

# **MillionTreesNYC, Green Infrastructure and Urban Ecology: Building a Research Agenda**

April 29 – May 1, 2009  
New York City

## **Agenda**

Directions to all workshop locations are available at <http://tinyurl.com/MTNYClocations>

### **Tuesday 28 April, 6-8pm**

#### **Welcome reception**

*The Arsenal roof, 830 Fifth Avenue (at East 64th Street and Fifth Avenue, just inside Central Park)*

#### **Speakers:**

Adrian Benepe, Commissioner, City of New York Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks)  
Drew Becher, Executive Director of New York Restoration Project (NYRP)  
Michael Rains, Director, US Forest Service Northern Research Station

### **Wednesday 29 April, 8:30-11:00am (breakfast at 8 am)**

#### **Opportunities for Research and Collaboration in the Context of MillionTreesNYC**

*Gracie Mansion, East End Avenue at 88th Street*

#### **Speakers:**

Susan Donoghue, Assistant Commissioner for PlaNYC, NYC Parks  
Cristiana Fragola and Megan Shane, Directors for MillionTreesNYC, NYC Parks and NYRP  
Fiona Watt, Assistant Commissioner for Forestry, Horticulture & Natural Resources, NYC Parks  
Morgan Grove, Research Social Scientist, US Forest Service Northern Research Station  
Timon McPhearson, Assistant Professor of Ecology, The New School  
David Maddox, Chief Scientist, Sound Science

### **Wednesday 29 April, 11:15-5:30pm**

#### **Field visits to MillionTreesNYC planting and research locations**

*Locations around New York City, transportation and bag lunch provided.*

*Please refer to Site Visit Descriptions in your packet for more information.*

Field visits to MillionTreesNYC planting and research locations across a variety of site typologies such as street trees, public housing grounds and natural area reforestation. At each site there will be presentations and discussion by practitioners and researchers concerning current work, challenges to success, and the needs and opportunities for research.

### **Thursday 30 April, 8:30-5:00pm**

*Federal Building, 290 Broadway (at Duane St), 30th Floor*

#### **Opening Talk: What MillionTreesNYC and the City of New York can offer researchers**

Jacqueline Lu, Director of Research & Analysis, Forestry, Horticulture & Natural Resources, NYC Parks

## Introduction to the process of the day

David Maddox, Chief Scientist, Sound Science

## Small groups to develop thematic research agendas in diverse topics

Facilitated breakout sessions and discussions in small groups, each of which develop a draft research agenda (i.e., research questions) in one of several subject areas. All workshop attendees to participate in two groups of their choice, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Designated Leaders (DLs) will guide the discussion and students from the New School will be taking notes throughout.

## Morning Discussion Groups, 9:00-12:15 pm

Green Infrastructure and Planting Site Design (DL: Jacqueline Lu)  
Ecosystem Services: Local air quality and urban heat island (DL: Thomas Whitlow)  
Biodiversity and Ecological Communities (DL: Ellen Pehek)  
Economic Impacts (DL: Simon McDonnell)  
Education (DL: Marianne Krasny)  
Stewardship, civic engagement, social capital (DL: Richard Stedman)

## Lunch, 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm *(on your own)*

## Afternoon Discussion Groups, 1:30-4:45 pm

Reforestation Dynamics and Forest Health (DL: Timon McPhearson)  
Ecosystem Services: Water quality, Stormwater Management (DL: Franco Montalto)  
Implications of scale (regional, climate, watersheds, population) (DL: Keith Tidball)  
Labor markets / Green Jobs (DL: Lynne Westphal)  
Human Health, Well-Being, and Quality of Life (DL: Gina Lovasi)  
Social Justice (DL: Erika Svendsen)

## Friday 1 May 8:30am - 1pm

*Federal Building, 290 Broadway (at Duane St), 30th Floor*

## Opening talk: Synthesizing an interdisciplinary research agenda

Keith Tidball, Associate Director of Initiative for Civic Ecology, Cornell University

## Keynote: Building science collaborations between cities and researchers: Lessons from the Baltimore Ecosystem Study

Steward T.A. Pickett, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

## Discussion: Review and Q&A for each of Thursday's topics

Designated Leaders from each Topic Group will present a short summary of the discussion. Open discussion with emphasis on opportunities for collaboration and cross-disciplinary work.