



Tree Canada and the City of Winnipeg present the
15th Canadian Urban Forest Conference
October 15-18, 2024

Call for Submissions

Trees for All: Equity in Canada's Urban Forests

.....

[The Canadian Urban Forest Conference \(CUFC\)](#) brings together leading experts from across the country to discuss and learn about innovative strategies, policies, technologies, research, and best management practices in urban forestry. As an initiative of Tree Canada, CUFC takes place every two years in a different city. It provides a forum for professionals, municipalities, and community groups to share their experiences and unique approaches to the stewardship of Canada's urban forests. The 2024 Canadian Urban Forest Conference is hosted by the City of Winnipeg with a focus on equity and the urban forest.

As more Canadians recognize the economic, environmental, social, and health benefits of trees, urban forest planning and management is increasingly being informed through a diversity, inclusivity and equity lens. Governments are also turning toward public engagement to help inform their long-term strategic plans and management priorities.

The topic of equity in urban forests is multi-faceted and includes both ecological and social considerations. These considerations influence governance, planning, management, and community partnerships. They can help us improve equitable access to resources, knowledge, services and opportunities in and for different community types and sizes.

The 2024 Canadian Urban Forest Conference in Winnipeg is the ideal setting to convene and share strategies, experiences, perspectives, and knowledge to address the many dimensions of equity in urban forestry. The conference theme will guide discussions to support urban forest planning and management to ensure the benefits of trees are accessible and sustainable for all.

We invite submissions pertaining to one or more of the following subthemes from urban forest practitioners, researchers, and policymakers working in cities, towns, and communities of all types and sizes.

Conference subthemes



1. Urban forestry governance and community – connections and collaborations:

- Innovative partnerships for planning, design, and management practices
 - Topics could include: interdisciplinary initiatives, urban-rural collaborations, sharing of knowledge and expertise, etc.
- Connecting with nature: ways of knowing, learning, feeling, and experiencing
- Health and wellbeing: physical, emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing
- Community engagement, activism, art, and innovation
- Environmental stewardship and youth development
 - Topics could include: initiatives for youth engagement, internships for students, etc.

2. Environmental and social justice in urban forestry – contentions, challenges and opportunities:

- Innovative approaches to planning, design, and management practices that address specific equity challenges
- Equitable access
 - Topics could include: access to physical forested spaces, disability and ableism, food justice and food security, etc.
- Alternative education and community development
 - Topics could include: access to education, experiential learning, forest schools for kids, land-based learning, etc.
- Social and economic impacts on access and opportunity
 - Topics could include: systemic issues underlying inequity, broader societal issues that contribute to inequity, allocation of funding and resources, etc.
- Effective policies: obligations and enforcement
 - Topics could include: tree protection, promotion of biodiversity, etc.
- Recruitment and retention of urban forest practitioners
 - Topics could include: labour shortages, equitable access to training, exposure to career opportunities, diversity in the workforce
- Building social, ecological and disaster resiliency
 - Topics could include: mitigating risk, increasing biodiversity, emergency response, ecological restoration, etc.
- Wildlife interactions
 - Topics could include: habitat enhancement, wildlife displacement, etc.

3. Urban forestry: values and viewpoints:

- Innovative and aspirational efforts to plan, design, protect, and manage urban forests in ways that incorporate diverse perspectives
- Decision-making frameworks for inclusion in urban forestry and urban environments (ecological and social)
- Diverse cultural and multi-generational philosophies and beliefs about urban forests and associated greenspaces
 - Topics could include influence and impact
- Species selection priorities and assumptions (native vs. non-native, prioritizing biodiversity)
- Along political boundaries or across transitional spaces between urban and rural areas (differences in approaches to management, opportunities for cohesiveness)



We are currently seeking abstracts and proposals for the three session types listed below. Please note that the deadline for all submissions is **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**.

- 1.** Individual presentation proposals (250-word abstracts for 20-minute talks in concurrent sessions).
- 2.** Panel discussion proposals (500-word proposals for 90-minute panel discussions). Please note that each panelist will be expected to deliver a 5–10-minute presentation at the beginning. Panels should consist of approximately 3 or 4 people.
- 3.** Poster presentation proposals (250-word abstracts for posters). Please note that posters should be no larger than 3' x 4' (or 91cm x 122cm). Authors of selected posters will be expected to attend a designated poster presentation session on Wednesday, October 16th, 2024.

Submit Here



October 15 to 18, **2024**
Du 15 au 18 octobre **2024**

