

SFI URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

May 2026

Urban Forestry Day at the 2026 SFI Annual Conference



The inaugural Urban Forestry Day at the SFI 2026 Annual Conference in Montréal earlier this month highlighted the growing role of urban and community forests in creating resilient, healthy communities where people live, work, and gather. Panelists shared how SFI certification helps municipalities and organizations strengthen long-term forest management and align community priorities through collaboration. Speakers also explored how applied research, reliable data, and new funding opportunities enable sustainable urban forest management.

The day brought together municipalities, Indigenous leaders, researchers, students, and forestry professionals and hands-on workshops created opportunity to share practical strategies and partnerships that support thriving green neighborhoods and connected communities. Explore highlights from the SFI Urban Forestry Day!

> *"It's a great opportunity to identify those little things in our program that might get overlooked and pushes us to be better. Certification pushes you from being good, to being great."*
>
> James Lane, R.P.F., ISA Certified Arborist

Manager of Natural Heritage and Forestry at The Regional Municipality of York



Kathy Abusow (SFI), Meg Hanna (SFI), James Lane (York Region), James Hallworth (Preferred by Nature), Scott Lister (York Region), Janice Lam (York Region/2026 SFI Youth Delegate), and Jason Metnick (SFI).

EXPLORE HIGHLIGHTS

Partner Recognition: The Green Municipal Fund

We are thrilled to have partnered with The Green Municipal Fund (GMF), a program of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, for this Urban Forestry Day. For 25 years, the FCM's Green Municipal Fund has helped Canadian municipalities, big and small, invest in their future by supporting homegrown sustainability and resilience projects that work for Canadians by creating jobs, lowering costs, and strengthening local economies. Through GMF's $291M Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) initiative, communities will access funding and expert support to expand, manage, and strengthen resilient urban forests.

Learn how how the City of Kitchener is expanding their urban tree canopy with GMF support in this short video.



From left to right: Yvonne Ritchie, Stephane Pressault, Charleen Kotiuga, Annie McKenzie, Vilbert Valbi, Malin Anagrius, Marieke Cloutier, Sergio Rodriguez (GMF), and Meg Hanna (SFI).

Getting Started With the SFI Urban and Community Forestry Standard

Quality urban forests, with lasting power, start with clear direction. Find out how to leverage the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard to achieve your urban forestry goals with our Getting Started with SFI Certification for Urban and Community Forests Guide.



DOWNLOAD GUIDE

SFI Grant Spotlight: City of Burien

Congratulations to the City of Burien on recently benchmarking their urban forestry program using the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability (UCFS) Standard. With financial support from SFI through our cooperative partnership with the USDA Urban and Community Forestry Program, the City engaged with their community to gather feedback and evaluate their urban forestry program's strengths and opportunities for growth. This analysis is an important step towards their goal of equitably increasing canopy cover to 40% by 2038.