

Trees in the City: Ten Things That Everyone Should Know About Urban Forests

Eric Wiseman

Associate Professor of Urban Forestry

Dept. of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation
Virginia Tech

arborist@vt.edu

urbanforestry.frec.vt.edu

 [@vtarborist](https://twitter.com/vtarborist)

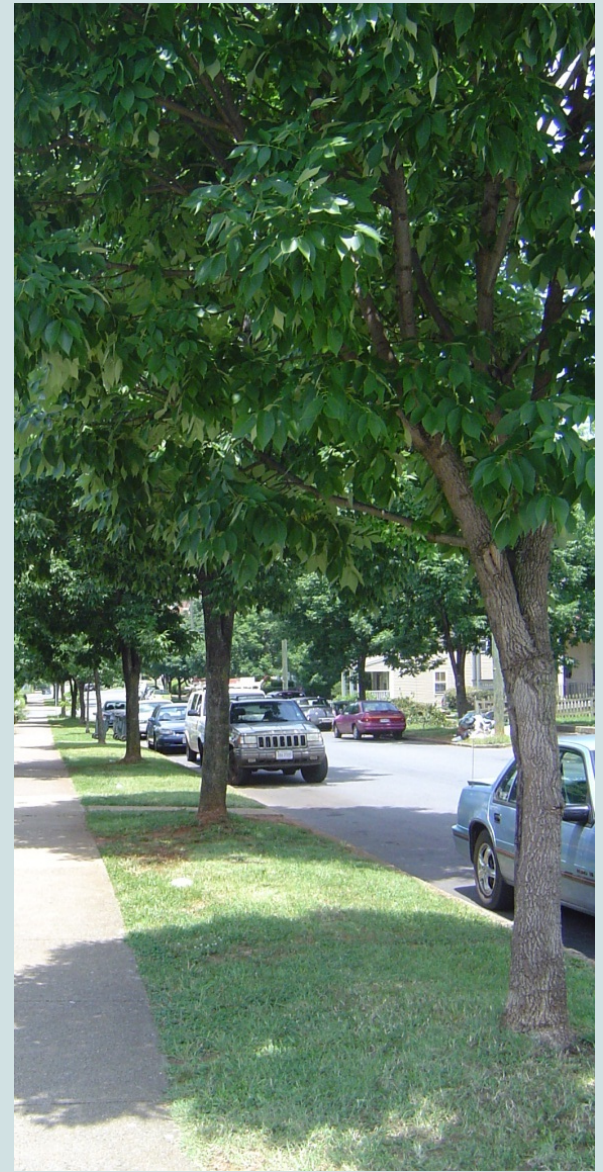
June 27, 2015

**28th Annual Master
Gardener College**

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

SESSION OVERVIEW

- What are urban forests?
- Why do they matter?
- Group discussion
- Share and reflect
- My take on urban forests
- Call to action

