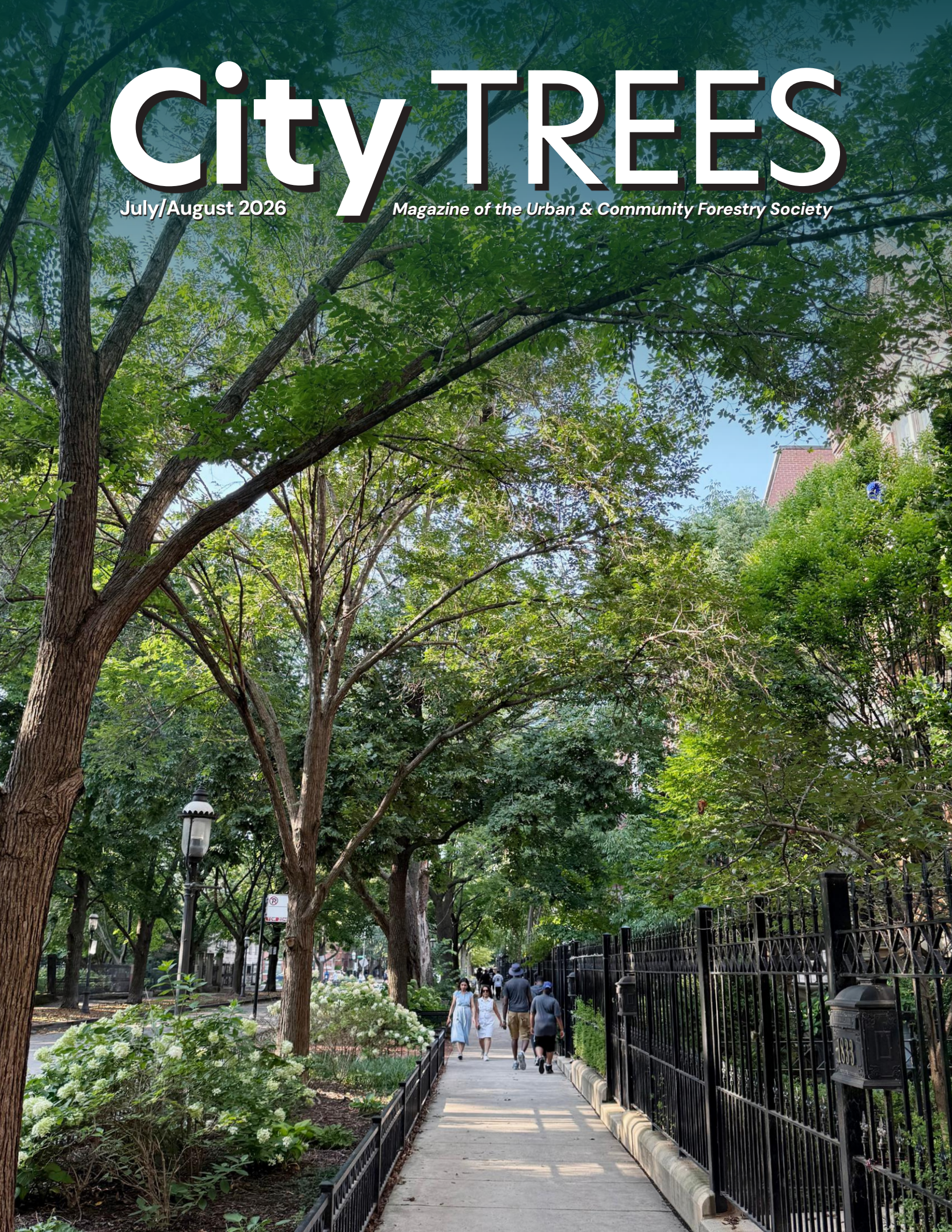


City TREES

July/August 2026

Magazine of the Urban & Community Forestry Society





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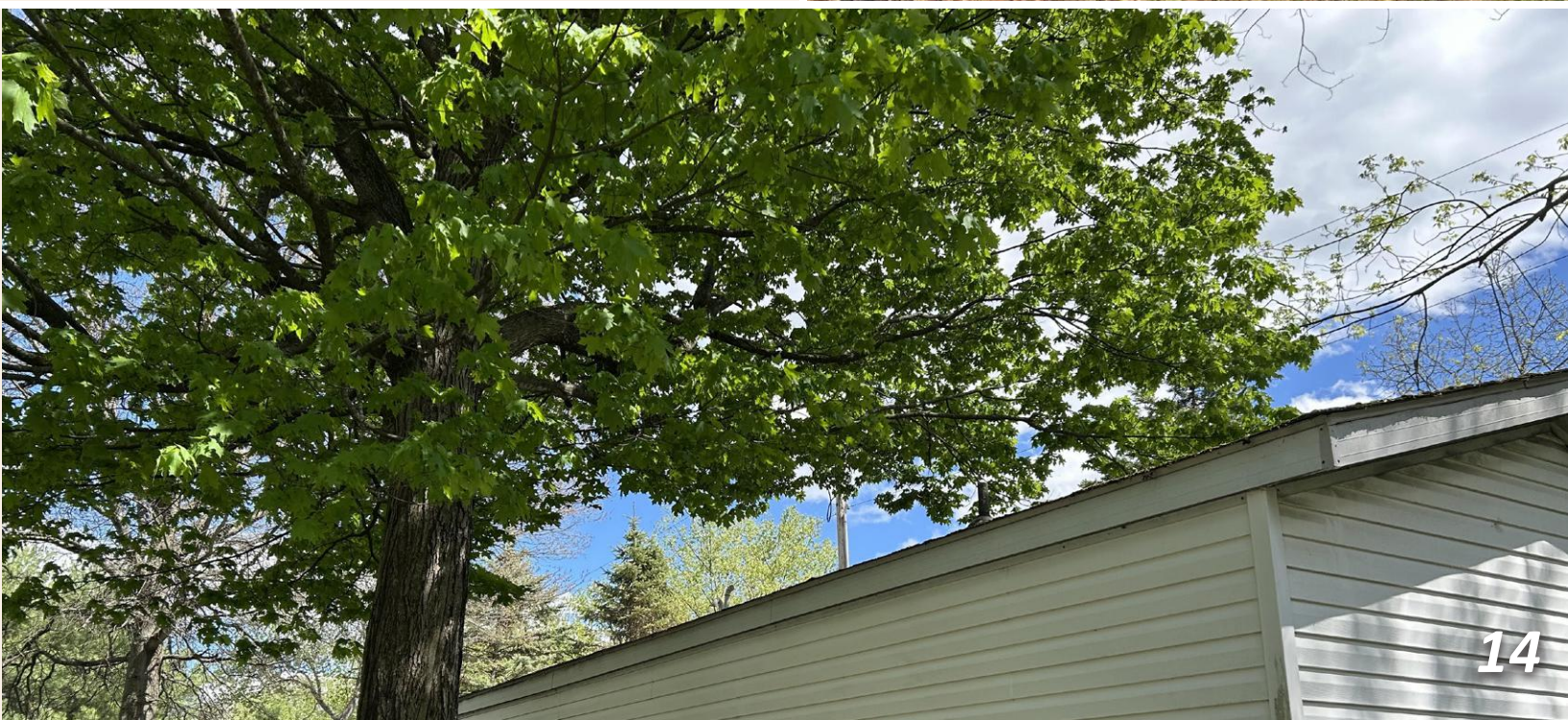
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Cover: Summer in Chicago's Prairie Avenue District.
Photo by Leslie Berckes



President's Message

David Lefcourt



Summer is a busy and rewarding time for urban forestry professionals. Across our communities, UCFS Members are working to manage, protect, and expand urban forests that provide critical environmental, economic, and social benefits.

As we continue advancing the profession, I encourage communities to consider taking the next step toward becoming a UCFS Accredited Urban Forestry Program. Accreditation demonstrates a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement while helping strengthen urban forestry programs for the future.

I also encourage you to support the Urban Forest Foundation through the Tree Fund. Contributions help fund leadership development, education, research, and programs such as the Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI), ensuring that future generations of urban forestry professionals have access to valuable training and networking opportunities. Earlier this year, I started a modest monthly contribution to support these efforts. If you haven't already, I hope you'll consider joining me.

Planning for the 2026 UCFS Conference is well underway, and we look forward to seeing many of you in St. Louis this November. The conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn from colleagues, share innovative ideas, and strengthen the connections that make our profession so impactful. It also serves as a reminder of the value of collaboration and the importance of building a strong professional network dedicated to advancing urban forestry across North America and beyond.

As communities continue to face challenges related to climate change, aging infrastructure, and equitable access to green spaces, the work of urban forestry professionals has never been more important. Together, we can continue to demonstrate the essential role trees play in creating healthier, more resilient, and more livable communities.

Thank you for your continued support of UCFS and for the important work you do every day to grow and sustain healthier, more resilient communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lefcourt".

Executive Director's Message

Leslie Berckes



I'm so excited about this issue of *City Trees*. Our team—led by Editor Michelle Sutton and supported by our Editorial Review Committee—always keeps our members and partners top of mind when developing story ideas. This month, we bring you two features designed to help you do your job even more effectively.

I won't summarize each article here—I encourage you to read on and dig into the details. What I will say is that both pieces reflect UCFS's commitment to staying ahead of the issues shaping the urban forestry profession. From the growing tension between insurance and tree canopy to the importance of strong ordinances, these topics highlight both the big-picture forces at play and the day-to-day decisions that define your work.

