

Urban Tree Growth & Longevity Working Group

By Greg McPherson

Although the physiology of tree growth is well understood, the effects of planting and management practices are often less clear because many factors are involved. Until we understand how these factors interact to influence tree growth, health, and longevity, our efforts to optimize tree performance will remain more an art than a science. The Urban Tree Growth & Longevity Working Group was formed to

facilitate shared learning among professionals and researchers with a passion for trees. As ISA's and AREA's first working group, we strive to foster communication among researchers and professionals; enrich scientific exchange; and enhance—through collaboration—the quality, productivity, and timeliness of research on tree growth, health, and longevity.

Membership in the Working Group is free and open to all individuals engaged in urban and community forestry. General members are not required to be members of the ISA or AREA, but it is encouraged, as AREA's core mission supports research and education in arboriculture and urban forestry. Electronic requests for membership can be submitted



via our website, (<http://urbantreegrowth.org>), or by e-mail (gmcpherson@fs.fed.us).

To facilitate internal communications, we distribute a quarterly newsletter and have a LinkedIn discussion group (www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4583322&trk=hb_side_g).

Long-term monitoring enables us to understand trends in urban forest health, and evaluate the impact of tree-planting initiatives. We are developing standardized tree monitoring protocols based upon feedback from a survey of 32 organizations throughout the United States and from comments we received during the well-attended Urban Tree Monitoring symposium at the 2012 ISA conference in Portland, Oregon. In 2013, we intend to complete a draft set of protocols for review and discussion, as well as conduct another extraordinary field trip in association with the ISA conference in Toronto, Ontario.

You will see the proceedings of our first Urban Tree Growth & Longevity conference, which was held in 2011 at The Morton Arboretum (Lisle, IL), in two forthcoming special issues of the journal *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry*.

We welcome your participation in the Working Group. Tell us how we can better serve you to improve the growth, health, and longevity of our urban forests. A•N