

Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

The Citizen Forester

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Greening the Gateway Cities

By Mathew Cahill

Tree Planting for Environmental and Energy Justice

As one of the original 13 colonies, Massachusetts has had plenty of time to grow and change over the last few hundred years—from forested, to agrarian, back to forested, and now, increasingly, urbanized. With an area of 10,555 square miles, Massachusetts is now the third most densely populated state in the union. While the state has maintained large amounts of forested land, about 75% of that land is privately owned. As land value increases there is strong potential for canopy loss by future urbanization.

On publicly held land, the state's robust forestry program helps to bring the benefits of environmental conservation to a majority of residents. Benefitting the most are those residents with state parks and forests in their community or within a short driving distance. But what about populations without equitable access to these resources, or who are unaware of these environmental benefits that we've worked so hard to protect?

Recognizing the impacts of this, Massachusetts has placed

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an increased focus on an [Environmental Justice policy](#).

Environmental Justice (EJ) is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. EJ is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution, and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment.



DCR tree crew planting in Revere.

Additionally, in Massachusetts, the state legislature has given special designation to "Gateway Cities" that meet the following criteria:

- a municipality with a population greater than 35,000 and less than 250,000
- a median household income below the Commonwealth's average
- a rate of educational attainment (bachelor's degree or above) that is below the Commonwealth's average

Gateway Cities are midsize urban centers that anchor regional economies around the state. For generations, these communities were home to industry that offered residents good jobs and a "gateway" to the American Dream. Over the past several decades, manufacturing jobs have slowly disappeared. Lacking resources and the capacity to rebuild and reposition, Gateway Cities have been slow to draw new economic investment.

In an attempt to bring the benefits of tree canopy to EJ populations located in Gateway Cities, Massachusetts has developed the Greening the Gateway Cities Program

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Greening the Gateway Cities

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(GGCP), an environmental and energy efficiency program designed to reduce household heating and cooling energy use by increasing tree canopy cover.

GGCP is a partnership of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), along with governments and local grassroots organizations in Gateway Cities. GGCP plants trees (ranging from six to ten feet tall) with a goal of covering at least 5% of the target neighborhoods in new tree canopy cover. Trees are planted by DCR Bureau of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry crews hired from local communities and funding is supplied by DOER's Alternative Compliance Payment program.

Working at the Neighborhood Level

GGCP's efforts are based on current research, which includes on-the-ground tree and energy measurements in Worcester and other northern climate cities. These studies show that tree canopy brings the greatest benefits when established over an entire neighborhood area. This happens by lowering wind speeds and reducing summertime air temperature, in addition to the more obvious benefits of direct shading. All households in a neighborhood benefit from tree planting, not just the ones with trees directly adjacent.

This program targets the parts of Gateway Cities that have lower tree canopy, older housing stock, higher wind speeds, and a larger renter population. These criteria have a strong correlation with Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Within planting zones, temperature, tree mortality, tree growth, and other data are being tracked to document energy savings that the new trees will provide over time. Pilot cities in which this monitoring is taking place include Chelsea, Fall River, and Holyoke; UMass Amherst and Clark University are conducting the research.

Concentrating tree plantings in target areas maximizes energy savings. Trees near a home directly shade structures—significantly lowering surface temperatures—while trees away from a home still provide a benefit in terms of reducing the overall Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect.

Urban areas are typically hotter than nearby rural areas and “[heat island](#)” is a term to describe this phenomena. GGCP goals are to plant five trees per acre, which will decrease summer air temperatures in city neighborhoods through shading and increased transpiration. Additionally, in the winter months, mature tree trunks and branches help to randomize wind patterns, thus decreasing the heat loss that occurs by air infiltration into poorly insulated homes.

In high-density urban neighborhoods, planting an average of five trees per acre will provide benefits to 15-25 households, depending on building density. Most trees are planted in yards where they grow with the care provided by residents. Planting this number of trees will increase canopy by an estimated 1% in eight years, and 10% in thirty years. Return on investment is realized as soon as fifteen years, after which additional energy savings are realized for the life of the trees.