In urban forestry, you're constantly shifting between those big and small moments. One minute, you're advancing a master plan that sets long-term direction for your community. The next, you're on site addressing a pruning need or dealing with a contractor who's nicked the bark on a newly planted tree—maybe while you're holding back a few choice words.

That constant zooming in and out can be demanding. That's why UCFS is here—to help you stay informed, prepared, and supported. Our Industry Trends Committee is actively tracking the issues that matter most to you and listening closely to member feedback. At the same time, we're focused on delivering practical insights you can put into action right away.

You already have a challenging job balancing competing priorities. Let us help you navigate the forces—both big and small—that impact the urban forest every day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Berckes".

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The Urban and Community Forestry Society (UCFS) is the membership home for people who make or support daily tree planting and care decisions in communities of all sizes. Join us to build your confidence and competence, and to experience the unique camaraderie of those who know and understand your work!



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City Trees is the online, bimonthly magazine produced by the Urban & Community Forestry Society. The UCFS is a Professional Affiliate of the International Society of Arboriculture.

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Welcome New Members

Name	State/Province/Region	Country	Name	State/Province/Region	Country	Name	State/Province/Region	Country
Alessandro Rubino	DC	USA	Gabriel Riley	MA	USA	Matteo Nas		NLD
Alexia Alford	AL	USA	Georgia Van Damme	DC	USA	Melvin Martinez Ordonez	DC	USA
Amanda Glassco	MD	USA	Grace Currie	DC	USA	Mia Davis	FL	USA
Amy Oester	DC	USA	Greg Fletcher	AB	USA	Michael Record	NY	USA
Angel Sotelo	CA	USA	Grey Franks	ON	CAN	Michael Martin	MO	USA
Avery Perreault	DC	USA	Hyla McQuaid	DC	USA	Mitchell Berge	WI	USA
Barbra Walker	NJ	USA	Illyana Christian	DC	USA	Molly Ackerman	DC	USA
Benjamin Fedor	PA	USA	Ingeborg Kristiansen		NOR	Natalie Holmes	DC	USA
Benjamin Germ	VA	USA	Isobel Watson	DC	USA	Nathan Linklater	DC	USA
Bianca Ray		SWE	Jair Hincapie Almeciga	CUN	COL	Nayeli Marin	CA	USA
Brandon Penticuff	IN	USA	Jane Hu	DC	USA	Quentin Ikuta	MN	USA
Brittiany Lanier	OH	USA	Janet Olanrewaju	DC	USA	Raewyn Rozak	DC	USA
Callista Millar	DC	USA	Janice Lam	ON	CAN	Rens Goede		NLD
Cameron Ryder	VIC	AUS	Jasmine Eisener	DC	USA	Rheanna Konrad	DC	USA
Casey Allin	CO	USA	Jason Gordon	GA	USA	Richard Delgado	CA	USA
Charles Waller	FL	USA	Jenna Bennett	DC	USA	Rien Jans		NLD
Christina Schmidt	CA	USA	John Guziejka	VA	USA	Rolando Rosas	BOG	COL
Christopher Marquez	MD	USA	Jorge Colón Rivera	PR	USA	Ryan Lukosius	SA	AUS
CJ Copper	KS	USA	Joshua Coley	CA	USA	Rylan Adams	DC	USA
David Northrup	FL	USA	Jovana Shrestha	DC	USA	Saman Mousavi		NLD
Donald Schenck López		PAN	Juan Alvarado Corredor	TOL	COL	Samuel Jones	NC	USA
Dorcas Gyan	DC	USA	Julio Corona	CA	USA	Sandra Sandoval Venegas	VC	COL
Dustin Shordee	AB	CAN	Kennedy Ordano	DC	USA	Sara Hagarty	DC	USA
Elaine Sanchez	BC	CAN	Kurt Willson	DC	USA	Sarah Harttung	FL	USA
Emeline Burton	UT	USA	Kyla Horsting-Minnabarriet	DC	USA	Sarah Dixon	DC	USA
Emily Hay	OR	USA	Kyle Moon	MO	USA	Sèwanou Tovihessi	DC	USA
Emma Harper	DC	USA	Laura Henderson	ON	CAN	Sindy Tchouankap Sateu	DC	USA
Eric McKee	CA	USA	Levyn Radomske	DC	USA	Sophia Chapin	VA	USA
Esi Dadzie	LA	USA	Liam Douglas	DC	USA	Suhaila Ng	DC	USA
Francisco Llaguno	CUN	COL	Lisa Okai	DC	USA	Thais Vlasov	DC	USA
Frank van Mourik		NLD	Mackenzie Robertson	DC	USA	Vashti Lay	CO	USA
			Marc Lodato	NJ	USA			

In This Issue: Contributors



Darya Barar is a Consulting Urban Forester and Manager of HortScience | Bartlett Consulting, who brings more than 24 years of urban forestry experience, including municipal forest management, to leading a nine person team that includes eight ISA Certified Arborists and five ASCA Registered Consulting Arborists.



Keith O'Herrin PhD, TRAQ, ISA Certified Arborist works as the urban forester for Union County, North Carolina, serving ten rapidly developing municipalities through his 50% planning, 50% extension appointment. His research and practice areas include tree preservation during construction and development and related ordinances. He serves on the boards of UCFS, North Carolina Urban Forest Council, and TreesUnion.



Leslie Berckes is the Executive Director of UCFS. She has nearly 15 years of urban forestry experience that includes actively managing urban tree canopy as well as helping people grow trees where they are needed the most.



Jesse McClellan is Executive Director of the Georgia Arborist Association. In addition to being an ISA Certified Arborist, she holds both Tree Risk Assessment and Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualifications.



Kay Evanovich is the City Arborist for Decatur, Georgia. In addition to being an ISA Certified Arborist, they have both Tree Risk Assessment and Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualifications. They have also had an arboriculture teaching and consultancy business for 20 years and counting.



Eric Petersen founded ArboRisk over twenty years ago to provide tailored insurance and risk management services for tree care and utility line clearance companies. He is a TCIA Board Member and a Past President and Honorary Life Member of the Wisconsin Arborist Association.



Eric North PhD is the Urban Forestry Program Manager at the Arbor Day Foundation where he leads the Tree City USA program. He is a former university professor of urban and community forestry and developed the Regional and Community Forestry Bachelor of Science degree program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Michelle Sutton is the editor of *City Trees*. She is a writer, horticulturist, and urban forestry subject matter specialist who earned her MS from the Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute.



For their contributions, thank you also to Dr. Beau Brodbeck, Auburn University Extension; Dr. Jason Gordon, University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources; and Dave White, Tree Care Industry Association President and CEO

Ready to be a UCFS Board Member?



The UCFS Nominations Committee seeks qualified UCFS Members to help the organization deliver on its mission to grow the competence, confidence, and camaraderie of all professionals who care for urban and community forests.

Would you or someone you know make a great board member for UCFS? Every day, our organization supports the people who make and support critical tree stewardship decisions across the globe. With the help of dynamic and involved board members, we can make an impact for the trees and people who depend on them.

Potential candidates must be a member in good standing (i.e. current on all memberships dues) for the last three years and have participated in or attended a UCFS-related activity or have served on a UCFS committee.

More information on the required qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of a UCFS Board Member, along with an application, can be found on the UCFS website.

Nominations close on September 1, 2026



During a break from the UCFS Board's strategic planning retreat, San Francisco Bureau of Urban Forestry and Public Works Director Carla Short showed Board Members the Bureau's new street tree nursery and shared about the City's forestry goals.

Nominate Someone Today for a UCFS Award!

The UCFS Conference Committee is seeking nominations for awards and honors that will be presented at the UCFS Conference luncheon on Tuesday, November 17, 2026. Nominations are an excellent way to recognize the hard work your colleagues do to oversee tree planting and care and/or for their contributions to education, research, and equity in our field. Take some time to think of a deserving candidate and nominate them today!

More information on the Award categories and a form to submit nominees can be found on the UCFS website.

Award nominations close August 28, 2026



UCFS News



- UCFS Accreditation
- ISA Certified Urban Forest Professional
- UCFS Annual Conference and Tradeshow

By Leslie Berckes, UCFS Executive Director

UCFS Accreditation Applications Open September 1



Starting on September 1, 2026, UCFS will accept applications for its revamped Accreditation program. The UCFS Accreditation program officially acknowledges municipalities that are dedicated to the growth, maintenance, and expansion of their urban and community forests. Accreditation provides an evaluation against industry standards and can be a catalyst for urban forestry stewardship, resource development, and civic pride.

Do you think your urban forestry program is one of the best? Curious how your urban forestry program stacks up?

[Check out the UCFS Accreditation Standards today.](#)

All smiles in UCFS-Accredited Des Moines, Iowa. Photo Courtesy City of Des Moines

Are you an ISA Certified Urban Forest Professional?

Looking to stand out from the crowd? The ISA Certified Urban Forest Professional (CUFP) credential is a great way to show your colleagues what it takes to steward a healthy, flourishing urban forest.

In late spring 2026, UCFS offered a study group to help members and friends connect and gain insight into how to best prepare for the exam. Over 45 people attended, and when asked why they were interested in pursuing the credential, 60% said they were interested in career advancement or having the credential to identify themselves as a knowledgeable, experienced tree care professional.

