

Cuyahoga Tree Symposium

Friday, September 23, 9am-3pm. Beachwood Community Center, 25225 Fairmount Blvd, Beachwood

Synopsis

The Cuyahoga Tree Symposium explores nature-based means for improving tree canopy and science-based means to improve the tree-related health of county residents.

Four sessions cover legacy tree studies, community health benefits of trees, assessment of current planting programs, and a roundtable on getting trees to underserved neighborhoods.

Symposium sponsors: City of Cleveland, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland Tree Coalition, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

Rationale

The Cuyahoga Tree Symposium coalesced along three lines of tree interest in early 2022.

The symposium builds upon the recent results of legacy tree studies: forest observations of Connecticut Land Co surveyors, the Moses Cleaveland Tree Inventory of 2020-21, and the results of current tree ring studies. Upon legacy tree research, the symposium strives to create nature-based means for improving the health of the county's trees and residents

Second are the possibilities for science-based enhancement of human health and community equity with trees. Topics include trees and Human Health from a health care providers perspective, current research on the role of trees in ecosystem and human health. We also examine the environmental ethics of trees and health in Cuyahoga County.

Finally, the symposium assesses the efficacy of three current planting programs: the County's Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Program, Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Reforest Our City program and Holden Forest and Gardens' research on live forest soil inoculation to improve the performance of urban trees.

Session 4 is a roundtable on using nature-based and science-based methods to develop a sustainable countywide canopy management plan. Discussion will prioritize underserved communities where trees and tree canopy can have the greatest positive effect.

Organizers

Coleen Berg (Ohio Department of Natural Resources), J. Meiring Borchers and Brandon Burns (Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District), Robert Brand (Cuyahoga County Board of Health), Roy Larick (Bluestone Conservation and Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve), Cathi Lehn (City of Cleveland), Samira Malone (Cleveland Tree Coalition), Julie Milinovich and Jon Utech (Cleveland Clinic Foundation), Chris Vild (City of Beachwood)

Sponsors

City of Beachwood, City of Cleveland, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland Tree Coalition, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Ohio Dept of Natural Resources

Vendors

Meadow City Native Plant Nursery
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Rid-All Green Partnership

Audience

Practitioners and activists in the fields of urban forestry, community development, community health, urban ecology. Municipal tree commissions, watershed advocacy groups, local 'green teams,' community development corporations, city council sustainability committees. General public interested in the above fields and in the welfare of their home communities and the region.

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Program

08:30-09:00 Registration and continental breakfast

09:00-09:45 Opening Remarks

Hon. Justin Burns, Beachwood Mayor: *Welcome to the Symposium*

Roy Larick, Bluestone Conservation: *New approaches to the Cuyahoga County Canopy*

Hon. Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County Executive: *Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Program*

Sen. Sherrod C. Brown, United States Senate, Ohio: *Neighborhood Trees Act of 2022 (tentative)*

09:45-10:50

Session 1. The County Native Forest; Evolution and modern natural framework

Katie Flinn, Baldwin Wallace University: *Historical Forests of Cuyahoga County*

Roy Larick, Bluestone Conservation: *Moses Cleaveland Tree oaks: Guides for Naturalizing Local Canopy*

Greg Wiles, College of Wooster: *Tree Ring Records of Climate and Forest Change in Northeast Ohio*

10:50-11:00

Samira Malone, Cleveland Tree Coalition: *Equity and Social Justice of Trees around the region*

11:00-12:00

Session 2. Health Impacts of Trees

Jon Utech, Cleveland Clinic Foundation: *Trees and Human Health*

Robert Brand, Cuy Co Board of Health: *Trees: Evolution, Ecosystems, Animal Health and Climate Change*

Kelly Coble, Baldwin Wallace University: *Tree Ethics*

12:00-13:00 Catered lunch

C. Hausman/D. Volk, Cleveland Metroparks: *Forest carbon accounting in Metroparks reservations*

13:00-14:00

Session 3. Implementation: Assessment of Current Programs

Mike Foley, Cuyahoga County Sustainability: *Healthy Urban Tree Canopy grant implementation*

Lizzie Sords, Western Reserve Land Conservancy: *The Reforest Our City program*

David Burke, Holden Forests & Gardens: *Live forest soil inoculation: A way to improve the performance of urban trees?*

14:00-15:00

Session 4. Implementation Panel Discussion (Larick to moderate):

Developing sustainable, nature-based/science-based countywide canopy management

Panelists (in addition to the presenters):

1. Erica Burnett, Famicos Foundation
2. Mikal JeanBaptiste, Burten Bell Carr Development
3. Cathi Lehn, City of Cleveland Office of Sustainability
4. Whitney Long Jones, Organic Connects
5. Sean Terry, Trust for Public Land
6. David Wilson, LAND Studio/Black Environmental Leaders

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Presenter Affiliations & email addresses

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Panelist Affiliations & email addresses

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