

# Announcing DIVERSITY in MFI

# 2019



LEADERS GROWING LEADERS FOR URBAN FORESTRY

## What is DIVERSITY in MFI?

The Municipal Forestry Institute (or MFI) in collaboration with Southern University and USDA- Forest Service is pleased to announce **DIVERSITY in MFI**, a special edition of national diversity leadership training opportunity in Urban and Community Forestry. Participants including all ethnic origins (African Americans, Asian or Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Hispanics and White) and genders with careers in urban and community forestry and related areas will be recruited to the **DIVERSITY in MFI** for leadership training and professional development throughout the nation.

## Why DIVERSITY in MFI?

Urban and community forestry is the art, science and technology of managing trees, forests, and natural systems in and around cities, suburbs, and towns for the well-being of all people. With more than 83% of the U.S. population (322 million) currently living in towns and cities (urban areas), urban and community forests are a vital component of the urban infrastructure that provides enormous environmental, ecological, and social-economic benefits when managed properly.



As indicated in the Ten-Year Urban Forestry Action Plan (2016-2026) by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and USDA-FS National Urban and Community Forestry Program, one of the strategic focus areas is to cultivate diversity, equity, and leadership in urban and community forestry. This will ensure that a diversified workforce can be developed to establish, maintain and sustain the nation's urban and community forest resources at all levels. As such, actions are needed to engage minorities, women, and underserved communities in urban and community forestry education, leadership development, and promote expanded collaboration, training and communication with professional organizations within the field of urban and community forestry to build a diversified green workforce. Therefore, **DIVERSITY in MFI** is a collaborative effort between the Society of Municipal Arborists and its Municipal Forestry Institute, Southern University Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources, and USDA-FS National Urban and Community Forestry Program, to enhance national minority leadership training in urban and community forestry.

Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana is the only HBCU university in the nation that offers a comprehensive urban forestry education program leading to BS, MS, and PhD degrees in urban forestry. The Program was established in 1992 with support from the USDA Forest Service and the Louisiana Board of Regents. After 25 years of partnership with USDA Forest Service, Southern University has made and continues to make significant contributions to diversifying the nation's workforce in urban & community forestry and natural resources.

*Participants of ethnic and racial diversity who are accepted to the **DIVERSITY in MFI 2019** will receive stipend support to cover the following:*

1. The all-inclusive registration fee at \$2199 USD for SMA members, or \$2299 USD non SMA members, covering ALL course materials, Five nights hotel lodging (Sunday through Thursday), All meals from Sunday supper through Friday breakfast from February 24 - March 1, 2019, at Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR.
2. \$500 travel stipend.

## HOW TO APPLY for DIVERSITY in MFI

Visit [www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com). Use code MFMN-SCLR. Course registration closes on December 1, 2018 or when full.

If you have any questions, contact the SMA at: [urban-forestry@prodigy.net](mailto:urban-forestry@prodigy.net) or ask someone who has attended!

*Participants will be notified of acceptance in early December.*



# Register Today for the 2019 Municipal Forestry Institute

## Do You Have What It Takes To Move Yourself or Your Urban Forestry Effort To The Next Level?

The Municipal Forestry Institute (or MFI) may be able to take you there! MFI is an exciting, high-level training opportunity educating people in the leadership and managerial aspects of urban forestry. This week-long intensive educational program delivers a challenging opportunity to grow a more successful community tree program. Come learn and master leadership and management tools of program administration, coalition building, strategic thinking, program planning, and public relations by investing a week in your personal growth and development. Sign up now for MFI 2019, being held February 24-March 1, 2019 in Silverton, OR.



### What Does MFI Cover?

The Institute curriculum was developed by a team of urban forestry professionals and educators with dozens of years experience in leading urban forestry efforts at the local, state/provincial, federal, and non-profit levels. There are four major components of the MFI curriculum:

- Developing A Leadership Approach To Your Position
- Thinking and Planning Strategically to Advance Urban Forestry Efforts
- Working Effectively with Boards, Coalitions, and Non-Profit Organizations
- Managing the Relationship Between People and Trees

The curriculum is presented in a variety of formats including lectures, multi-media presentations, panel discussions, group exercises, and real-life scenarios.

### MFI 2019 Location & Travel Details



The 2019 MFI will be held at Moonstone Hotel's Oregon Garden Resort, located about one hour south of Portland, OR. You can visit the [Oregon Garden website](#) for details, but note that you may NOT reserve a room for MFI through that website.

Please do not make any air travel reservations for MFI 2019 until you have received your acceptance email in late December 2018. This email will contain travel guidance including information about group transportation arrangements from the PDX airport to the Oregon Garden Resort.

### Who Should Attend?

People who plan, manage, or advocate for urban forestry efforts and who want to become more effective leaders. Past MFI classes have included:

- City Foresters and City Arborists
- Urban Foresters, Municipal Arborists, City Planners, Tree Wardens
- State Urban Forestry Staff
- Municipal Tree Advocates
- Non-Profit Organization Staff

### MFI 2019: What to Expect

#### Required Institute Pre-Work

Part of the MFI experience involves readings and on-line discussions that will be held during January and early February, 2019. If you're accepted into MFI 2019, you'll need a valid email address and internet access from work or home. Plan on spending about 1-2 hours a week for 5 to 7 weeks on the Institute Pre-Work.

#### Instructors

The MFI 2019 instructional staff comes with decades of experience in all phases of urban forestry, at the municipal, state/provincial, federal, private, and non-profit levels. Most MFI teaching teams have over 100 years combined urban forestry expertise.

#### MFI Week Schedule

MFI is an intensive learning experience. You must be able to attend from 4 pm on Sunday until noon on Friday.

There are numerous breaks and a little free time, but the event involves a rather demanding and time-intensive schedule. Though there are sights to see in the area, plan to see them before or after, not during MFI. Your full attendance will be required at every session - partial attendance is not possible. Sorry but pets, partners, and dependants or guests cannot be accommodated at MFI.

Online Registration is Now Open at [www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com)