



SUSTAINABLE  
**URBAN**  
FORESTS  
COALITION

**19th Annual Meeting**  
**February 28, 2024**

**Coffee & Informal Conversation Beginning 8:30 am**  
**Annual Meeting 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (Darden)**  
**Reception 6 - 8 pm (US Botanic Garden)**

**University of Virginia, Darden Sands Family Grounds**  
**1100 Wilson Blvd., 30th Floor (Parking available @\$16/day, open 24 hours)**  
**Potomac Room**  
**Arlington, VA 22209**

**Wifi Access: UVADARDENSANDEFGUEST**  
**Password: W3lcomeGuests!**

## **AGENDA**

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**Theme:**

*Establishing a more equitable approach to how urban forestry is done.*

**Pre- Meeting Questions for Consideration:**

- What brings you to the SUFC meeting this year?**
- What are you most keen to learn or get out of the meeting?**
- If you have attended in the past, what's been the best thing(s) you've gotten out of past Annual Meetings?**
- Who has been a mentor, champion, or support to you in your own career?**

**Goals for Participants:**

***The SUFC Annual Meeting is not to be missed. You'll walk away from the meeting with:***

- *New connections to help you deepen and expand your urban and community forestry network***
- *Knowledge about new projects and initiatives to challenge and broaden your thinking about our field***
- *An opportunity to reflect and be in dialogue with a group of remarkable and unique colleagues***

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➤ ***A fresh burst of energy, inspiration and community from your involvement in SUFC***

**Agenda at a Glance**

Arrival:	Coffee & Conversation	8:30 am ET
Morning Session:	SUFC Updates, Who's In the Room, Speakers	9:30 am - 12:30 pm ET
Afternoon Session:	Networking Initiative Collaborators & Wrap-Up	2:00 - 4:00 pm ET
Reception:	Conversation & libations	6:00 - 8:00 pm ET

***Opportunities for paired and small group dialogue will be woven in throughout the day - rest assured, we know that a huge value of SUFC is in these conversations and connections!***

**Note: Agenda is subject to change.**

**9:30 AM**                      **Welcome from SUFC**

SUFC Chair [Rachel Holmes](#),  
SUFC Vice-Chair [Keith Wood](#), National Association of State Foresters

**Goals for Today & Agenda Overview**

[Heather Doucet](#), SUFC Convener  
[Janice Simsohn Shaw](#), Facilitator

[Sarah Gimont](#), **Associate Legislative Director, Environment, Energy & Land Use, National Association of Counties (NACo)**

**10:00 AM**                      **Introductions - Who's in the Room?**

*Members find the SUFC network to be of tremendous value, so we'll take the time to introduce ourselves in a creative fashion & give you a chance to connect with one another in small groups to get a sense of who is in attendance that you look forward to speaking with more as the day unfolds.*

**10:45- 11:00 AM**                      **BREAK**

**11:00 AM**                      **SPEAKERS TO EDUCATE & EXPAND OUR THINKING**

[Carolyn Berndt](#), **Legislative Director for Sustainability, National League of Cities (NLC)**

**Welcome from the U.S. Forest Service**

[Beattra Wilson](#)  
Assistant Director, Urban & Community Forestry, U.S. Forest Service

***National Governors Association (NGA) Invited***

**12:00 PM**                      **Updates from SUFC Working Group Chairs**

*SUFC Working Group Chairs will discuss SUFC's activities over the last year:*  
*Policy - [Danielle Watson](#) (SAF) and [Joe Gersen](#), (SAC) Research - [Ian Leahy](#) (American Forests) and [Scott Maco](#) (Davey Tree Expert Company), Strategic Engagement & Networking - [Annica McGuirk](#) (NACD) and [Alice Baqley](#) (ISA).*

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**12:30 - 1:30 PM Lunch Break**

*We will reconvene at 1:30 pm ET sharp.*

**1:30 PM**

**2024 Networking Initiative Collaborators**

***2024 Topic: Explore opportunities to broaden partnerships with first-time federal grant recipients in urban and community forestry by focusing on member outreach, field expansion, funding impact tracking, innovative practices with new tools, and sharing successes and lessons learned.***

The collaborators we will hear from today were selected via peer review - thank you to SUFC members who were part of this process.

**1:40 - 2:10 PM**

***Urban Foresters: Stories from the Front Lines***

Presenters: [Jamie King](#), The Urban and Community Forestry Society and Urban Forest Manager and University Arborist at Virginia Tech; [Rachel Habig-Myers](#), President of Urban and Community Forestry Society

**2:10 - 2:40 PM**

***Connecting Urban Forestry and Environmental Justice: Bridging the Gap Through DEIA***

Presenters: [Felipe Benitez](#), Founder and Executive Director of Corazón Latino; [Helen Cortés](#), Urban Forest Health & Partnership Program Manager at U.S. Forest Service; [Stacy Whittle](#), Film Producer and Senior Technology Advisor at Corazón Latino

**2:40 - 3:00 PM**

**Break**

**3:00 - 3:30 PM *Protecting Urban Forested Natural Areas: Strategies for Conservation in Cities***

Presenter: [Sam Lawson](#), National Partnerships Coordinator at Natural Areas Conservancy

**3:30 - 4:00 PM**

***Urban and Community Forestry Experience and Initiatives with Industries, Public Health Institutions, and Environmental Justice Communities in the USA and Canadian Great Lakes***

Presenters: [Daniel Goldfarb](#), Urban and Industrial Ecologist at Wildlife Habitat Council; [Michael Piskur](#), Program Director at Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers; Cailin Andrews,

**4:00 - 4:15 PM**

**Closing**

**Day in Review, Evaluations, Paired Reflections, Closing Thoughts from Leadership**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Reception**

U.S. Botanic Garden

100 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20001

Speaker: [Associate Chief Angela Coleman](#)

*Travel by metro or hop in an Uber/Lyft & join for the live networking event on Capitol Hill that will get you chatting with other attendees, having fun, and making meaningful connections to deepen your urban forestry network.*

***A special thank you to our meeting and reception sponsors:***

***Outdoor Power Equipment Institute***

***Bartlett Tree Experts***