Nuts and Bolts

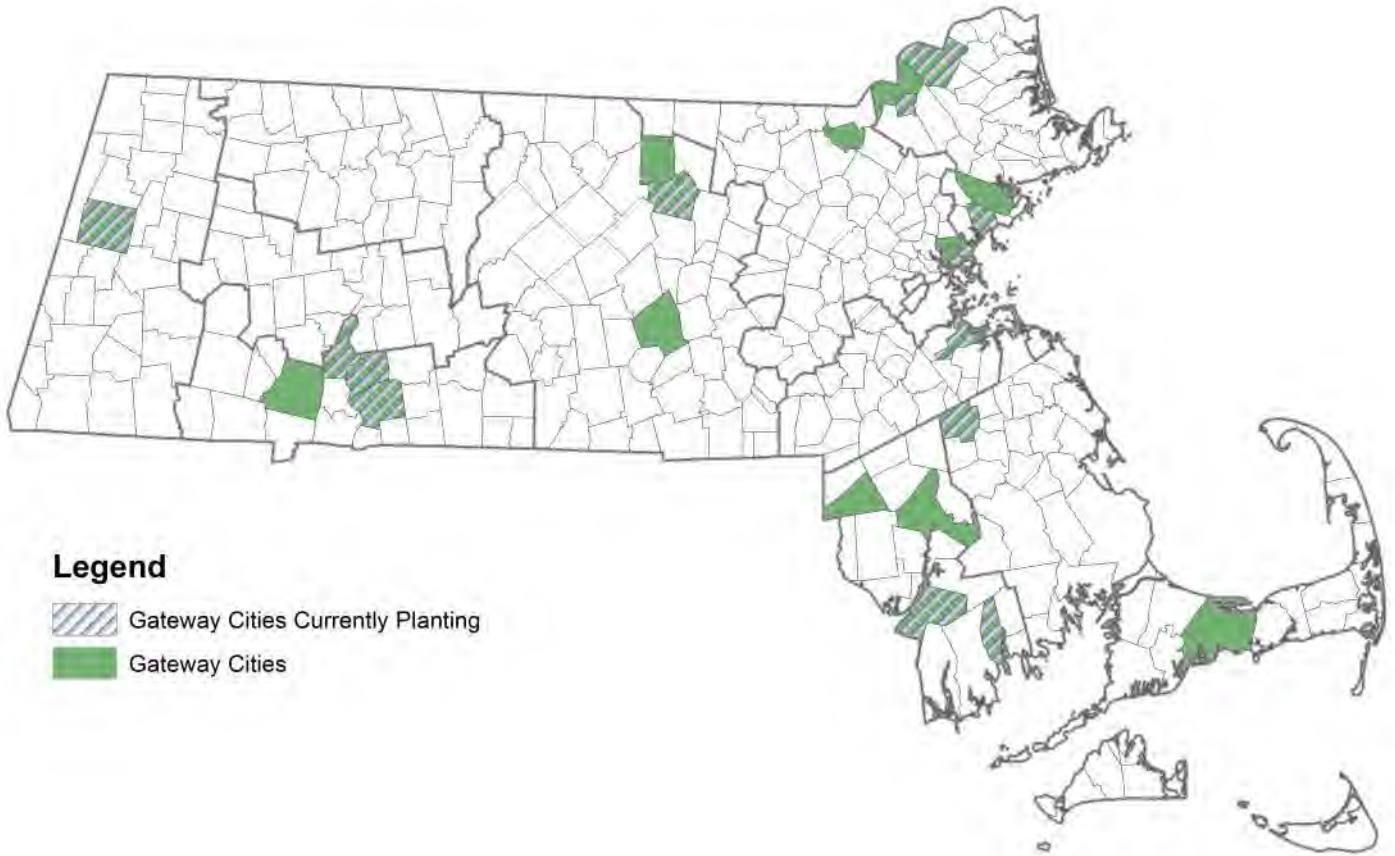
Local grassroots partners and DCR staff reach out to local residents through a variety of methods, including direct mailings and door-to-door canvassing. Even renters can participate in the program, as long as they get written approval from the property owner. DCR urban foresters visit properties where residents have expressed interest to determine the best location and species of tree(s) for energy efficiency. DCR crews plant the trees, free of charge, to ensure proper installation. To receive a tree, the participant must agree to a two-year watering commitment to ensure the tree's survival. They are given tree care information and guidelines, and the urban foresters are available to answer future questions about the trees. Once a city's tree planting is completed and the DCR crews are gone, our partnering non-profit



DCR tree crew planting in Leominster, spring 2018.

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Greening the Gateway Cities



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organizations continue the mission of environmental stewardship in the community.

Trees are typically planted from April-June in the spring season and from September-November in the fall season. DCR urban foresters, however, conduct site visits year-round. To maintain activity for the tree planting crews and to reach program planting targets, the GGCP aims to plant 400 trees per season (800 trees per calendar year) per city. Word of mouth is one of the most effective ways to get participation in the program, so activity tends to ramp up over time as word spreads. As requests in an area decline, the planting crew will move to an adjacent area to begin the process again.

Beyond Energy Savings

Large-scale urban plantings also provide local employment, and tree planting is the only energy efficiency program where almost all of the economic

investment stays in the local economy. Local planting crews are hired and trees are grown at local nurseries. In addition, healthy urban forest ecosystems improve the quality of the water we drink, the air we breathe, the stability of our neighborhoods, and our sense of community and individual pride. To communicate these benefits to the local communities through existing trusted channels, EEA provides grants to grassroots non-profit partners who are already working on related EJ issues in these communities. The funding helps them establish a link to urban forestry (if it did not already exist) and strengthens program partnerships while leveraging local resources.

Mathew Cahill is the Greening the Gateway Cities program manager for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. This article originally appeared in *City Trees*, the magazine of the [Society of Municipal Arborists](#).

