

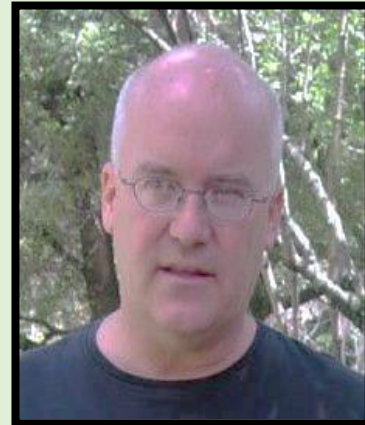
Course Description: Urban forestry management is an important specialization within the arboricultural field. The goal of an urban forestry manager is to implement a strategy that maintains the sustainable health of the urban canopy. This course is designed to inform participants on the unique aspects of maintaining a large system of public trees. Additionally, it is designed to prepare participants for the ISA’s municipal specialist exam to successfully gain that particular credential. The course is designed for practitioners within the arboricultural field wanting to learn about urban forestry management and/or to achieve the Municipal Specialist certification.

The course will be presented in four, 3-hour modules over two consecutive weeks. The Municipal Specialist Study Guide provides the framework for instruction. The course is a mix of lecture, exercises, and practice exams to provide participants with a comprehensive review of urban forestry practices germane to the exam.

Workshop materials include a detailed narrative on each chapter, case studies, exercises, and sample exams. A certificate of participation will be provided to each participant. Each module will be presented twice on the scheduled days. The agenda is as follows:

Module 1 – Urban Forestry & Planning the Urban Forest

The first module provides an overview of urban forestry management, along with the societal benefits that trees provide to the community. The urban forester is a manager of a system of trees. As such, this module also discusses the important role that planning serves in developing a proactive urban forestry program that perpetuates a sustained system. Final discussions focus on the development and implementation of a comprehensive urban forestry plan. An example mission statement and urban forestry plan template will be provided.



Instructor Biography

Mark Duntemann is the owner of Duntemann Urban Forestry, LLC. He is an internationally recognized expert in tree risk management policy development. Mark is an ISA Board- Certified Master Arborist, is an ISA-tree risk assessment qualification (TRAQ) instructor and maintains the tree assessment certification from the Arboriculture Association (UK). He is currently developing a book on tree risk management. Mark has served as an expert witness in numerous tree-related injury and fatality cases. This experience also informs his lectures.

Over his thirty-five-year career, Mark has worked almost exclusively with municipalities. First, as a tree inventory provider and later as a contract urban forester for smaller communities. Currently, he develops actionable management plans for managing large systems of trees. This work is international in scope. This breadth of experience allows Mark to tailor the Municipal Specialist course to provide a broad range of ideas and case studies to make for a robust learning experience for all participants.

Module 2 – Assessing and Quantifying the Urban Forest & Planting the Urban Forest

One of the foundational elements of a comprehensive urban forestry program is data. The initial discussion in this module is the development, implementation and use of a tree inventory. Additionally, discussion will provide an overview of the USFS shareware application, ITree. One purpose of iTree® is to determine the cost/benefits of the urban tree canopy. The next subject area will focus on the components of a comprehensive planting program. Plantings are the way that communities perpetuate the urban forest and attention to important details will guarantee a tree's enhanced contributory value over time and longevity. Topics include species selection, plant quality, site preparation, planting techniques. A tree inventory data dictionary with comments and a sample iTree – Eco project file will be provided.

Module 3 – Maintaining the Urban Forest & Urban Tree Risk Management

This module covers two important urban forestry topics: maintenance and risk management. Both topics are key to managing urban forest sustainability. The initial discussion will focus on various aspects of tree maintenance standards and specifications. Care over time from installation to removal will be detailed. Tree-related conflicts with infrastructure, such as utilities and sidewalks will be also be discussed. The concluding topic of the module will be a narrative on the elements of a reasonable and practical tree risk management program. Handouts for this module will include a decision tree for cyclic maintenance and a narrative on the concept of As Low as Reasonably Practical, or ALARP.

Module 4 – Protecting the Urban Forest & Administering the Urban Forest

The last module will focus on tree preservation and concepts in administration. The discussion on tree preservation will range from the physiological effect of construction on trees to the various stages of specifications development, planning and implementing a tree preservation plan. The concluding discussion will review the administrative duties of the urban forester, from municipal governance to budget. Additional topics will include public communications and program review.