Cities and the Environment (CATE)

Volume 13
Issue 1 *The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities*

Article 35

3-2024

Second Addenda to The Special Issue: The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities

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Recommended Citation

Lawson, Sam W. and Plitt, Sophie (2024) "Second Addenda to The Special Issue: The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities," *Cities and the Environment (CATE)*: Vol. 13: Iss. 1, Article 35.
DOI: 10.15365/cate.2020.130135
Available at: https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cate/vol13/iss1/35

Second Addenda to The Special Issue: The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities

In this second set of addenda to our first special issue, The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities, we present seven new case studies documenting approaches to evaluating, managing, and protecting forested natural areas in cities across the U.S. These case studies were presented at the fourth gathering of the Forests in Cities network which took place in Miami-Dade County, Florida in February, 2024.

Keywords

urban forested natural areas, practitioner notes, network, urban forests, urban ecology

We are pleased to share a second addenda to our special issue, The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities, first published in 2019 which featured 25 case studies following a first-of-its-kind convening of practitioners who care for forested natural areas. Since the publication of this journal, the Forests in Cities (FiC) network, convened by the Natural Areas Conservancy, has flourished. This network of expert teams dedicated to the protection and care of urban forested natural areas has grown from 12 cities to 19 and achieved significant recognition in the field of urban forestry and urban greening.

These new addenda to our special issue feature both work from cities that joined the FiC network in 2023: Boston, Massachusetts and Portland, Oregon along with new case studies from FiC network cities that have published in this special issue previously: Houston, Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Miami-Dade County, Florida; and Seattle, Washington.

We invited both new and existing city teams to write case studies that highlighted innovative and successful approaches to evaluating, managing, and protecting forested natural areas. The case studies were presented at our fourth annual network workshop which was hosted in Miami-Dade County, Florida in February 2024. This gathering was attended by over 80 participants representing non-profit and for-profit organizations, state, county and municipal governments, and university partners.

Our collaboration could not be timelier as the challenges we face continue to mount. The impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe storms, flooding, and extreme heat continue to hit our cities hard. Urban forests across the nation continue to be cleared to make way for other uses as budget cuts limit our capacity in many cities. Our work together can help to address these common trends.