Species Spotlight—Sweetspire, *Itea virginica*

By **Mollie Freilicher**



Form, [Virginia Tech](#)



Bark, [Virginia Tech](#)



Twig, [Virginia Tech](#)

Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), grows naturally in swamps, along streams, and in wet forestlands. Hardy to USDA zones five to nine, sweetspire is native from the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, south to Florida, and west to east Texas. Sweetspire is a deciduous, evergreen, or semi-evergreen multistem shrub, three to six feet tall, though it can grow up to 10 feet tall. Its branches are typically upright and clustered and, overall, it has a rounded habit.

Leaves of sweetspire are alternate, simple, and oblong, with serrate edges. Leaves are one-and-a-half to four inches long and around an inch wide. They are a shiny medium green above and paler below. Fall color is variable and may be yellow, orange, red, reddish purple, and crimson.

Its lightly fragrant flowers are often the reason managers choose to plant sweetspire. They are perfect, white, and showy and bloom in June. The fruit is a five-valved capsule, up to one-third inch long.

Sweetspire does not have any serious insect or diseases, though it is susceptible to leaf spot. It does best in moist, fertile soils and will grow in full sun or part shade and is tolerant of wet conditions and drought. It is very adaptable and is easy to transplant and can even be divided easily.

Michael Dirr recommends using it in wet areas or for naturalizing and notes that the fall color on some specimens is outstanding. There are several cultivars available, including 'Henry's Garnet,' 'Little Henry,' and 'Merlot,' each of which has good fall color, while 'Little Henry' is a more compact plant.

References

Dirr, M.A. 1998. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*. 5th Edition. Champaign, IL: Stipes.



Flower, [Virginia Tech](#)



Leaves, [Virginia Tech](#)



Fruit, [Virginia Tech](#)

Grants

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Deadline for Intent to Apply: October 1st ** Full Application Deadline: November 1st

Challenge grants are 50-50 matching grants (75-25 for environmental justice projects) to municipalities and nonprofit groups in Massachusetts communities of all sizes for the purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level.

The USDA Forest Service provides funding for the grant program, and DCR administers the grants with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association.

The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing the livability of all of Massachusetts's communities.

Project areas include:

- Building and Strengthening Citizen Advocacy and Action Organizations
- Securing or Training Professional Staff
- Developing and Implementing Systematic Urban Forestry Management through tree inventory and analysis, resource assessment, and development of plans
- Attaining a Tree City USA Award, Growth Award, Tree Campus USA Award, or Tree Line USA Award
- Completing strategic community tree plantings and "heritage" tree care projects
- Establishing a wood bank – **NEW!**
- Other projects

Read the complete guidelines and download the application at:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants>

For more information on the Challenge Grants, including our Eversource Go Green grants and National Grid Partnership Grants, contact Julie Coop at 617-626-1468 or julie.coop@state.ma.us or Mollie Freilicher at 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us. **Come to our grant info session, Friday, September 14, 10:00-11:30, Water Supply Protection—Wachusett Regional office, 180 Beaman Street, West Boylston, MA.**

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are pleased to announce the availability of all three Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs. These programs include the 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM) Program, the 2018 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). An official Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be issued on the [MEMA Website](#) and on COMMBUYS.

All potential applicants are invited and strongly encouraged to attend an informational session on the grant opportunities. These sessions will provide an overview of all of the HMA programs, available funding, relevant application process and deadlines. Please check our website www.Mass.gov/MEMA as we may schedule additional dates/locations.

Information Sessions

Sub-applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of these briefings to assist in applying for FEMA HMGP, PDM or FMA funding, as requirements regarding the grant programs will be described and discussed in detail. The briefings will be an overview of the HMA programs, the HMA guidance, and the application procedures.

Webinar

Monday, September 10, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – noon — (log-in information will be distributed at a later date)

Massachusetts Forest Legacy Program Is Seeking Applications

The Massachusetts Forest Legacy Program is now accepting project proposals for consideration in the federal fiscal year 2020 application process. View the full announcement [here](#).

Growing on Trees

Forest Health Experts Predict Damage from Gypsy Moth to Increase in Massachusetts in 2019

DCR Forest Health officials predict another bad year for gypsy moth in 2019. In many parts of the state, especially where defoliation by gypsy moths was prevalent this year, officials are seeing a lot of egg masses, suggesting a continued increase in the population of gypsy moths next year. Typically, the fungal pathogen *Entomophaga maimaiga* controls gypsy moths (for more background, [click here](#)), but in recent years this pathogen has not been able to control gypsy moth. This year, in particular, *Entomophaga* did not have a significant effect on populations.