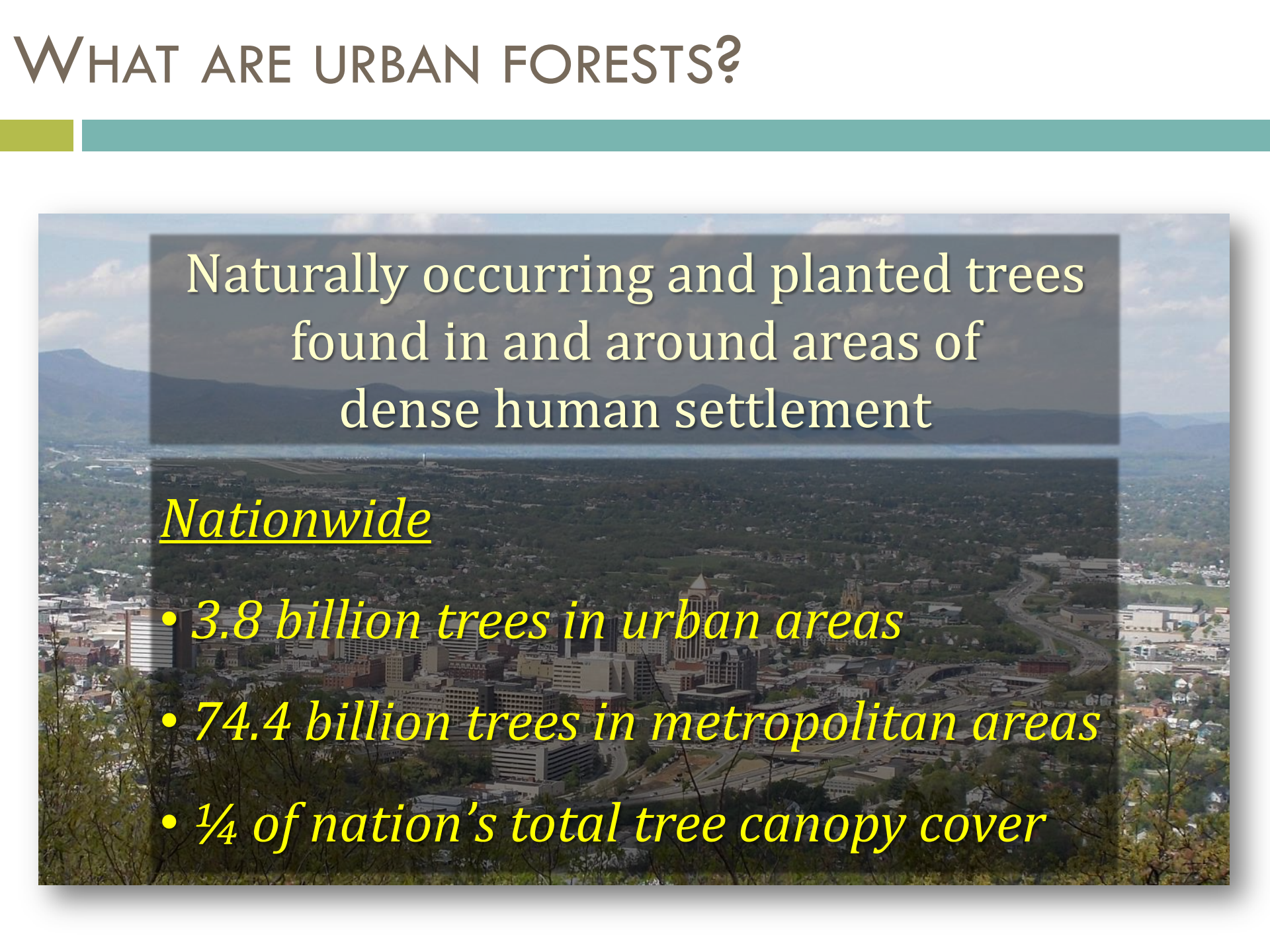


June 27, 2015

**28th Annual Master
Gardener College**

**Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA**

WHAT ARE URBAN FORESTS?

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Knoxville, Tennessee, showing a dense urban area with a mix of greenery and buildings. In the background, a large body of water (Great Smoky Mountains National Park) and distant mountains are visible under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark rectangle in the upper half of the image.