Our profession is growing, and that is something we all should be proud of! Be part of the professional advancement—plan to become an ISA Certified Urban Forest Professional today!

UCFS is here to support you in your urban forestry career journey. We're planning more ways to help you feel prepared to take and pass the exam, so stay tuned for future offerings.



Future CUFP Savannah Winstanley. Photo Courtesy Savannah Winstanley

Be with Your Tree People!

Are you making plans to join us for the UCFS Annual Conference and Tradeshow, held in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation Partners in Community Forestry Conference? We sure hope to see you November 16-17 in St. Louis, Missouri. Registration opens July 2026, so plan to register early to capture early bird pricing.



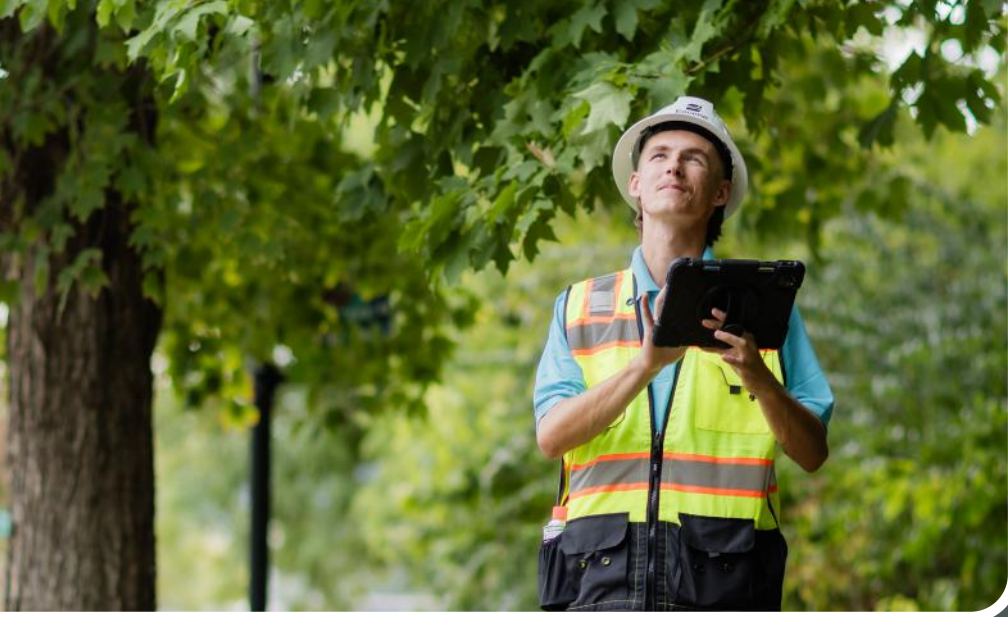
Mike Martini and Ian Kesterson connecting at a UCFS Conference. Photo by Ed Mejia

What can you expect?

At the UCFS Annual Conference, you'll learn from and network with the premier urban foresters who are making and supporting daily tree care decisions. Like you, their jobs are highly operational while also involving a great deal of administrative, communication, and political skills.

Our theme this year is "Practice under Pressure: Advancing Urban Forestry in the Face of Challenges," so you can expect to hear how your peers are managing through challenging budgets, climate change pressures, and tense political realities. It's not always easy, but the work to grow trees where people need them is important and needed.

Start making plans to join us! We look forward to seeing you in St. Louis! 🌳



BUILDING

Funding your c

Many communities face the same challenge: big urban forestry goals, but limited time, budget and staff to achieve them. While general funds provide most of the support needed, successful programs also look to alternative funding sources to bridge the gap.

Why Grants Matter

Grants do more than fund projects – they **build capacity**. They enable communities to expand tree planting, improve maintenance, support planning efforts and recover from environmental challenges. Just as importantly, grants help you **tell your story**, demonstrating the environmental, economic and social value of your urban forest to a wider audience.

Tips for Grant Success

- ✓ **Get approval**
 - Secure leadership support early and get approval from your community's elected group to apply.
- ✓ **Follow instructions**
 - From a grant reviewer's perspective, it is easier to reject an application that doesn't follow instructions.
- ✓ **Ask a peer**
 - Use feedback to strengthen your story.
- ✓ **Clearly show community impact**
 - Explicitly point out benefits.
- ✓ **Build on rejection**
 - Ask for feedback to strengthen your application and apply again in the next cycle.

URBAN FORESTRY CAPACITY

community's tree goals through grants.

Grant Opportunities to Explore

✔ State urban forestry programs

- Offer funding for planning, planting and long-term management; requirements vary by state.

✔ Federal agencies

- The U.S. Forest Service and others provide funding aligned with environmental, infrastructure and community goals.

✔ Service organizations

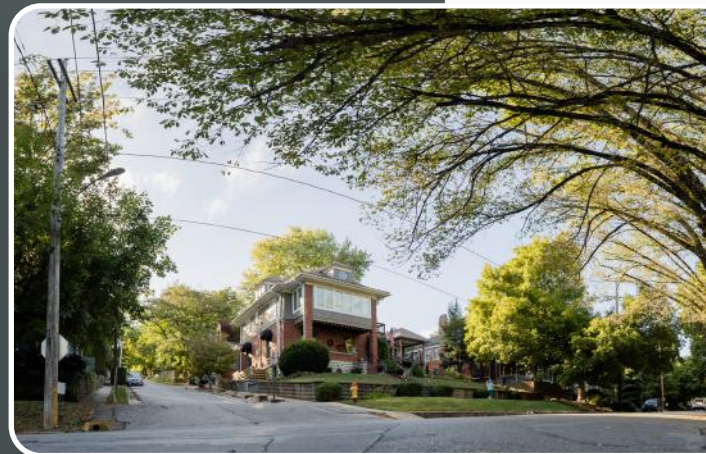
- Groups like Rotary clubs may support local tree planting through community-driven initiatives.

✔ Corporate giving programs

- Companies and foundations often fund sustainability and community greening projects.

✔ Local foundations

- Community-based funding sources can support or match fundraising efforts for local impact.



**Ready to explore funding or need guidance?
Contact our team!**

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Prune, Remove, or Lose Homeowners Policy?

Tree-related demands by insurance companies; the critical role of arborists and urban foresters; the most effective ways to respond; and where opportunities for common ground with insurers may lie.

By Michelle Sutton, Editor, *City Trees*



UCFS is concerned about this issue because our members are stewards of a collective tree canopy. With most urban trees located on private property, loss of those trees jeopardizes both our members' canopy goals and those of the cities and towns for whom they work. Furthermore, insurance carriers dictating tree care decisions comes into conflict with tree ordinances adopted by municipal government, putting homeowners in an untenable position. Our members are urban and community forestry professionals with extensive knowledge of tree health and biology. They should be the ones making decisions about tree pruning or removal, or at minimum be consulted.

—Leslie Berckes, UCFS Executive Director

Decatur, Georgia City Arborist and TRAQ-certified UCFS Member Kay Evanovich presented to the Georgia Arborist Association in 2024 on “The New Cancellations: Homeowners Insurance and Trees.” Decatur, pop. ~25,000 and 4 square miles/10.4 square km in size, is a college town just east of Atlanta. In 2023, Evanovich received an escalating number of calls from anxious Decatur homeowners who’d received letters from their home insurance companies. Often vaguely worded, the gist of the letters seemed to be insurance nonrenewal or threat of cancellation due to tree limbs overhanging roofs. These imperatives come after insurance companies principally use drone, fixed-wing aircraft, and satellite imagery that is analyzed by AI to roughly identify where canopy overhangs roofs.

Like much of the greater southeast United States, in recent years, Metro Atlanta has seen significant destruction from Hurricane Idalia and other extreme weather events. “In our state, we now have to think about not just frontline windstorms along the coast of Georgia—those are damaging enough—but



Photos sent to Decatur, Georgia City Arborist Kay Evanovich from a homeowner who received a nonrenewal letter from their insurance carrier citing "tree limbs touching and/or overhanging a structure."

hurricanes of increasing intensity coming inland as well," Evanovich says. "I asked around and found that some of my Georgia urban forester peers were getting the same kinds of calls from stressed homeowners."