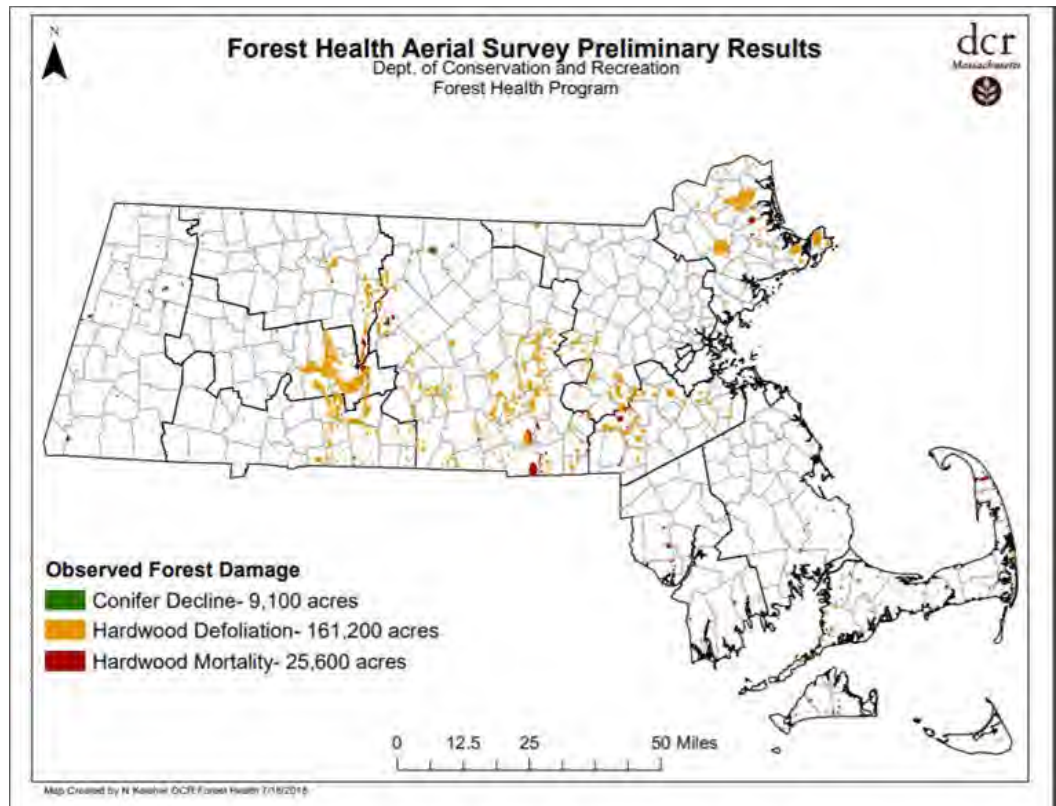
Preliminary results from the annual aerial survey show patches of hardwood defoliation in parts of western, central, and eastern Mass. Some areas of defoliation are large, including areas in eastern Hampshire County, and parts of Essex County, including Cape

Ann. The total area of hardwood defoliation is 161,200 acres. The preliminary results also show areas of mortality of hardwood trees in areas across the state, including a large patch in Douglas. In total, the preliminary results show 25,600 acres of hardwood mortality.

The results show fewer acres of defoliation than 2017, when over 939,051 acres were defoliated, with 98% of that defoliation attributed to gypsy moth. While the preliminary results show fewer defoliated acres, areas that have experienced defoliation for multiple years in a row will likely continue (or begin) to see mortality of hardwood trees next year.

What can communities do?

Monitor trees that have been subject to repeated defoliation. Assess roadside trees that have died or that you suspect may not come back next spring. For trees that pose an unacceptable level of risk, prioritize their removal or prune to reduce risk, where appropriate, if they cannot be removed immediately. Where practical, and for specimen trees, use cultural practices to reduce stress: provide water during dry periods, create a 2-4 inch layer of mulch around the base of the tree, and restrict activities under the dripline, which can compact soil and damage roots. If you want to treat a tree to reduce the level of gypsy moth infestation next spring, follow these [practices](#) (See Troublemaker of the Month in UMass Extension's HortNotes).



Growing on Trees

Massachusetts Town Forests Conference

Sunday, September 9, 2018 | Haverhill High School & Tattersall Farm, Haverhill

- Morning guided field tours of forestry projects
- Afternoon of farm & forestry demonstrations and activities as part of the Tattersall Farm Day

Co-hosted by the City of Haverhill, Tattersall Farm, New England Forestry Consultants, Inc., MA DCR Service Forestry Program, and USDA Forest Service



Find out more at www.mass.gov/dcr/service-forestry
[Register here.](#)

