



2026

FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL MEMBER SUMMIT

**JULY 30-31, 2026
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA**

Scan for FUFC Urban Forestry
Summit Digital Program



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

URBAN FORESTRY RESILIENCE, RESISTANCE & RECOVERY

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026

- 8:30 - 8:45 AM **Registration & Welcome**
- 8:45 - 9:45 AM **Anthony Gross** - *NatureScape Broward Providing Trees to Build Canopy and Support Wildlife*
- 9:45 - 10:45 AM **Darryl Richard** - *FDOT Planning for Trees*
- 10:45 - 11:15 AM Vendor Break
- 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM **Zach Hansen** - *Preserving More Than Buildings: Advocacy, Historic Canopy & the Springfield Arboretum Story*
- 12:15 - 1:30 PM **Networking Lunch**
- 1:30 - 3:00 PM Breakout Sessions
- *Urban Forestry: Right Way Within the Right-of-Way*
 - *Outreach & Informal Education Breakout*
- 3:00 - 3:30 PM **Shelly Johnson** - *Gainesville Bat House Presentation*
- 3:30 - 5:00 PM Vendor Networking Social
- 8:00 PM Evening Bat House Experience
(Meet at hotel at 7:15 to walk over, or meet there!)

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM Networking Breakfast
- 8:30 - 11:00 AM Morning Tour Sessions
- **Campus Tour** – Tree ID and Disease Identification Tour
 - **Rating Tree Conditions in the Field**
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM **FUFC Membership Meeting**
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM **Awards Luncheon**
- 1:00 - 1:30 PM **Eric Muecke** - *Keynote Program*
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM **Marshall Jones** - *AI in Urban Forestry: What Works Today, What Doesn't & What's Next*
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM **Leaders in Urban Forestry Panel Discussion**
- 3:30 PM Conference Adjourns

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SESSIONS

NATURESCAPE BROWARD PROVIDING TREES TO BUILD CANOPY AND SUPPORT WILDLIFE

PRESENTED BY: ANTHONY GROSS

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM

Learn how Broward County's NatureScape program is helping residents, municipalities, and community partners grow urban tree canopy while supporting water conservation and wildlife habitat. This session will highlight native and fruit tree giveaways, community partnerships, landscape certification, public outreach, and practical strategies that can be adapted by communities throughout Florida.



FDOT PLANNING FOR TREES

PRESENTED BY: DARRYL RICHARD

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Planning tree projects within transportation corridors requires coordination, patience, and a strong understanding of FDOT processes. This session will help attendees better understand local agency partnerships, project programming, right-of-way considerations, design constraints, maintenance planning, and potential funding options for successful tree planting projects along Florida roadways.



PRESERVING MORE THAN BUILDINGS: ADVOCACY, HISTORIC CANOPY & THE SPRINGFIELD ARBORETUM STORY

PRESENTED BY: ZACH HANSEN

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Explore how a neighborhood tree inventory grew into a community stewardship movement in Jacksonville's Springfield Historic District. This session will share how canopy mapping, heat island data, grant funding, ArbNet accreditation, TreeWalks, and cross-sector partnerships helped build public support for urban forestry and create a model that can be replicated in communities across Florida.



URBAN FORESTRY: RIGHT WAY WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

PRESENTED BY: SHANNON BREWER, JOE ANDERSON, JON ATHAN COLBURN, OMAR LEON

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CENTURY A BALLROOM)

Trees, utilities, roads, sidewalks, stormwater, emergency access, and residents all intersect within the public right-of-way. This interactive breakout session brings municipal and utility forestry professionals together for a practical discussion on coordination, species selection, direct-grow contracts, storm impacts, improved specifications, and strategies to move from reactive conflict to proactive planning.

SESSIONS

OUTREACH & INFORMAL EDUCATION BREAKOUT

PRESENTED BY: EMILY BLUM, ELISE CASEY & ANTHONY GROSS

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (DOGWOOD MEETING ROOM)

How do we get more people to care about trees before there is a crisis?

This interactive breakout will focus on outreach, education, public engagement, and creative ways to connect residents, students, local leaders, and community partners with the value of urban forestry.

GAINESVILLE BAT HOUSES

PRESENTED BY: SHELLY JOHNSON

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Before the evening Bat House Experience, attendees will learn more about the importance of bat houses, habitat, education, and the unique role bats play in Florida's ecosystems. This session will provide helpful context before attendees experience one of Gainesville's most memorable natural attractions later that evening.



CAMPUS TOURS-

TREE ID AND DISEASE IDENTIFICATION TOUR

PRESENTED BY: UFEC

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM (MEET IN FOYER FOR TRANSPORTATION)

Step outside the classroom and explore the University of Florida campus as a living learning environment. This field-based tour will focus on tree identification and disease recognition, giving attendees the opportunity to observe real-world examples and sharpen practical field skills. Additional details will be announced soon.



RATING TREE CONDITIONS IN THE FIELD

PRESENTED BY: JOHN SNOW

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM (DOGWOOD MEETING ROOM)

This hands-on field session examines the limitations of traditional percentage-based CTLA tree condition ratings and introduces a structured Tree Condition Rating Scale. After a brief classroom overview, participants will evaluate live trees in the field, compare results with peers, and discuss how to create more consistent, explainable, and defensible tree assessments.



SESSIONS

KEYNOTE PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY: ERIC MUECKE

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

This keynote program will highlight leadership, service, and the ongoing work required to strengthen Florida's urban forests. Eric Muecke will share perspective from municipal forestry practice while helping recognize award recipients and the professionals contributing to healthier, more resilient communities.



AI IN URBAN FORESTRY: WHAT WORKS TODAY, WHAT DOESN'T, & WHAT'S NEXT

PRESENTED BY: MARSHALL JONES

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

AI is quickly changing the way communities collect, interpret, and use urban forestry data—but understanding what the technology can and cannot do is essential. This session will explore how AI, street-level LiDAR, and canopy data are being used today to support urban forest planning, where the technology still has limitations, and what communities should watch for in the next wave of innovation. Attendees will gain practical insight into how to set realistic expectations, write stronger RFP language, and protect their projects with clear deliverables. The session will also highlight how platforms like PlanIT Geo are incorporating AI into canopy and LiDAR workflows to help cities access faster, more defensible urban forestry insights.



LEADERS IN URBAN FORESTRY PANEL DISCUSSION

MODERATED BY: JOHN HARRIS

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

The Summit concludes with a panel discussion featuring leaders in Florida's urban forestry community. Panelists will reflect on key themes from the Summit, share insights from their own work, and discuss the future of urban forestry across the state. Attendees will leave with perspective, ideas, and encouragement to continue advancing this work in their own communities.



2025 AWARD WINNERS



OUTSTANDING TREE ORDINANCE AWARD

CITY OF WINTER PARK URBAN FORESTRY

OUTSTANDING TREE ADVOCATE GROUP AWARD

OLD SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

OUTSTANDING TREE PROJECT AWARD

LEALMAN COMMUNITY TREE ADOPTION

OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM AWARD

CITY OF TAMPA FORESTRY DIVISION

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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

TO BE ANNOUNCED



2026

FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL MEMBER SUMMIT

Thank you for joining us at the 2026 FUFCC Urban Forestry Summit!

We appreciate our attendees, speakers, sponsors, vendors, award winners, partners, and volunteers for making this event possible! Your participation helps strengthen Florida's urban forestry community and supports our shared work to grow healthier, more resilient communities.

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please visit www.fufcc.org.

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