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Addenda to the Special Issue: The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities

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Addenda to the Special Issue: The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities

In these addenda to our first special issue, The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities, we present five new case studies documenting approaches to conserving, managing, and building an equitable workforce for Forested Natural Areas in cities across the U.S. These case studies were presented at the third annual gathering of the Forests in Cities network which took place in Seattle, Washington in November, 2022.

Keywords

urban forested natural areas, practitioners notes, network, urban forests, urban ecology

The first edition of this special issue was published in 2019 as the product of a novel and fruitful workshop bringing together a group of forested natural areas practitioners for the first time in the United States. We could not have imagined that we'd tap into this much excitement, appetite, and enthusiasm in our field. Following that first meeting in New York City in October 2019, this group of practitioners and experts has evolved into a true community of practice with a growing list of achievements.

These addenda to our special issue come at an exciting time of growth and recognition for our network. The following six case studies add to a growing body of work produced by the Forests in Cities network and represent the five cities that were added to the network in 2021: Atlanta GA; Louisville, KY; New Haven CT; Philadelphia PA; and Washington D.C. The Forests in Cities network now represents 17 US cities and over 270,000 acres of forested natural areas.

We invited our new city teams to write case studies that highlighted innovative and successful approaches to conserving, and managing forests, as well as approaches to green jobs and equity in the field. The case studies were presented at our third annual (and second in-person) network workshop which was hosted in Seattle, Washington in October 2022. This gathering was attended by over 70 participants representing non-profit organizations, state, county, and municipal governments, university partners, and federal agencies.

Investing in protecting, managing, and celebrating forests in cities has never been timelier. Impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe storms, flooding, and extreme heat have hit our cities hard and galvanized decision-makers to look towards nature-based solutions, including forests, as a key solution to these wicked problems. We look forward to continuing to grow and strengthen our national network and support thriving urban forested natural areas across the U.S. in the years to come.

Sophie Plitt, National Partnerships Manager

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