



NEWS BRIEF

Where Did the Center for Urban Forest Research Go?

You may have noticed some changes—gone is the name Center for Urban Forest Research from our website, email signatures, and news brief banner—but we are still very much here, simply renamed as part of the Pacific Southwest Research Station's reorganization. We have combined with a group of social scientists and together make up the new Urban Ecosystems and Social Dynamics Program (UESD) at the Station. This is one of four new program areas, all focused on producing science that makes a difference. The former Center's researchers, whose work you are familiar with, have joined with Dr. Susan Frankel (biologist), Dr. Armando Gonzalez-Caban (research economist), and Jose Sanchez (economist) to constitute the Urban Ecosystems and Processes Team (UEP) in this new program area.

We hope any difficulties you may encounter in contacting us or searching our web site are minimal during our reorganization. Reorganization is like remodeling a home. It can be a bit messy at times, but the end result is a better, more efficient and comfortable place to live, or in this case, produce science you can use.

New Web Address

Our new Urban Ecosystems and Social Dynamics Program is located at <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/>. On that page you will see a box on the right that gives you the choice of looking at our entire staff (People) and the two teams that make up the program area. Click on Urban Ecosystems and Processes and you will find our old home page with the new team name. Our direct address is <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/uep/>. But no worries, the old addresses you may have saved as favorites on your computer will automatically redirect to these pages.

Trees Pay Us Back Brochures Now Available

What is the value of a tree in your climate region? What environmental services do they provide and at what cost? Each brochure provides a quick look at the benefits and costs associated with trees in one of the 16 climate zones included in i-Tree Streets and our Community Tree Guide series. Download and print them for yourself from our web site. A very limited number of printed copies are available in California from California ReLeaf and Cal Fire Urban and Community regional foresters. For other regions, email rschneider@fs.fed.us and specify exactly which brochure you would like to order.

[View and download *Trees Pay Us Back* brochures](#)



Tools for Valuing Tree and Park Services

With a growing number of tools available for assessing the benefits of trees and greenspace, how does one decide which is best to use? Greg McPherson's recent article in *Western Arborist* (Winter 2010) provides readers an overview of each tool—the CUFR Tree Carbon Calculator (CTCC), iTree Streets and Eco, the Park Value Calculator—including why use it, how it works, features and drawbacks, and how to get it.

[Read *Tools for Valuing Tree and Park Services*](#)



i-Tree Streets in Lisbon, Portugal

Dr. Ana Luisa Soares, from Lisbon, Portugal, came to study with us as a PhD candidate. She was involved in testing the very first STRATUM program in 2004, long before i-Tree became the suite of tools it is today. Dr. Soares focused her work on methods for applying STRATUM (now iTree Streets) to the Lisbon street tree population. Her journal article in *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* presents the results of one of the first applications of STRATUM outside the U.S., including some of the limitations and problems inherent to applying the program to a region where the urban morphology differs significantly from U.S. communities.

[Read *Benefits and Costs of Street Trees in Lisbon, Portugal*](#)



Traffic Emissions, Vegetation, and Improving Air Quality

Does vegetation improve the air quality along our roadways? Greg participated in an EPA-sponsored workshop last spring that brought together Forest Service, university, and EPA experts to discuss the role of vegetation in mitigating transportation corridor traffic emissions. Workshop participants discussed current research on the topic, the co-benefits and dis-benefits associated with vegetative barriers, and policy considerations when communicating potential benefits and implementation strategies. They also identified a broad range of research needs and activities to further assess the role of vegetation in mitigating air quality impacts from vehicle emissions.

[Read *The Role of Vegetation in Mitigating Air Quality Impacts from Traffic Emissions*](#)



Our Research in the News

Links to two new articles on our research are now posted on our website.

The *Wilson Quarterly* (Winter 2011), a newsletter published by the Woodward Wilson International Center for Scholars, features Jill Jonnes' article **What is a Tree Worth?** Jill describes the history of urban forest research and its importance in greening urban America. The work and achievements of Rowan Rowntree (Scientist emeritus), Greg McPherson, and David Nowak are featured.

[Read *What is a Tree Worth?*](#)

How Trees Can Retain Stormwater Runoff, the latest *Tree City U.S.A. Bulletin* (No. 55), provides information and resources for using trees to retain stormwater and improve water quality. The issue also features Qingfu Xiao and Greg McPherson's pioneering research to quantify rainfall interception by trees.

[Read *How Trees Can Retain Stormwater Runoff*](#)



Upcoming Talks

September 12, 2011

Descriptive Studies of Tree Growth

Speaker: Greg McPherson & Paula Peper

Symposium: Tree Growth

Where: Morton Arboretum, Chicago, IL

Sponsors: ISA

Contact: Megan Dunning, MDunning@mortonarb.org

October 30, 2011

The Urban Forest is Broken: Science Based Tools to Repair It

Speaker: Greg McPherson & Peter MacDonaugh

Conference: ASLA Annual Conference

Where: San Diego, CA

Sponsors: ASLA

Contact: Clark Ebbert, 202-2126-2326



Other Changes

We have long dedicated the majority of one employee's time to technical transfer work, transforming our research into easily readable material and tools for your use and answering your questions about products and research. This was the employee who created research summaries, Trees in Our City slide presentations, served as your resource answering CUFR Tree Carbon Calculator (CTCC) questions, sent out brochures and reports, originally created and kept our web site updated. Unfortunately, with budget constraints and reorganization, we have lost that position. While this impacts our ability to deliver our science to you as efficiently as we once did, we will always work to address your concerns, questions, and issues. We ask for your patience and understanding if, at times we are slow in responding, or unable to provide hard copies of tech transfer publications. We will make every effort to provide those documents in PDF form for you to download and print via our website.