Growing Greener—in Montague

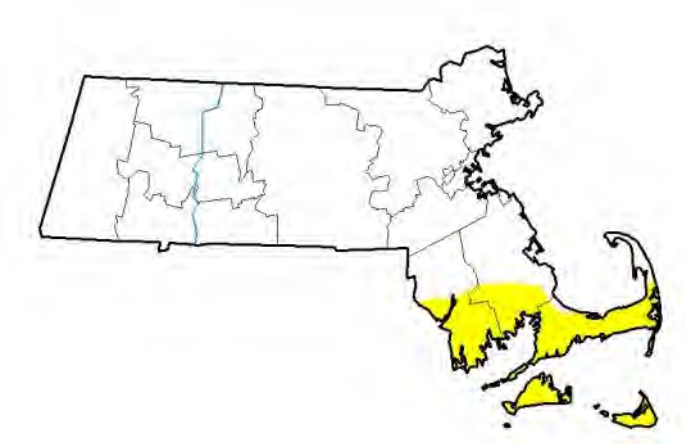
DCR recently awarded the town of Montague Tree Advisory Committee a grant to plant trees in the historic Village of Millers Falls, an environmental justice zone. The tree committee will work with the tree warden to plant 32 trees in this area. According to the application, “The current inventory of shade trees in Millers Falls has been sadly depleted by disease and mortality; the village is characterized by hard surface pavement, blacktopped tree belts, sugar maples in decline, and the complete absence of shade trees in many areas.” The effort will include going door to door in the area to provide information on the planting effort and to invite residents and businesses to participate in the care of the new trees. The Tree Committee selected locations and urban tolerant species for the plantings. Some of the tree selections included, ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), hardy rubber tree (*Eucommia ulmoides*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and Frontier elm, (*Ulmus* ‘Frontier’).

Are you interested in applying for a DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant? Check out information on our [website](#) or contact Julie Coop, julie.coop@mass.gov or 617-626-1468 or Mollie Frelicher mollie.frelicher@mass.gov or 413-577-2966. The next application deadline is November 1, 2018.

Drought Monitor

As of August 28, 2018, about 12% of Massachusetts is classified as “abnormally dry,” with no areas in a drought status. Find out more at the [US National Drought Monitor](#).

For more information on conditions in Massachusetts, check out UMass Extension Landscape Message: <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/landscape-message>



Intensity:



Webcasts and Events

Urban Forest Connections

The USDA Forest Service's Urban Forest Connections webinar series brings experts together to discuss the latest science, practice, and policy on urban forestry and the environment. These webinars are open to all. Past webinar presentations and recordings are available [here](#).

September 12, 2018, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. (Eastern)

Construction Damage, Severe Storms, and Tree Failure Analysis

Eric North, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Larry Costello, University of California Emeritus & Oracle Oak LLC

To access the webinar, go to <https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/>.

Upcoming Urban Forest Connections Webinars

October 10, 2018 | 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m. (Eastern)

December 12, 2018 | 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m. (Eastern)

January 9, 2019 | 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m. (Eastern)

EPA Soak Up the Rain New England Webinar Series

September 12, 2018 | 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Green Streets in Dense Communities

This webinar will showcase the results of a two year planning initiative by the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Charles River Watershed Association to identify and design green infrastructure strategies for dense, residential city streets.

Presenters:

Julie Dyer Wood, Director of Projects, Charles River Watershed Association

Melissa Miguel, P.E. Supervising Engineer, Department of Public Works, City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

For more information and to register (PDF) or go to: <https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-new-england-webinar-series>

Webinars on Demand

Miss a recent webinar about trees, like the one last month on tree stewards in Virginia?

Check out what is in the archive at forestrywebinars.net

Urban Forestry Today Webcast

Emerald Ash Borer Update

September 13, 2018 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Nate Siegert, Ph.D., USDA Forest Service

Attend live and receive Free ISA/MCA CEUs by visiting www.joinwebinar.com and entering the code: 705-880-363.

The Urban Forestry Today Webcast Series is sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Conservation, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, University of Massachusetts Extension, and Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association.

UMASS Green School—Fall 2018

October 17, 2018 – December 17, 2018 | Milford

Specialty Tracks: Arboriculture, Landscape Management, and Turf Management

Registration is open!

The early-bird rate ends September 24.

Find out more: <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/education/umass-extensions-green-school>

Emerald Ash Borer Field Day – UMass Extension

Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton

Find out more: <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/events/emerald-ash-borer-field-day>

Workshop | Invasive Plant Identification and Management

Saturday September 22, 2018, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Great Hall at Cedar Hill, 265 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA

Taught by Chris Polatin, Founder of Polatin Ecological Services

More information at GrowNative.

Challenge Grant Info Session

September 14, 2018, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

180 Beaman St., West Boylston

Come learn about this annual grant opportunity from the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program and have a chance to discuss project ideas. Contact [Julie Coop](#) or [Mollie Freilicher](#) for more information.

Upcoming Programs

DCR Tree Steward Training

October 12-13, 2018 | Harvard Forest, Petersham

Topics include: Tree Wardens, Tree Stewards, and the Community • Trees and Pruning • Tree Identification • Working with Volunteers • Site Selection and Proper Tree Planting Techniques • Funding Urban and Community Forestry • Diagnosing Insect and Disease Problems • Soil Health • Assessing the Urban Forest Roundtable Discussion • And More!

[Register Today!](#)

Contact Mollie Freilicher—mollie.freilicher@mass.gov or 413-577-2966.



Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. | Northampton, MA

Contracting Urban Forestry Work – Alex Sherman

Forest Health Update – Ken Gooch

ISA, MCA and pesticide credits will be available.

www.masstreewardens.org

Farther Afield

Partners in Community Forestry National Conference

November 6-7, 2018 | Irvine, CA

The Partners in Community Forestry conference is the largest international gathering of urban forestry practitioners, advocates, researchers, and government leaders. At this year's conference in Orange County, California, you will be among fellow attendees who are passionate about all things trees — from planting and tending to the latest research. Everyone comes together to share their best practices and find new ideas to bring home.

Find out more at www.arboday.org/pcf.

SMA Annual Conference

November 5-6, 2018 | Irvine, CA

Find out More! www.arboday.org/programs/pcf/partnering-events

ASCA Conference

November 28—December 1 | San Diego, CA

Annual conference of the American Society of Consulting Arborists

www.asca-consultants.org

Growing on Trees

Back to School – some upcoming course offerings

Berkshire Botanic Garden

More courses are available here:

<https://www.berkshirebotanical.org/education>

[Ornamental Woody Plants](#) - October 2 to October 23

[Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs](#) - October 20

[Soil and Soil Amendments](#) - October 30 to November 20

[Plant Health Care](#) - November 27 to December 18

[Bark and Buds: Winter Tree ID](#) - December 8

New England Wildflower Society

More courses are available here:

<http://www.newenglandwild.org/learn/our-programs>

[Plant Form and Function](#)

Starting Wednesday, September 19, 2018

[Tracing Landscape History: Cambridge](#) - October 5

[Framework Trees of New England](#)
October 25 and October 27

[Invasive Plants: Identification, Documentation, and Control](#)
October 11 and October 13

[Winter Branchlet Identification](#) - November 1

[Naked Shrubs](#) - November 10

[Wetland Shrubs in Winter](#) - January 19, 2019

Polly Hill Arboretum

More courses are available here:

<http://www.pollyhillarboretum.org/education/calendar/>

[Tree and Shrub Pruning](#)

September 22 and September 26 (repeat of Sept. 22 class)

Arnold Arboretum

More courses are available here:

<https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/education/adult-education>

[Learn to Observe: Tree Spotter Citizen Science](#)

September 8, 2018

[Introduction to Botany](#) - Starting September 18

[Chainsaw Use and Safety](#) - September 22

[Small Trees for Small Spaces](#) - October 21

MCA Exam Overview Course

September 7, 2018, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Elm Bank Reservation, Wellesley

This course offers an overview of the MCA program including what to expect when you take the MCA exam, helpful study tips, a review of key points, and useful strategies for Tree ID – brought to you by members of the MCA committee and MAA management.

The course is designed to provide a review of key points for each chapter of the Study Guide. The course does NOT attempt to teach the material found in the study guide. It is expected that course candidates have reviewed and/or are familiar with the content of the study guide itself. The presenters will focus on strategies for effective studying and test taking. Course participation does not guarantee improved performance on the MCA exam.

Find out more: www.massarbor.org.

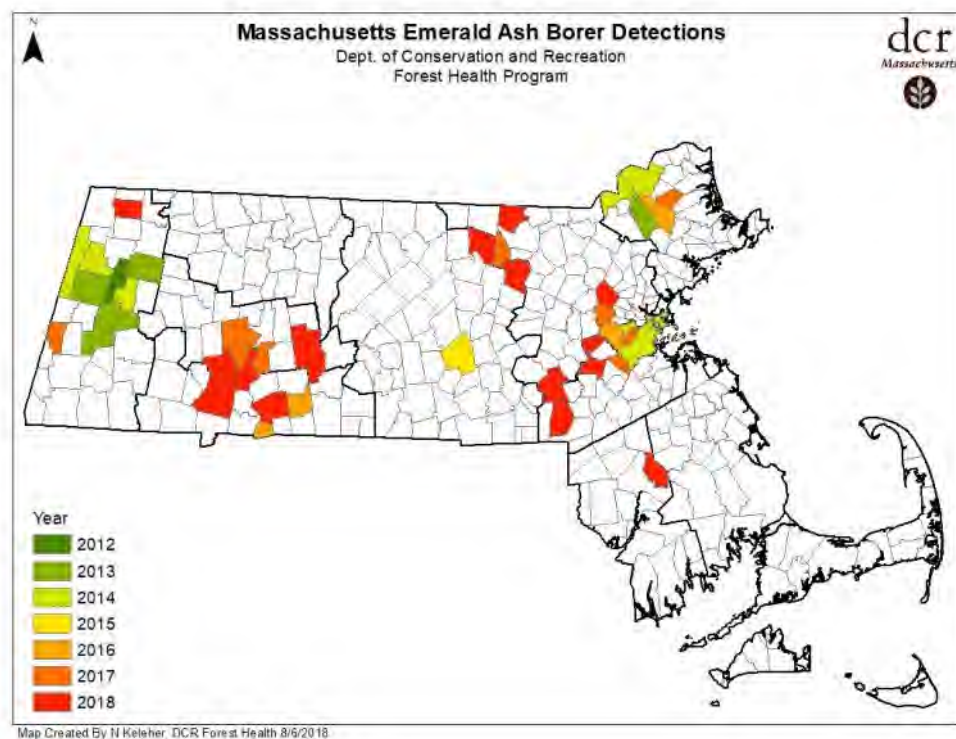
New England ISA Annual Conference

November 4-6, 2018 | Mystic, CT

Please join us for the New England Chapter International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Tradeshow where we will "Honor the Past, Treasure the Present, Shape the Future" in beautiful Mystic, Connecticut. Dr. John Ball will be this year's keynote speaker. There are many pre-conference events, starting Saturday November 3rd. Enjoy all that Mystic has to offer. Come for the weekend! Earn CEUs and Pesticide Credits. Find out more at newenglandisa.org.