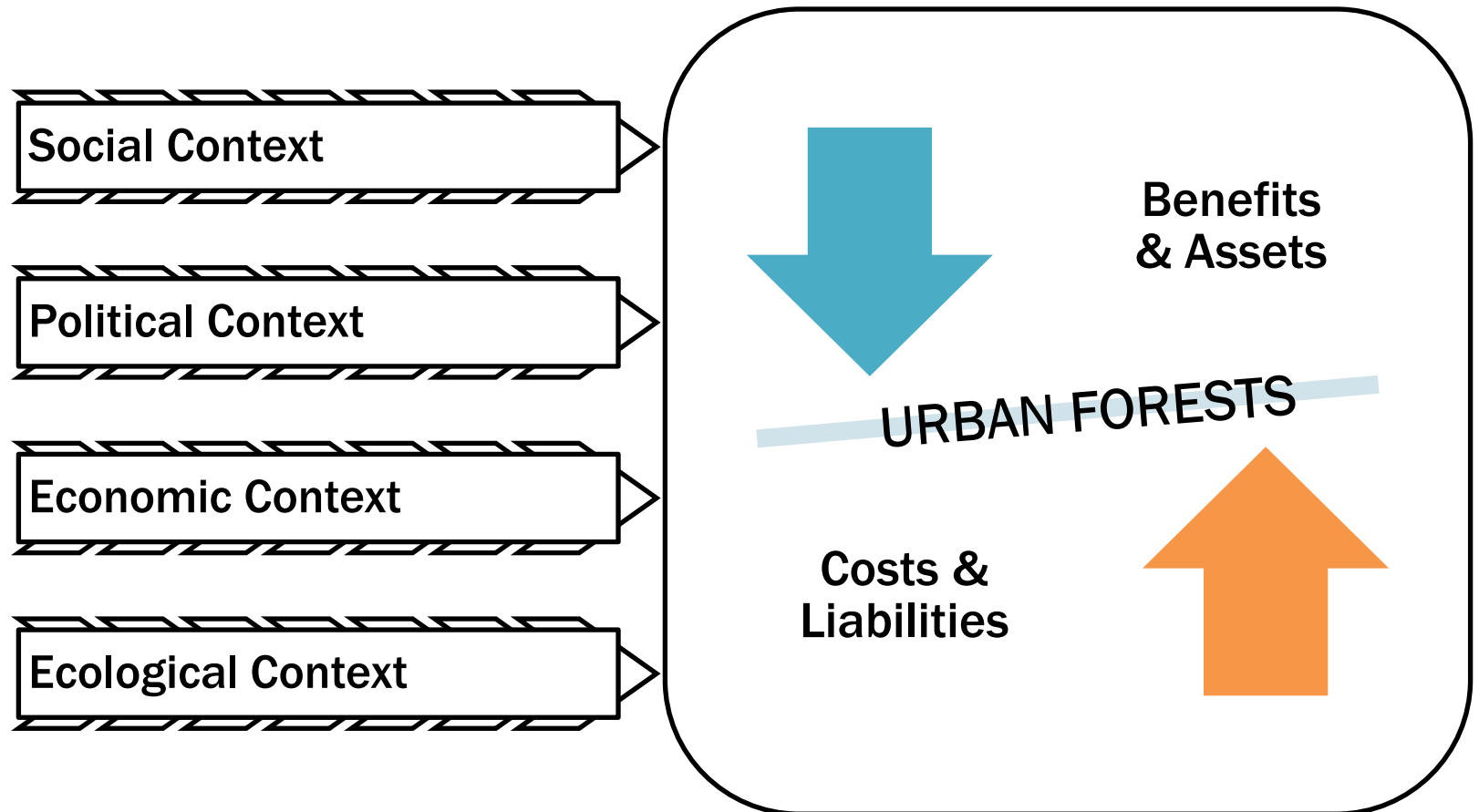
Naturally occurring and planted trees
found in and around areas of
dense human settlement

Nationwide

- *3.8 billion trees in urban areas*
- *74.4 billion trees in metropolitan areas*
- *¼ of nation's total tree canopy cover*

WHY DO THEY MATTER?

Trees play key roles in urban ecosystems and influence our quality of life.