The first Decatur homeowner to call Evanovich about this shared a letter attributing insurance nonrenewal to "tree limbs touching and/or overhanging a structure" (see photos above). The homeowner asked the insurance company if they could prune just the limbs. The insurance company said "yes." The homeowner then contacted their trusted arborist, who said that pruning all the limbs away from the house would create an unbalanced crown and unsafe condition. The homeowner relayed this information to the insurance company, who told them to cut down the tree. Evanovich/the City of Decatur drafted a letter for the homeowner to send to the insurance company; it affirmed that the tree was healthy and that radical pruning would be counterproductive to the goals of all parties. The insurance company was unmoved. Attached to the beauty and benefits of the tree, the homeowner found a different insurer. >>



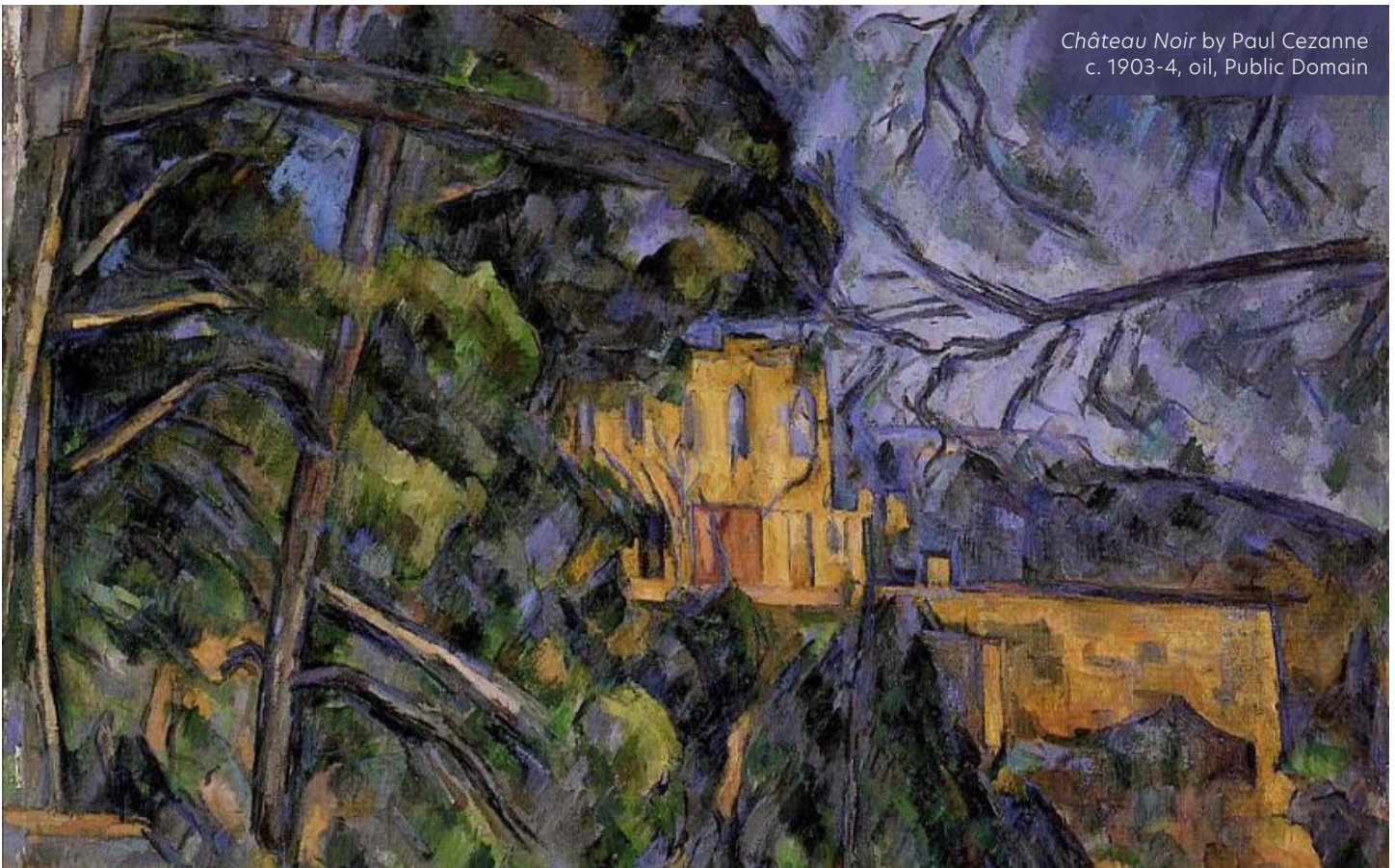
From an aerial image perspective, this tree may read as "overhanging." Photo by Michelle Sutton

Window on the Insurance Company Mind

These types of letters are upsetting to homeowners, urban foresters, and professional arborists alike. We asked for perspective from the uniquely positioned Eric Petersen, whose independent insurance agency, ArboRisk, serves arborists and utility companies exclusively. Having such a front-row seat to the issues at play, Petersen, a Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Board Member, volunteered last year to head a TCIA Task Force on this subject. (In February 2026, the Task Force delivered recommendations to TCIA President and CEO Dave White—see sidebar). White and Petersen both attended The Tree Risk Summit: Bridging Tree Care and Insurance for Safer Homes, which took place at the Gwinnett Campus of The University of Georgia in Lawrenceville in March 2026. The Summit brought together arborists, urban foresters, and insurance company representatives; it was hosted by the University of Georgia, Auburn University, Georgia Arborist Association, and Smart Home America.

Petersen prefaced our interview thus: “My perspective is from my understanding of and conversations with insurance companies, not from being in the boardroom making tactical decisions on insurance. I’m an agent, not an underwriter or an insurance company executive. I’m not involved in loss control.” That said, he very much is able to give arborists and urban foresters a more nuanced understanding of the insurer’s point of view.

Petersen says that for many years now, the property insurance marketplace has been paying out more dollars in claims than they’re receiving in premiums. “That is for a lot of reasons,” he says. “More frequent and severe storm damage, but also higher costs for building and repairs labor and materials due to inflation. Higher demand after storms, which drive prices up. Plus, we’re in an unstable stock market.” (Insurance companies historically earn their money by investing the premiums that they take in, to then pay out claims.)



Château Noir by Paul Cézanne
c. 1903-4, oil, Public Domain

From TCIA President and CEO Dave White

TCIA's Task Force on Trees+Insurance identified several practical opportunities to help tree care companies navigate storm work, homeowner insurance issues, and emerging policy challenges. Recommendations include developing member education on storm-work pricing, insurance claims, ethical best practices, and sample contract language; helping companies better understand the insurance industry's perspective on tree risk; and creating resources members can share with homeowners facing tree-related insurance concerns.

The Task Force also recommended strengthening public-facing and policymaker education around professional tree work, including the value of TCIA Accreditation, ISA credentials, and clear emergency tree-work standards. On the advocacy side, the group encouraged engagement with insurance policymakers, model legislation requiring qualified arborist review before certain policy nonrenewals, and continued outreach to insurance industry representatives. Finally, the recommendations point to the importance of partnerships, including potential collaboration with UCFS, ISA, TREE Fund, and state-level insurance summit efforts.

"Insurance companies can't lose money year after year—they're going to make changes," he says. "One of those is that they've started to try to proactively manage trees to reduce or eliminate perceived risk." Petersen explains that insurance is based on the law of large numbers, or actuarial data. "The more data you have, the better you can predict the future," he says. Insurance companies are gathering data by increasingly sophisticated aerial means—but the data is not being informed by on-the-ground arboricultural knowledge and expertise. And that is, of course, extremely frustrating to arborists and urban foresters.

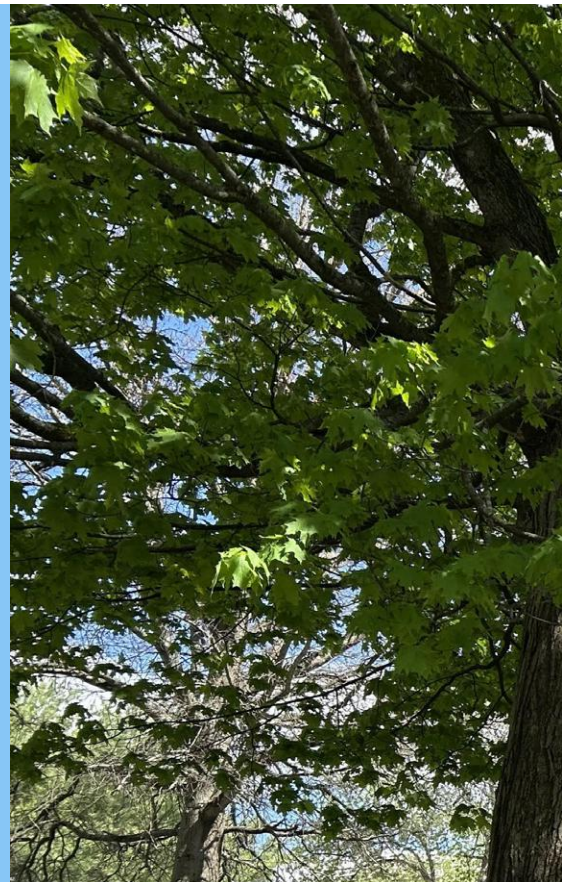
"But just as insurers are not taking into account the species and health or arboricultural care of a given tree, arborists can miss the fact that an insurance company is only looking at the financial risk of that tree," Petersen says. "The insurer simply sees that the tree is close to the house, and if it fails, the claim payout is going to be higher than it would be for a tree that's farther away from the house." In short, he says insurance companies measure financial risk, where arborists measure biological risk.

Petersen says, "Insurance companies are now asking homeowners to remove limbs based on an aerial image, but what does that image really do? It's not a professional assessment; it's just a picture." Whether by plane, drone, or satellite—each insurance company does it a different way—insurers can get a quick aerial picture of a building for mere dollars, rather than having an arborist go out and do a \$350 assessment on a tree. But it's obvious to urban foresters and arborists that money to evaluate true risk and mitigation strategies is well spent, especially when assessments are done by TRAQ-credentialed arborists.

Petersen affirms that homeowner insurance companies sending nonrenewal letters or mandates for pruning or removal is a nationwide phenomenon, but he says it disproportionately affects storm-prone regions. There are only a handful of insurance companies that still write homeowners policies in Metro Atlanta, for example, which leaves homeowners with fewer competitive options. "Whereas in the Upper Midwest where I am—where weather events aren't so extreme—there are still many insurance companies in the market," he >>

“It is definitely a concern, as many people have perfectly healthy trees requiring little maintenance, that they are not considering removing, then they get a notice from the insurance company telling them it isn't ok. These are blanket statements that are not made by anyone with any expertise in vegetation. If we could get more info/standards into the insurance realm, that would be amazing.”

—UCFS Survey respondent



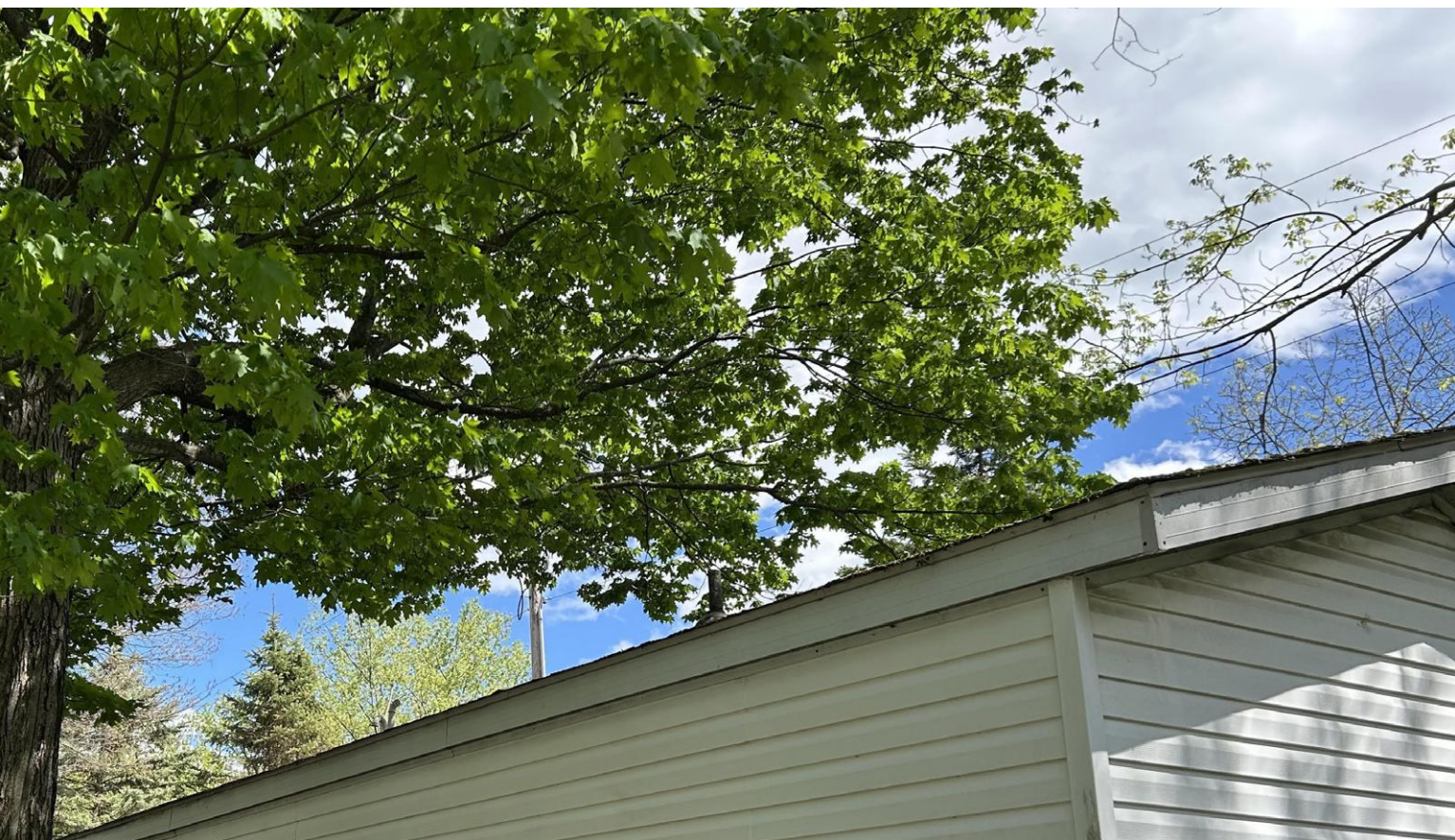
says. “And though in my region there are some insurance letters going out, usually, if a TRAQ-credentialed arborist writes a report saying the tree is sound, the underwriter/insurance company will usually reverse their directive to prune or remove.” That said, what’s happening in Georgia and other Southeastern U.S. states could be a bellwether for what the rest of the U.S. and other countries may face as climate change continues to drive extreme and chaotic weather patterns.

At the Tree Risk Summit, arborists, urban foresters, and insurance company representatives explored something that harms all parties—price gouging by disreputable tree removal outfits after major storms. “If we as an industry can self-police the bad actors that are charging exorbitant fees (that in many cases, insurance companies are grudgingly picking up the tab on), this is a logical place of shared interest for insurance companies and professional arborists,” Petersen says. “That said, I acknowledge that tree clearance after storms is dangerous work, carries longer hours, and requires special equipment—and contractors should be paid accordingly.

They should get paid more than regular tree crews, but at what percentage above normal work hours? The tree care and insurance industries can talk about that.”

Petersen says that insurance companies will look at whole neighborhoods and even entire zip codes with their risk modeling. “If they see a high-density area of houses that has trees close to the homes, and they’re insuring 30% of the homes in that area, they’re going to be hit hard if there’s a straight-line windstorm or hurricane, simply because they have a concentration of risk in that area,” he says. On that basis, many sound and healthy trees within that area may be subject to insurance company pruning imperatives.

Like Kay Evanovich, Petersen is concerned about loss of healthy canopy. “Most homeowners, if they’re having a problem getting homeowners insurance to begin with—and then they get a threatening letter—they don’t even reach out to a Certified Arborist, much less a TRAQ-credentialed one. They just call up whoever can come out the next day to take care



Healthy sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) branches over house. Photo by Michelle Sutton

of it so they don't lose their coverage." And if hiring the first available company means that limbs are pruned haphazardly/just up the roof line without regard to A300 standards, the tree's health will likely suffer and it then becomes more of a risk, not less.

Petersen says that homeowners in consultation with arborists and urban foresters do have power. He encourages homeowners to work with their insurance agent; they are generally more responsive than the insurance company/underwriter. And the homeowner should be prepared to pay for a TRAQ-credentialed arborist to conduct a professional assessment of the tree as part of their response package to the insurance company. "And here's where I always feel compelled to state that arborists and consultants really must charge for their evaluation, because when you write an opinion, you're creating liability for your business," Petersen says.

On the macro level, Petersen says that, unfortunately, he doesn't see any significant change coming from

the insurance company side, unless there is pressure from state or federal legislation. And for legislation to come about, advocacy and lobbying are needed. In wildfire-prone states like California, urban foresters are taking an active role in advocating for changes with their state's insurance commission. Partnership between TCIA, UCFS, ISA, Georgia Arborist Association, and other entities is key to exerting collective influence. And then there's education, which is where Petersen gets excited.

"A challenge like this can truly help the general public become more aware of the professional tree care industry—its value, what it does, and what proper tree care looks like," he says. And the same could be said for the urban and community forestry field. Those calls from distressed homeowners are an opportunity for the public to learn about, and better appreciate, what our industry does; that understanding can lead to more residents becoming invested in the success of their urban and community forest. >>



The Giant Elm, Easthampton by Childe Hassam, etching on paper, 1929. Public Domain



“The trees being targeted are often high value, mature trees that are not showing signs of decline. It appears as though the recommendations are broad and don't consider the tree's condition or whether pruning the tree in the way recommended will increase or decrease the tree's risk. Overall, it's a bit early to say what the consequences will be since this is a newer issue, but I think it's going to lead to a less dense urban canopy and a lot more dangerous trees, ironically.”

–UCFS Survey respondent

“The overall threat to the canopy is low due to the seemingly low number of letters we get relative to the overall population. But we can't measure the impact this has on the wider population, like sowing distrust of trees.”

–UCFS Survey respondent

“The property owner regularly hires an arborist to evaluate and properly remove/prune trees. The property owner provided the arborist's last assessment and proof of completed work. The insurance company was satisfied.”

–UCFS Survey respondent

“There is sometimes, but not always, an impact on our tree preservation laws. When we encounter these issues, we first seek to help homeowners comply with both preservation laws and their insurer's demands. We start coordinating a response against insurers when the work would violate our tree preservation laws or the cost of the work would be an unreasonable hardship.”

–UCFS Survey respondent

All Hands on Deck

At least three significant attempts to reckon with homeowners-insurance companies' tree-related directives happened in the last year. In the fall of 2025, UCFS conducted a survey on the topic. In November 2025, Matthew Gauldin, Jason Gordon, Beau Brodbeck, and Jon Calabria published their research on [Exploring trust and communication between insurers, arborists, and homeowners](#) in *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*. And in March 2026, the previously mentioned Tree Risk Summit took place.

The UCFS survey garnered 63 submissions, with 40 from urban/municipal/city foresters, 18 from consultants, and the remainder from tree care professionals. Some highlights:

- Private property tree issues were the most commonly cited (49 mentions), while public tree conflicts were cited by 22 respondents (who could speak to either or both).
- The main reasons for insurance directives were perceived structural failure/tree risk for 42 of the accounts, perceived wildfire/fire risk (18 accounts), branches over roof (8), and fear of foundation/infrastructure damage (7). (Respondents could select more than one reason.)
- Insurers asked for pruning in 42 of the cases and removal in 27 instances.
- Forty-seven trees targeted by insurance were mostly large (21–30 inch/53-76 cm DBH) and in good condition.