Growing on Trees

Emerald Ash Borer Update—August 6, 2018



Emerald Ash Borer adults are currently active!

Check out this [ID guide](#).

Think you've spotted one or seen signs and symptoms of an infestation? [Report it here](#).



Is your community ready for EAB?

Contact the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program for information on how your community can respond.

Emerald Ash Borer Field Day – UMass Extension

Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton

Join Tawny Simisky, UMass Extension Entomologist, Rick Harper, UMass Extension Associate Professor, Ken Gooch and Nicole Keleher, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Health Program, Phil Lewis, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service PPQ, and Mollie Freilicher, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program, for a field day devoted to the invasive emerald ash borer. The program will include a classroom-style overview of ash tree and EAB identification and status, as well as insect monitoring and management options, on-site viewing of infested ash trees, trap demonstrations, and tips to carry out community tree inventories to detect and manage ash trees. This training is designed for arborists, tree wardens/urban foresters, municipal officials, landscapers, land managers, landowners, and tree enthusiasts.

Pesticide & Professional Credits

Three pesticide contact hours for categories 35, 36, and Applicators License available, valid for equivalent categories in all New England states. ISA, MCA, MCH, MCLP, and SAF credits requested.

Find out more: <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/events/emerald-ash-borer-field-day>



Gleanings

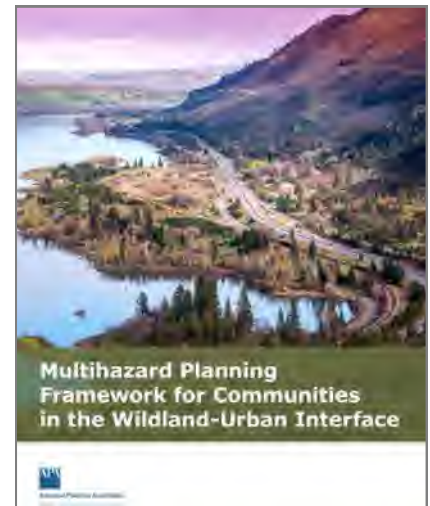
Multihazard Planning Framework for Communities in the Wildland Urban Interface

The Multi-hazard Planning Framework for Communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface lays out a comprehensive framework that:

- addresses risk from wildfire and other hazards
- encompasses scales from site to neighborhood, community, and region
- identifies a range of planning interventions that can be used to reduce risk and maximize the benefits that forests provide across the scales of concern

It includes a planning systems audit tool, which can be used by regions and the communities within them to identify strengths, gaps, and potential areas for improvement in the jurisdiction's planning system (plans, codes, and public investment and other programs) as they relate to multi-hazard risk.

Download the framework [here](#).



Climate Change Resource Center

The Climate Change Resource Center (CCRC) is a web-based, national platform that connects land managers and decision makers with useable science to address climate change in natural resources planning and management. Current and expected climate changes have serious implications for ecosystems and the benefits they provide.

Check out information on [Urban Forestry and Climate Change](#) and more on the Climate Change Resource Center Website: www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/.

New Analyses Reveal Growth in Urban-Wildland Interface in the U.S.

Wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas – where houses and other development meet or mix with undeveloped natural areas – are places of transition and change. Undeveloped wildlands offer extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation and the aesthetic and personal advantages of living “in the country.” At the same time, human development changes wildlands over time, eating away at the edges or breaking large natural areas into smaller patches. Our recent study found that WUI grew rapidly from 1990 to 2010 in the U.S., expanding from 30.8 to 43.4 million homes (a 41% increase), covering from 581,000 to 770,000 km² (33% growth), making it the fastest growing land use type in the conterminous U.S. New WUI area totaled 189,000 km², an area that is larger than Washington State. This expansion of the WUI poses particular challenges for wildfire management, creating more buildings at risk to wildfire in environments where firefighting is often difficult. [Find out More.](#)



Vermont Green Streets Guide

City streets dominate large expanses of our urban landscape, creating dedicated spaces for vehicular traffic and utilities. This conventional street design is reimagined and reengineered in the new [Vermont Green Streets Guide](#), a step-by-step publication that builds expertise, facilitates design, and outlines maintenance practices on a new type of urban street.

Green Street design takes a complete view of the street, seeing stormwater as a resource, universal mobility as a priority, and plants as co-engineers of a complex built environment. It reimagines a singular street design that efficiently prioritizes multiple uses and recognizes the unique value of shared spaces.