GROUP DISCUSSION



SHARE AND REFLECT



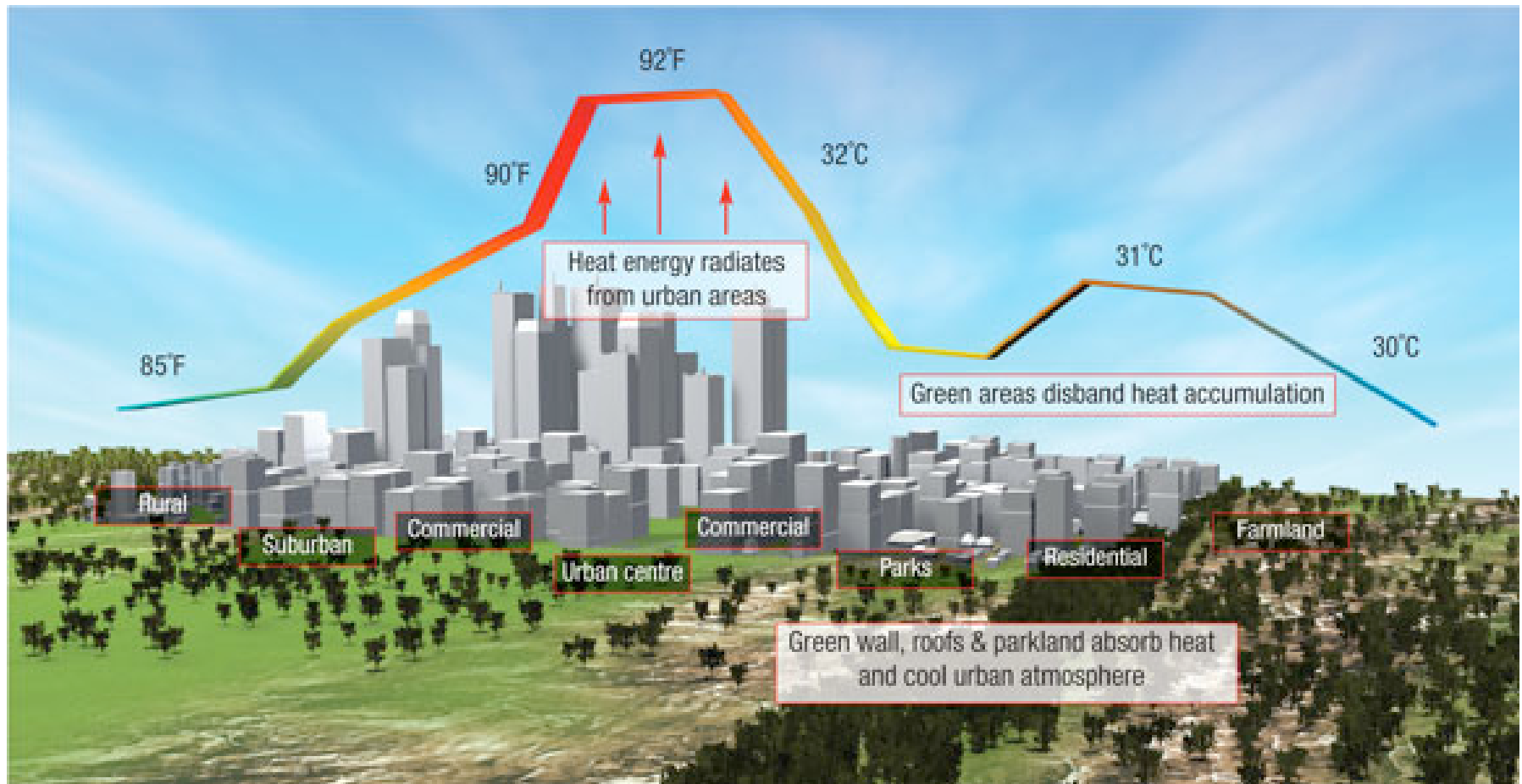
MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

