



**Morris Arboretum
& Gardens**
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



TREE CANOPY CONFERENCE 2023

OCTOBER 20, 2023

HAVERFORD COLLEGE, STOKES HALL

From Seed to Saw: The Business of Trees

10th Annual Tree Canopy Conference

With the reveal of the new Philly Tree Plan, along with an abundance of new funding for urban and community forestry nationwide through the Inflation Reduction Act, now is a time of great growth and opportunity in Philadelphia's urban forest. To grow healthier and stronger communities, millions of dollars will be coming to our cities, dedicated to the planting and care of new trees.

While the future is promising, this moment calls for careful planning and raises important questions: how can we work with the urban forest while also making sure that we're protecting and stewarding what we have? How do we value trees throughout their lifecycle? Where is there room for new growth and opportunity, and how can "green" business conflict with or promote good stewardship? Join us to hear new insights and discuss these topics and more with peers and industry experts.

Registration and more information can be found here: [Conferences | Morris Arboretum & Gardens](#)

This conference has been submitted to carry CEUs for ISA certified arborists and municipal specialists, and LA-CES Professional Development Hours (PDH) for Landscape Architects.

CONFERENCE AGENDA & SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Optional Earlybird Tour of Haverford College Arboretum - 7:45 - 8:40 am

WELCOME: 9:00 – 9:10 am

Session 1: 9:10—10:00 am

Giving Trees a Good Start

Hasan Malik, Tree Authority; Chris Uhland, Harmony Hill Nursery

Learn from Hasan Malik and Chris Uhland, both ISA Certified Arborists and nursery professionals, about how they work to give trees the best chance to survive in an urban landscape, right from the nursery.

Morning Break: 10:00—10:20 am

Session 2: 10:20—11:10 am

Greening for Growth: Harnessing the Power of Tree Planting and Workforce Development for Lasting Impact *Julianne Schrader-Ortega, Vice President & Chief of Healthy Neighborhoods, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society*

Using PHS's successful vacant lot greening and workforce development programs as case studies for the impact that greening can have on communities, learn about PHS's plans to scale tree planting and maintenance programs in the region. Learn about the growing trends in government and foundational funding that is supporting the establishment of tree canopy in cities and towns and how tree planting and stewardship can offer economic opportunities for communities.

Session 3: 11:10 am –12:00 pm

Return on Environment: The Economic Impact of Protected Open Space *Ellen Miramontes, Senior Trails and Open Space Planner, Montgomery County Planning Commission*

Public parks and trails, preserved farmland, and private conserved lands provide many benefits including increased property values, economic activity, environmental services, and better health and recreation opportunities. Montgomery County's recent Return on Environment Study reveals how these protected open spaces result in millions of dollars of savings, earnings, and avoided costs annually. These findings can be used to motivate county leaders, local decision makers, citizens, and stakeholders to take action that supports and advances open space protection.

Lunch and Tours: 12:00—1:30 pm

Haverford College Arboretum Tree Tour (½ hour tour for conference participants)

Join the staff of Haverford College Arboretum for a behind-the-scenes tour of their historic tree collection. Dating back to 1834, Haverford College is the oldest planned collegiate landscape in the nation. The 216-acre campus is home to over 5,000 accessioned trees. Located on the busy Main Line and nestled in Philadelphia's suburbs, the Arboretum is a significant green space that provides abundant tree canopy to the busy Lancaster Avenue commercial corridor.

Session 4: 1:30—2:20 pm

Taking Care of our Veteran Trees *Wayne Cahilly, Consulting Arborist, Cahilly's Horticultural Services LLC*

Planting of large numbers of new trees in urban and suburban areas has been an exciting and positive adventure for elected officials and greening professionals. New York City had its million tree planting program; LA got on the planting train with a million too. Edmonton Ontario decided to plant 1.5 million, and the Nature Conservancy said let's not fool around, we'll plant a billion trees. Is anyone considering the existing old trees that have survived the pressures of urbanization? Trees with decay, with holes in them, with fungi living in them, and racoons, and opossums, and bats; those trees that are veterans and which are an ecosystem to themselves. This presentation will focus on the importance of managing and appreciating our older trees for the valuable contributions they give while often asking nothing more than to be left alone.

Afternoon Break: 2:20—2:40 pm

Session 5: 2:40 –3:40 pm

Urban Wood Reuse: Challenges and Opportunities

Rebecca Ebner, Manayunk Timber

Natalie Walker, Sustainability Director, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

Carlos Alvarez, Project Manager, PowerCorps

Right now, most of the wood from trees that fall or are otherwise removed from Philadelphia parks end up as mulch or woodchips. But under a new city initiative, these trees will soon find new life as useable lumber. Launching in fall 2023, the new Reforestation Hub at the recycling center will salvage sections of fallen trees, mill them, and sell the lumber, putting proceeds towards the city's efforts to grow Philadelphia's tree canopy.

This process is one that Rebecca Ebner of Manayunk Timber -- the only Philadelphia sawmill to capture local trees instead of sending them to landfills -- is very familiar with. For the past 30 years, Manayunk Timber has worked to process reclaimed lumber from the city's industrial-era factories, as well as local trees that have been taken down because of disease, storms or construction.

Join us for a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges facing urban wood reuse in Philadelphia at this important moment of change and opportunity.

Session 6: 3:40—4:30 pm

Life After Death: The Importance of Dead and Dying Trees in the Garden

Samantha Nestory, Engagement Manager and Naturalist, Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden

Trees are the structural and ecological backbones of most of our gardens in the mid-Atlantic. When trees die, their importance doesn't lessen --it shifts. While dead trees may no longer filter air pollutants or create oxygen, they support an incredibly diverse array of wildlife, and they deserve a place in our green spaces. Explore the species that call dead trees home and explore how Stoneleigh incorporates these interesting and important elements into the garden.

Closing Remarks