil Remediation – Dr. Barbara Fair
- SRT/DRT climbing technique demonstration – Skillen Tree Care
- Pruning Difficult to Prune Trees – Bartlett Tree Experts and Dr. John Ball
- Walking Tour of Downtown Durham – City of Durham