







Urban Forest Values Workshop

You are invited to attend a half-day workshop on urban forest values at the London Convention Centre, Salon E, 300 York Street, in London, Ontario, on October 01, 2012, from 12:30 to 16:00. The goal of this workshop is two-fold: to communicate the findings of our several years of research studying how Canadians value their urban forests; and to discuss as a group the implications for local urban forest management. The workshop is targeted towards urban forest professionals in the public and private sector, including arborists, urban foresters, planners, landscape architects, engineers, non-governmental organizations, and academics. This will be a pre-conference workshop of the [10th Canadian Urban Forest Conference](#).

Workshop Agenda

-  12:30 – 13:00 Lunch provided
-  13:00 – 13:10 Introductions
-  13:10 – 14:10 Urban forest values presentation: Our research findings
-  14:10 – 14:30 Break
-  14:30 – 14:50 Public engagement in London's Urban Forest Strategy,
Presented by Sara Rowland, Urban Forestry Planner, City of London
-  14:30 – 16:00 Roundtable discussion: Implications and applications for local settings

Team Members (Canadian Urban Forest Research Group)

Peter Duinker	Principal Investigator, Dalhousie University
Tom Beckley	Co-investigator, University of New Brunswick
John Sinclair	Co-investigator, University of Manitoba
James Steenberg	Research Associate, Dalhousie University
Camilo Ordóñez	PhD Candidate, Dalhousie University
Jaclyn Diduck	Research Assistant, University of Manitoba

Contacts

Please RSVP to:

Email: james.steenberg@dal.ca; phone: 416-206-1958 (cell)

Email: peter.duinker@dal.ca; phone: 902-494-7100 (office); 902-229-5141 (cell)

Website: <http://canadianurbanforest.ca>



Background Information

The urban forest values workshops are derived from a major Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant held by Peter Duinker (Principal Investigator) at Dalhousie University, Tom Beckley at the University of New Brunswick, and John Sinclair at the University of Manitoba to study public values associated with Canada's urban forests. The workshops are part of an additional SSHRC outreach grant, which also includes a policy brief for city councillors, conference presentations, a website, and a synthesis report.

More than 80% of Canadians live in towns and cities and are therefore considered to be urban dwellers. The trees and forests those citizens are most aware of, in terms of direct contact and observation, are urban forests. The researchers used outdoor focus groups and diaries, photo elicitation, sidewalk interception surveys, and online surveys to gain unique insights into how urban dwellers value trees in Halifax, Fredericton, Winnipeg, and Calgary. The following trends were revealed. First, most urban citizens say they care deeply about trees in the city, but at the same time they really give little thought and attention to them. Second, in aggregate, urban citizens identify an extremely wide range of values associated with urban forests, with emphasis on social and environmental values and less on economic values. Finally, urban-forest professionals seldom know with confidence how their respective urban citizens value urban forests, leaving them in a position either to exclude those values or to guess what the values might be as they prepare and implement urban-forest management plans and programs.

The urban forest values research was also embedded in the planning process of the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan, the Halifax Urban Forest Master Plan, and the Dalhousie Campus Tree Plan. Several of these methodologies, in addition to an approach for eliciting values that derived from the Canadian Standards Association's sustainable forest management standard called values, objectives, indicators, and targets (VOIT), were used to incorporate values into the planning process.

The workshop will consist of a presentation and a discussion. The first half of the presentation will focus on the research methods and findings, as well as some background information on why urban forest values matter. The second half will focus on how we incorporated urban forest values into the planning process. The discussion will be roundtable style, and will focus on the implications of urban forest values for local settings. We will be taking notes during these discussions and will be distributing workshop syntheses to attendees.