In the abstract for *Exploring trust and communication between insurers, arborists, and homeowners*, the qualitative research by Gauldin, Gordon, Brodbeck, and Calabria, the study authors lay out the stakes:

To better address increasing risks related to climate change, insurance companies are continually changing their underwriting requirements and, in this process, trees have come under intense scrutiny. The processes that the insurance industry uses to assess, mitigate, and communicate tree-related risks are not well-understood by the public or tree care professionals. Yet, preliminary evidence in the North American news media and elsewhere suggests insurance companies' increasing impact on homeowners' decisions, thereby threatening the environmental benefits produced by the urban forest.

The study authors interviewed 33 arborists and 37 insurance agents across the Southeastern U.S. to better understand the priorities of each. They found the major themes among the insurance agents to be: obstacles to trust, profit prioritization, difficult climate for agents, power disjoint (with insurance company), and willingness to learn. Among arborists, the themes were frustration with insurance >>

“Most of the public trees are far enough from the houses that we are able to prune them away from the house without significant harm to the tree. The impact on private trees, which are a major component of our overall tree canopy, is much larger.”

—UCFS Survey respondent



Healthy pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) with branches over house. Photo by Michelle Sutton



House of Père Lacroix by Paul Cezanne 1873, oil, Public Domain

practices, distrust in insurance, disillusionment with insurance collaboration, and desire to educate insurers. The most frequent shared themes for arborists and agents were building trust (agent acting as mediator between homeowner and insurance company), competence and expertise, effective communication, and desire to collaborate. The study authors found that:

- Insurance carriers' approach to assessment, mitigation, and communication of tree-related risk was negatively affecting their relationship with homeowners and arborists and also strained relationships with many of their agents.
- Arborists harbored feelings of distrust with the insurance industry because of the industry's misinformed assessments of tree-related risk, and the distrust caused many arborists to avoid insurance work.
- Several agents' relationships were strained with the insurance carriers because of the increasingly stringent underwriting requirements, along with a decrease in their ability to collaborate and reason with underwriters on final coverage determinations.
- Despite these challenges, participants suggested opportunities to build bridges between the two seemingly disparate industries.

What Urban Foresters and Consultants Can Do

"We want insurance companies to refrain from nonrenewal notices based on aerial imagery alone," says Kay Evanovich. "Insurers must allow time for homeowners to have TRAQ-credentialed arborists inspect the tree and provide a report." Evanovich says our industry can get creative about funding inspections so that more homeowners can afford them; when supported by the TRAQ assessment, homeowners can return to the insurance companies with a strong case for tree retention and/or appropriate pruning (or no pruning).

Evanovich notes that the Georgia Arborist Association administers a popular [Tree Removal Assistance Program](#) (TRAP) that folks in lower income brackets can apply for. "Maybe cursory tree inspections by TRAQ-credentialed arborists could be added to that program, or one like it," Evanovich says. "And then, ideally and when warranted, a higher level of inspection is funded, at least in part." For those who can afford it, there are high-premium options that insurance companies provide for homeowners who live in flood- or fire-prone areas. "I don't see why keeping trees in proximity to the home couldn't be another kind of higher-premium option," Evanovich says. >>

Key Resources

From the Georgia Arborist Association
(Special thanks to Jessie McClellan, Executive Director)

Decatur, Georgia City Arborist Kay Evanovich presentation on [The New Cancellations: Trees and Homeowners Insurance](#) –includes sample letter from the City of Decatur for homeowners facing tree-related insurance directives.

[Sample Letter to Insurers](#) from the Georgia Arborist Association

[Letter to Insurance Company for Municipal Arborists Asserting Tree Ordinance Conflict](#)

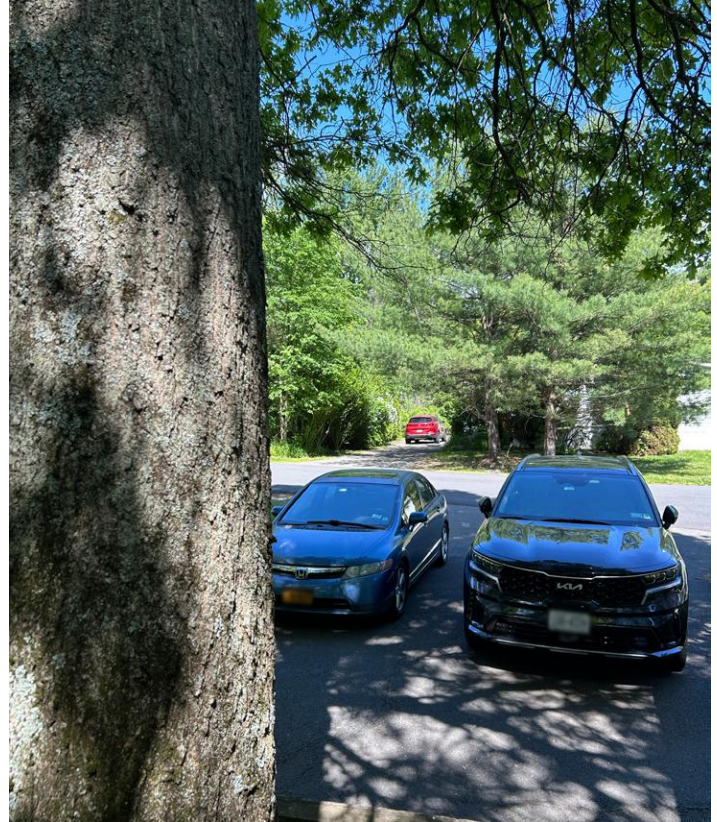
The Municipal Arborist Podcast, hosted by UCFS Member Joe Hansen, Episode 61: [Interview with ArboRisk owner Eric Petersen](#)

Tree Risk Summit Participant Report 2026 by Beau Brodbeck, Jason Gordon, and Jessie McClellan (to be posted in midsummer)

Evanovich stresses the value of the TRAQ credential. “All urban foresters should get it,” they say. “It gives us all the same set of information that we’re working off of. You get a standardized knowledge of trees and how they fail, and of which features may make a tree higher-risk and when. Obtaining TRAQ will only elevate us in the eyes of both the insurance companies and the cities and other entities we work for. It gives us more leverage to help homeowners keep their trees, and it’s better for our industry as a whole.”

The UCFS survey gathered respondents’ ideas for actionable steps after homeowners receive cancellation notices or pruning or removal directives. These actions include:

- Adopt a standard response pack that includes a one-page letter to insurers asserting tree ordinance authority (for public trees), pruning-cycle details, and ANSI A300/TRAQ alignment; and attach recent inspection/pruning records where applicable.
- Create a homeowner guidance sheet: how to request a TRAQ assessment; what BMP-aligned pruning looks like; what to send back to the insurance carrier; how to avoid violations.
- Contact your state’s Department of Insurance with your dataset: share counts on blanket “no overhang” directives and post compliance cancellations to argue for qualified assessments over imagery-only rules.
- Quantify canopy consequences locally: track removals and severe reductions linked to insurer letters, then use i-Tree to convert canopy loss into ecosystem dollars lost and tie it to canopy goals.
- Train and align stakeholders: brief realtors, home inspectors, and carriers on risk matrices, defensible space, and why roof-to-sky cuts can increase risk. Invite insurance representatives to field days with municipal/consulting arborists.
- Explore cost-share or voucher assistance programs for residents who receive insurer notices but lack resources to hire TRAQ arborists. 🌳



Abundant tree shade is one of the shared canopy ecosystem benefits that private tree ordinances are meant to protect. Insurer directives for pruning or removal can put homeowners in an untenable position with regard to those tree ordinances. Photo by Michelle Sutton

For Your Homeowners

In their “New Cancellations” presentation, Kay Evanovich mentioned the availability in 33 states and Washington DC of [FAIR Plans](#), which allow high-risk homeowners to obtain insurance after their policies have been cancelled (e.g., if the homeowner doesn’t want to remove a healthy, mature tree to satisfy the insurer). The property is covered by several insurance companies, limiting the amount of risk that any one company assumes. If a homeowner has to file a claim, every participating company pays for a portion of the loss.