[Download the Guide](#)

News

An Ancient Jewel: Florence Forest Features Old-Growth Characteristics

By **Bera Dunau**

August 9, 2018—It's no secret that Northampton is home to large swaths of preserved woodlands, conservation areas and other pockets of land where people can hike, stroll and otherwise bask in nature. Yet in addition to Fitzgerald Lake and Mineral Hills conservation areas in the city — well-known tracts of land protected forever — there are other areas of seldom-traveled terrain that remain largely unknown to the public and are devoid of such formal protections. Such is the case in a corner of Florence, where a unique patch of forest is located less than a mile from Morningside Drive. The area, which abuts Broad Brook, contains evidence of old growth characteristics — meaning it contains trees of exceptional age and has been nature-managed for many years. Read the full story at the [Daily Hampshire Gazette](#).

Springfield Promotes \$1.5 Million, Free Tree-Planting Program in McKnight, Old Hill, and Upper Hill

By **Peter Goonan**

August 21, 2018—City officials and community activists gathered at the Buckingham Triangle in the McKnight Neighborhood on Tuesday to promote a free tree planting program aimed at adding beauty, comfort and energy efficiency in a three-neighborhood area. The city was recently awarded a \$1.5 million Greening the Gateway Cities Program grant for the planting of 2,400 trees in the McKnight, Old Hill, and Upper Hill neighborhoods, city officials said. The grant was awarded by the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs through funding from the Department of Energy Resources. Read the full story on [masslive.com](#).



News Headlines in Brief

[Climate Change Is Making Trees Bigger, But Weaker In Eastern US, Adult Trees Adapt and Acclimate to Local Climate](#)
[Tree Bark Generates a Weird Force That Defies Gravity](#)
[Country Diary: On the Hunt for Some of the Rarest Trees in the World](#)
[The Healing Potential of Turning Vacant Lots Green](#)
[Transforming Tulsa with a Park](#)
[Toronto Skyscraper will be covered by 450 Trees](#)
[Trees and Climate Change: Faster Growth, Lighter Wood](#)

[Trees Are Migrating West to Escape Climate Change](#)
[Earth Has More Trees Now Than 35 Years Ago](#)
[Frequent Fires Make Droughts Harder for Young Trees, Even in Wet Eastern Forests](#)
[Why the 'Greening' of Vacant Land Is a Smart Long-Term Investment in Cities](#)
[Huge Number Of Dead, Dying Trees In Connecticut At Increased Risk Of Falling Due To Years Of Drought, Insects](#)

On the Horizon

Sept 7 Mass. Arborist Exam Prep Class, Wellesley,
<http://www.massarbori.org/>

Sept 9 [Annual DCR Town Forest Conference](#),
Haverhill

Sept 11 EAB Field Day, UMass Extension, Easthampton,
www.umassgreeninfo.org

Sept 12 EPA Soak Up the Rain New England Webinar,
www.epa.gov/soakuptherain

Sept 13 Urban Forestry Today Webcast, 12:00 p.m.
(Eastern), www.urbanforestrytoday.org

Sept 14 DCR Challenge Grant Info Session,
West Boylston

Sept 19 Saluting Branches National Day of Service,
www.salutingbranches.org

Sept 20 Southeast MA Tree Wardens Field Day,
Plympton, www.masstreewardens.org

Sept 21 Structural Tree Support Systems – Cabling and
Bracing Workshop, Hopkinton,
www.newenglandisa.org

Sept 25 Western Mass. Tree Wardens Fall Meeting,
Northampton, www.masstreewardens.org

Sept 29-30 North American Tree Climbing Competition,
Providence, RI, www.newenglandisa.org

Oct 2 Establishing Trees in Urban Environments,
Florence, www.masstreewardens.org

Oct 3 Mass. Certified Arborist Exam, Wellesley,
www.massarbor.org

Oct 5 Stockbridge School of Agriculture
Centennial Celebration, Amherst

Oct 11 Crew Leader Qualification Workshop,
Littleton, www.tcia.org

Oct 12-13 [DCR Tree Steward Training](#), Petersham

Oct 18 ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification
Renewal Course, Acton,
www.newenglandisa.org

Oct 18 Southeastern MA Tree Wardens Fall Meeting,
Middleboro, www.masstreewardens.org

Oct 20 Electrical Hazards Awareness Training,
Seymour, CT, www.newenglandisa.org

Oct 29 Green School, UMass Extension, Milford,
www.umassgreeninfo.org

Nov 4-6 New England ISA Annual Conference,
Mystic, CT, www.newenglandisa.org

Nov 6-7 Partners in Community Forestry Conference,
Irvine, CA, www.arborday.org/pcf

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www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry

Charles D. Baker, Governor

Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Leo Roy, Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Peter Church, Director of Forest Stewardship, Department of Conservation and Recreation

If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or want to submit an item to *The Citizen Forester* (article, photo, event listing, etc.), contact [Mollie Freilicher](#) or click [here](#).

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