The Australian School of Urban Forestry has been developed by the University of Melbourne in partnership with the City of Melbourne to deliver new knowledge and cutting-edge skills in the field of urban forestry.

An established leader in the field, the City of Melbourne engages business, industry, and the wider community to strategically plan and establish the urban forests of the future.

The program is held at the University of Melbourne’s iconic Burnley campus and is developed by renowned experts from the School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences. As a participant of this five-and-a-half-day interactive learning experience, you will be taught by specialists from a diverse range of backgrounds.

You will gain access to valuable and practical industry insights while also benefitting from the University of Melbourne’s education and research expertise in urban horticulture, green infrastructure and urban forestry.

As we become a more urbanised nation, the roles of our urban forests are more important than ever. Research shows that well-designed and well-managed urban forests provide a wide range of benefits to our cities – from climate mitigation, improved human health and wellbeing, to biodiversity protection and improved social and economic development.

Course Structure

The Australian School of Urban Forestry first ran in 2018, providing a high quality and executive education experience to a multidisciplinary audience. This year’s school will build on last year’s success. Throughout this interactive and hands-on program you will take part in seminars, workshop exercises, peer learning exchange and field trips to gain practical insights into urban forest policy, planning, management and community engagement.

Course outcomes

- Gain an understanding of the complexity of protecting, managing and restoring ecosystem function within urban areas.
- Explore the potential of the urban forest to provide nature-based solutions that can respond to urban and suburban challenges.
- Examine the human and societal benefits provided by access to green spaces in the urban setting.
- Take inspiration from indigenous ways of knowing, and explore how to connect a multi-cultural city to nature in inclusive ways.
Who should attend

A successful urban forest requires an engaged and informed range of stakeholders, from community groups to land managers, planners and practitioners.

This program is designed for all professionals in the sectors of urban greenspace, community advocacy and environmental health and policy management who have a desire to develop skills and gain knowledge in urban forestry.

School team

Diane Pataki
Associate Dean for Research in the College of Science at the University of Utah
Diane is a plant and ecosystems ecologist who studies the role of urban landscaping in local climate, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and water resources.

Ian Shears
Former Practice Lead Urban Forest and Green Infrastructure at City of Melbourne
Ian is one of Australia’s leading experts in urban landscapes and urban forestry. He has specialised in Urban Landscapes for over 25 years and has worked for over a decade with the City of Melbourne.

Dr Sara Barron
Lecturer, The University of Melbourne
Sara has worked in the fields of sustainable city planning and climate change visioning for over a decade, recently focusing her research on the multiple benefits provided by urban green spaces.

Dr Stephen Livesley
Associate Professor, The University of Melbourne
Stephen is a key member of the University of Melbourne’s Green Infrastructure Research Group and is leading research into the role of trees and other vegetation in providing environmental and social benefits.

Meg Caffin
Principal Consultant, Urban Forest Consulting
Meg has worked as a green infrastructure specialist for the last five years, helping local government develop solutions, strategies and priorities regarding urban greening and urban forests.

“The school inspires new thinking and helps me imagine new possibilities”

ASUF 2018 participant

Contact Us

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Opening hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm AEST/AEDT, Weekends and University of Melbourne observed Public Holidays 10am to 5pm AEST/AEDT.

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