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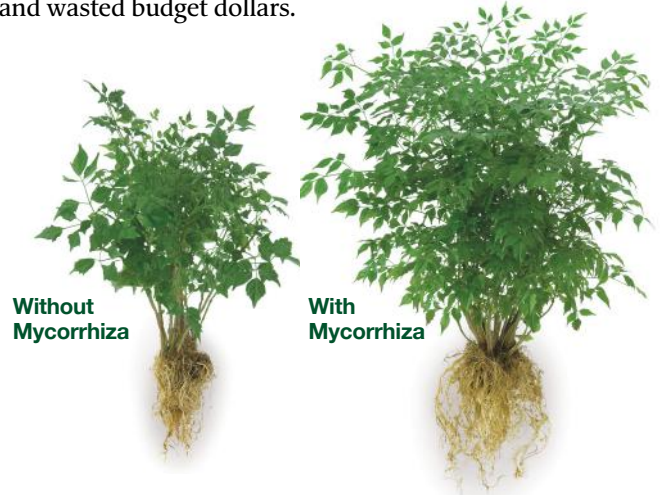
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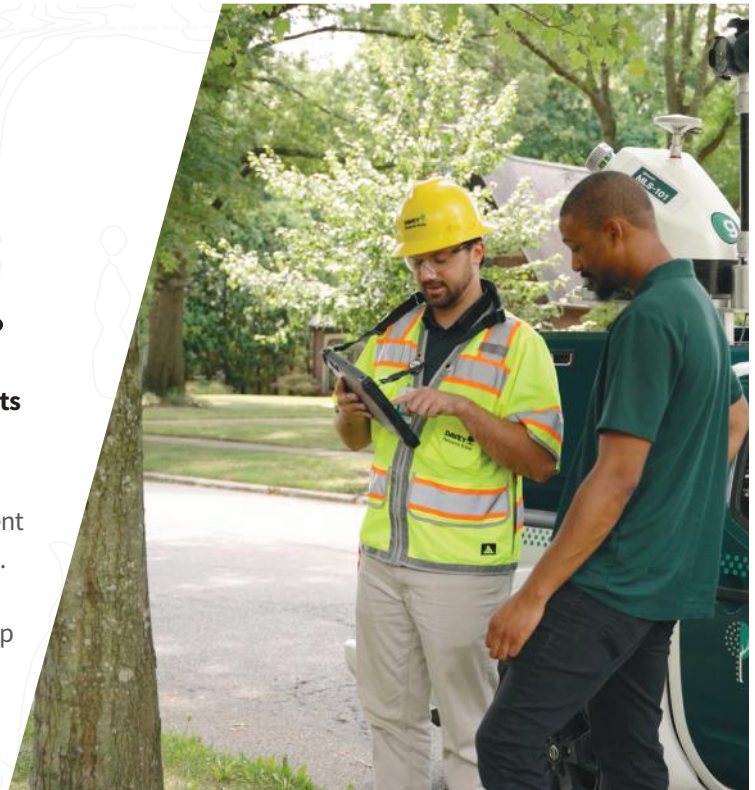
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Growing Safer Cities

The Role of Trees in Climate Resilience

BY RYAN ALLEN | SENIOR URBAN FORESTER, DUDEK

Record-breaking heat waves, flooding from intense rain events, and wildfires in urban neighborhoods are no longer rare occurrences; they are the new normal. Our urban forests and wildland areas are at risk as our climate and weather conditions become more extreme, but how do we respond to the polycrisis?

For years, we've leaned on familiar solutions: plant more trees, educate communities, pass supportive policies. These remain essential, but they aren't enough on their own. Today's challenges demand strategies that not only endure the next decade, but shape the next century. Even more importantly, they demand action.

Many communities already have strong plans in place. They exist in reports, presentations, and strategic frameworks, but too often, these materials remain shelved. Budget constraints, staff transitions, and shifting political priorities all contribute to inaction. But ultimately, it comes down to a choice.

We must choose to prioritize trees as essential infrastructure. Not as a competing interest, but as a solution that strengthens public safety, reduces wildfire risk, and lowers long-term costs.

Trees cool our cities, absorb stormwater, and create defensible space when properly managed. They are not at odds with critical services; they enhance them. Making this mindset shift isn't easy, but it is necessary.

At Dudek, this belief guides everything we do. Our mission is to help communities build resilient, healthy urban forests that deliver meaningful benefits today and for generations to come. That means going beyond concepts to create implementable, lasting solutions. Thriving urban forests don't happen by chance; they require

intentional planning, community support, and policies backed by funding and commitment. When this happens, we can improve public health, lower wildfire risk, and reduce disparities between those with trees and those without.

“Dudek took the time to understand realities on the ground, which helped us develop an urban forest master plan that is not only ambitious, but practical and implementable.”

— Aaron Reece, City Arborist, Irvine, California

With more than 20 years of experience, our team brings a fresh perspective to every project. No two communities are the same, even when challenges look familiar. Local climate conditions, land use patterns, community values, and governance structures all shape what success looks like. That's why we listen first, ensuring the solutions we develop reflect the priorities and realities of the people we serve.

Authentic engagement is equally important. Community engagement isn't a box to check, it's a critical step in designing programs that actually work. Gathering local knowledge from residents uncovers barriers to tree planting, improves understanding of maintenance challenges, and identifies what motivates long-term stewardship. This insight transforms good ideas into practical, supported action.

Planning for climate resilience and urban forestry can be complex and, at times, overwhelming. That's why we bring both expertise and approachability to the table, delivering high-quality work while fostering a collaborative, positive experience.

Ready to move your urban forestry goals from plan to progress? Let's work together to build a resilient, thriving community, starting with trees.

Whether it's developing an urban forest management plan, crafting a community wildfire protection plan, or updating an ordinance, Dudek is here to help turn vision into impact. 🌲

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FIRE PROTECTION PLANNER

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Tree Ordinances 360

- Tree Ordinances in UCFS Accreditation Standards
- New ADF Tree Ordinance Assistant Tool
- The Four Levels of Tree Ordinances
- Advice from Industry Leaders

Compiled by Michelle Sutton, Editor, *City Trees* • Photos by Michelle Sutton

All of our Learning Series support our [UCFS Accreditation Standards](#) and the ISA Certified Urban Forest Professional credential. We thank Bartlett Tree Experts, sponsor of the Learning Series, for their partnership in this important work!

—Leslie Berckes, UCFS Executive Director

Note that in most English-speaking countries outside the U.S., "by-law" is the equivalent term to "ordinance."

Public Tree Ordinances (Figure 1) is the first item addressed under Urban Forest Governance and Planning in the UCFS Accreditation Standards. Public Tree Ordinances are foundational to a professionally managed urban forest. A well-crafted, city leadership-adopted tree ordinance puts everyone on the same page regarding a host of policies—from standards that guide planting and maintenance to legal ramifications and penalties for ordinance violations. This article explores different ways to think about tree ordinances, how to create effective ones, and how to give existing ordinances more muscle. >>

Figure 1. Public Tree Ordinance criteria as set forth in UCFS Accreditation Standard 2.1

- Jurisdiction has an adopted ordinance (or equivalent for private properties—e.g., campuses) for the planting, care, removal, and protection of public trees that has been approved by the City or governing officials.
- Ordinance includes purpose, goals, and scope.
- Ordinance includes authority, responsibility, and permitting.
- Ordinance includes minimum standards for management based on industry standards.
- Ordinance includes process for enforcement, penalties, and appeal.
- Ordinance defines the legal framework and implications of tree ownership (e.g., around public vs. private responsibility).
- Ordinance includes or references controlling arboricultural standards of practice for tree care (e.g., ANSI, Urban Wood Network Certification of Standards, local streetscape standards).
- Ordinance has been reviewed in the last 10 years and updated as needed.



In a UCFS Learning Series webinar held last March called “[Demystifying Urban Forest Ordinances: From Policy to Practice](#),” UCFS invited experts to discuss different facets of Public Tree Ordinances. UCFS Director Leslie Berckes opened and moderated the session. She says:

A tree ordinance is a tool for long-term community vision, not just a rulebook for your city. It is critical to make sure that the tree ordinance has the teeth and power that it needs. An effective ordinance doesn't just tell us how to manage trees; it protects the public and it helps ensure a healthier, more flourishing urban forest. It's one of the most powerful means to make sure the urban forest is shaped the way you want it, and it documents for the next generation what you had intended for the management of your city's urban forest.

A tree ordinance specifically delineates public vs. private responsibility for trees under the ordinance purview. American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

New Arbor Day Ordinance Assistance Tool

A newly available (January 2026) tool for urban and community foresters is the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) Tree Ordinance Assistant, which characterizes existing ordinances as Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced based on user responses to eight questions. Arbor Day Foundation Urban Forestry Program Manager Eric North was instrumental in the development of this tool. He says:

You'll notice there are several places in the Ordinance Assistant tool where we emphasize the need to consult your City's legal counsel before, during, and after ordinance development. That's to make sure you're in compliance with both state and local laws and that the tree ordinance will fit in with your City's overarching ordinance and municipal code structure. The City legal counsel will also confirm whether your state (for users in the U.S.) follows [Dillon's Rule or Home Rule](#), and the legal implications for your tree ordinance.

The Ordinance Assistant tool leads you through eight questions that are critical for any municipality to consider. They are:

- Does your ordinance include a purpose statement about why trees matter?
- Who's responsible for tree decisions in your community?
- Do you have rules for keeping existing trees?
- Are there rules for protecting trees during construction projects?
- What happens when a tree is removed?
- Do you have standards for planting new trees?
- Does your ordinance guide how trees are cared for?
- What happens if someone violates tree rules?

We intentionally chose not to use good, better, best language as it pertained to ordinances. Looking through the Tree City USA applications, we see communities with 20 people and communities with millions of people; the best ordinance for the former is not going to be the same for the latter.

—Eric North



The ADF Ordinance Assistant tool asks, does your ordinance guide how trees are cared for?

Guide

TREE CARE ORDINANCE ASSISTANT

The Arbor Day Foundation Ordinance Assistance Tool is a straightforward resource designed to guide communities of any size through creating or strengthening tree care and tree protection ordinances, delivering clear language, best practices, and guidance for effective, enforceable policies.

START YOUR ASSESSMENT



SKIP TO RESOURCES



Once the user answers these questions and receives a Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced assessment, they can access resources to help move the City's tree ordinance to the next level. North says:

One of the questions I've gotten is, "What level is best? Do we all need to be aiming for Advanced?" We intentionally chose not to use good, better, best language as it pertained to ordinances. Looking through the Tree City USA applications, we see communities with 20 people and communities with millions of people; the best ordinance for the former is not going to be the same for the latter. If you don't have an ordinance at all, start with Basic and then build community support from there as you evaluate and revisit your ordinance to figure out what is and isn't working. I recommend that as opposed to trying to jump to the Advanced level right away.

North also suggests that when referencing standards like ANSI A300, urban foresters use language like "the most recent ANSI standard on root ball size"—not "the 2023 ANSI standard." This is so that the document does not have to be updated earlier than anticipated simply because of an outdated standard citation. This updating can also lead to anything else in the ordinance being subjected to a change, whether desired or not. >>



What happens if someone violates the tree ordinance? Addressing this in the ordinance itself can make enforcement and/or penalty collection more likely.

Four Levels of Ordinances Framework

UCFS Board Member and Union County, North Carolina Urban Forester [Keith O'Herrin](#) has developed a framework for urban foresters to think about how they can stairstep their community's tree ordinances through four levels that expand in degree of municipal oversight. It's complemented by O'Herrin's Advice for Urban Foresters Working on Tree Ordinances (see sidebar).

Level 1: Public Tree Ordinances

Level 1 ordinances regulate trees on public property and form the foundation of municipal forestry programs. Before a city regulates trees on private land, it must demonstrate leadership by properly managing its own trees. This level is required for Tree City USA designation, and strong templates are widely available through the Arbor Day Foundation and state urban forestry programs.

Level 1 ordinances typically establish authority through a board, commission, or designated department; they mandate a master plan; and they address public safety risk. Many also include provisions for private trees during pest outbreaks or when trees pose an imminent hazard to the public right-of-way. Given the canopy contribution of street trees, Level 1 programs can be highly impactful.

Level 2: Landscaping and Buffer Requirements

Level 2 is basic landscaping requirements such as buffers along property lines and screening of parking lots. This is usually not very controversial because it has minimal or no impact on the buildable area of a parcel and does not involve modifying architectural layout or design to preserve trees or vegetation. However, preserving trees and vegetation in the setbacks and other non-buildable areas (e.g., floodplain) is encouraged, incentivized, or required, including preserving existing vegetation to serve in lieu of planting new landscaping, saving developers money and reducing disturbance.

Setbacks are often quite narrow and usually represent a very small fraction of a site's total area, but privacy screening is very important to residents, so buffering has high impact—and this represents an opportunity to reduce the amount of land that is disturbed. Modern construction practices are increasingly impactful and generally include scraping off topsoil, which is often

Before a city regulates trees on private land, it must demonstrate leadership by properly managing its own trees.

—Keith O'Herrin



Tree ordinances indicate who

removed from site and never returned. Then the subsoil is graded for flow of stormwater away from buildings (positive drainage) and into swales, ponds, and pipes. The subsoil is compacted by heavy equipment, which negatively impacts the soil's ability to sustain plant life due to destroyed pore structure. This leads to greatly reduced permeability, biological connections, root growth, and other factors. A priority should be keeping as much land as possible from being scraped and graded; even if the trees on that land aren't high quality, avoiding scraping and grading preserves good soil, ecological richness, wildlife habitat, screening, and space that can support trees in the future.

Level 2 is a convenient entry point for arborists and urban foresters to "get a seat at the table" by being included in construction and development. This could include plan review and design decision-making on the front end, site meetings and inspections during and at the end of the project, and long-term code enforcement functions. This builds relationships with review team members such as planners, engineers, and landscape architects.



is responsible for tree care decisions in your community.

Level 3: Tree Preservation During Construction

Level 3 usually has some controversy because it requires modifying architectural layout or site design within the buildable area (e.g., buildings, driveways, utilities, slopes) to accommodate existing trees which may add expense/reduce profit, increase delays, and/or make the project more complicated. It usually dictates the means and methods by which work occurs (e.g., directional boring of utility lines instead of trenching). It often requires mitigation planting and may offer a fee-in-lieu-of-planting option.

Tree ordinances that prevent development outright or make a site undevelopable are likely too strict to be sustainable; tree ordinances are not anti-development ordinances. In practice, success means both facilitating development and preserving trees, not preventing development. Not all trees can be preserved, so they are prioritized by tree factors (e.g., species, size, condition) and site factors (e.g., access, footprint, layout) in a negotiation with developers. On large parcels, the focus may shift from preserving specific individual trees to preserving large areas of existing open space, which may include forests, prairies, floodplains, or productive agricultural land. >>

Keith O'Herrin's Advice for Urban Foresters Working on Tree Ordinances

Before proposing changes to a tree ordinance, start by understanding what is common and what is legal in your state, and look at peer communities of similar size nearby that might be experiencing a similar level of development pressure. Nothing drives changes in tree ordinances more than public outrage at development activity.

Municipal employees can't really advocate for big ordinance changes publicly, only internally via their chain of command. But changes can still occur that way, as development ordinances are often modified every 3-5 years if needed and a community is experiencing development pressure (less often with less development activity). So, build good relationships with the planning department.

The greatest offender is often the community itself via public works Capital Improvement Program projects. Your argument is that the community should be "leading by example" and should be "a good neighbor." Reining in public works engineers is difficult; they have to be pressured to include you by the city mayor/manager/council, but building relationships is important too. Show your value to them by mediating conflicts that arise; don't make problems, solve problems.

At the same time, you have to build your base of support and advocacy through your tree board, tree planting non-profit, or whomever is your base. This is how you exert pressure to change ordinances, make public works change their practices, make sure you're included on plan review and design, and achieve other "get a seat at the table" kinds of goals.

This level is the most variable, with large differences between cities in the same state and between states (Dillon’s Rule vs. Home Rule), and requires a balance between private property rights and the public good.

Level 4: Tree Removal Ordinance

A Level 4 tree ordinance regulates trees on private property at all times, not just during construction activities. Level 4 is usually the most controversial ordinance because it affects everyone, not just developers or new residents. However, similar to Level 3, not all trees can be or need to be preserved, so Level 4 still regulates only certain trees (e.g., based on species, size, and/or condition) and must allow for reasonable use.

Level 4 can be important in communities that are experiencing significant development, re-development (existing homes being flipped and/or torn down and rebuilt), or both. The protection of trees outside of the construction process is often required, otherwise developers, builders, and property owners could remove trees before applying for construction permits, thereby legally circumventing Level 3 tree protections. For example, over the last few years the City of Charlotte, North Carolina has determined that its major source of canopy loss has been from re-development of single-family homes; the city recently implemented a Level 4 ordinance. 🌳

Darya Barar on Working with Communities on Tree Ordinances

Consulting Urban Forester and HortScience | Bartlett Consulting Manager Darya Barar says, “The best tree ordinances are the ones that truly reflect a community’s specific needs, values, and aspirations.”

Darya Barar: I’ve had the incredible opportunity to work with several cities throughout the Bay Area and across California on drafting, revising, and implementing tree ordinances. I’ve worked in communities with well funded urban forestry programs, and those still recovering from bankruptcy. The throughline across all of them, regardless of resources, has been that people care deeply about trees.

The first thing I do when working with a community is listen: to tree managers, residents, business owners, landscapers, community organizers, and other stakeholders. Each community faces a different set of challenges. While many of the issues are familiar across jurisdictions, the solutions that will work best are never the same.

In East Palo Alto, for example, a historically redlined city where many landscaping professionals live, there was a persistent issue with topping protected trees. Through the community engagement process for the East Palo Alto

Urban Forest Master Plan, one of the solutions that emerged was to offer free education and training for landscapers and gardeners on proper pruning practices. A large church in the community agreed to host the sessions, and they were very well attended. This solution gave landscape professionals an educational opportunity and lowered the occurrences of pruning practices detrimental to trees.

In Menlo Park, a neighboring city, the primary challenge the community was facing was a high number of costly and contentious appeals on approved tree removal decisions. During the ordinance revision process, we found that much of the contention stemmed from a lack of clarity in the tree removal criteria. By refining and clearly articulating those criteria, the City was able to reduce conflict and improve trust in the process.

Another city just a few miles north of Menlo Park adopted that same ordinance in an effort to save time and money. However, because development patterns there were different, the copy and paste approach did not work as smoothly as hoped. Fortunately, through additional adjustments, the City has since been able to develop solutions that are more appropriate for Menlo Park’s local context.

Tree ordinances should include standards for new tree planting. Shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*)



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Bees, Zoos, and Everything In-Between:

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[UCFS Case Studies](#)—all 37 of them—are an enduring, excellent resource! Each case study contains detailed advice and anecdotes from an average of 7 or 8 urban and community forestry professionals.

The case study themes to date are:

Bees, Bioswales, Building Bridges Between LAs and MAs, Building Bridges with City Depts, Cemeteries, Climate Change, Conifers, Consulting, Contract Growing Partnerships, Drought, EAB, Fall Planting, Flooding, Gas Lines and Trees, Historic Trees, Invasives, Large Tree Relocation, Medians, Memorial Trees, Natural Areas in the Urban Forest, Palms, Pruning Cycles, Pyrus We Have a Problem, Retired from the Municipality, Sewer Lines, Slopes, Social Networking, Stormwater and Watersheds, Teaching, Tree Boards, Tree Lights, Urban Forestry's Location in City Departments, Urban Fruit Trees, Urban Wood (x 2), Zoos.