1. Urban forests aren't a nicety, they're a necessity.



MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

2. We need trees in cities, not just around cities.



MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

3. Failure to plan is a plan for failure.



MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

4. Urban forest diversity is the first line of defense.



MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

5. Native trees are good; well-adapted trees are even better.



MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

6. Trees need dirt! Lots of it! (nod to Jim Urban).

TREE GROWING THE TREE SPACE OUT OF THE BOX DESIGN

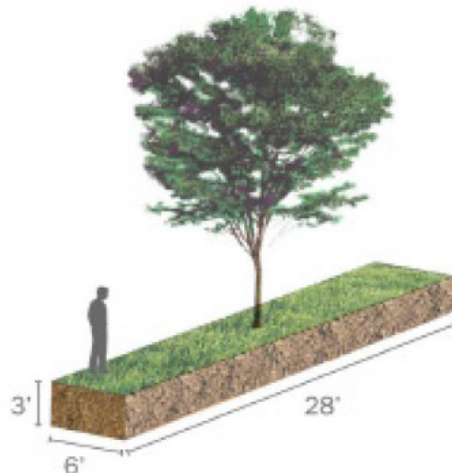


estimated crown spread =
10 feet diameter



Soil Volume = 120 cubic feet

estimated crown spread =
21 feet diameter



Soil Volume = 500 cubic feet

estimated crown spread =
30 feet diameter



Soil Volume = 1000 cubic feet

MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

7. The simple act of planting a tree ain't so simple.



MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

8. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure because we have limited ability to cure.



MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

9. Being big doesn't necessarily make trees dangerous.



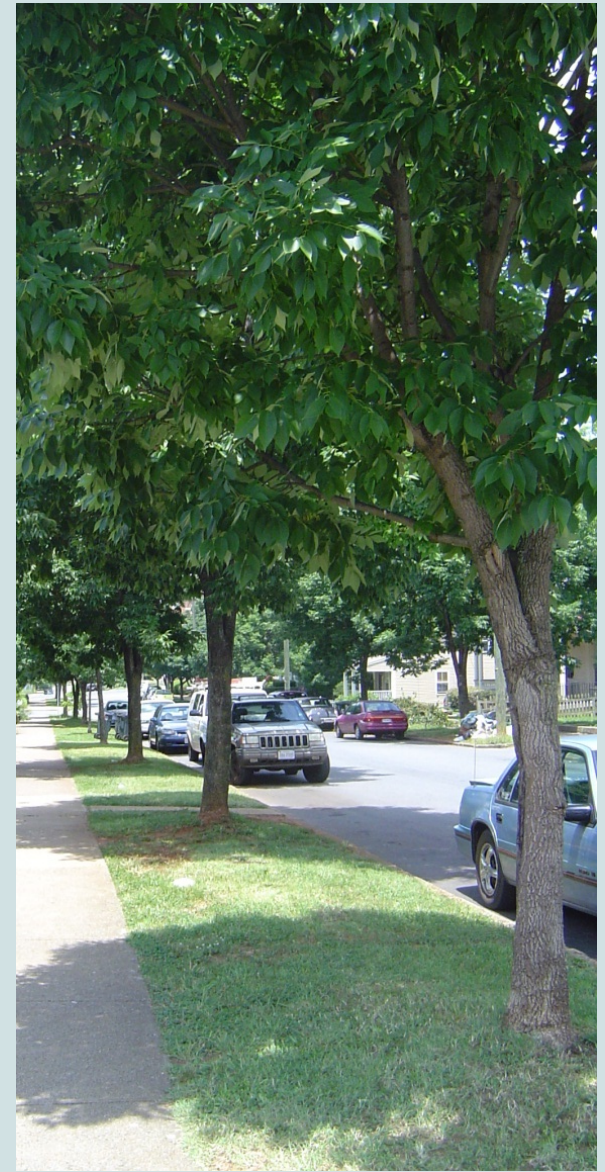
MY TAKE ON URBAN FORESTS

10. It takes a village to raise an urban forest.



CALL TO ACTION

- Never stop learning about urban forests and landscape trees.
- Identify the special and unique ways that trees contribute to environmental sustainability and quality of life in your community.
- Share these messages with others in your community to create high-value, sustainable urban forests for generations to come.



June 27, 2015

**28th Annual Master
Gardener College**

**Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA**