

Rob Sproule

Superintendent of Forestry

Village of Oak Park, Illinois

rsproule@oak-park.us

Chair of the Urban and Community Forestry Committee & Illinois Arborists Association, FDC appointee. Board Certified Master Arborist. Currently works for the Village of Oak Park as the Forestry Superintendent. Previously worked for the City of Chicago, City of New York, and Chicago Park District. Member on the Illinois Forestry Development Council and Chicago Region Trees Initiative Executive Advisory Council representing the Illinois Arborist Association.



Daniella Pereira

Director of Regional Forestry

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As Director of Regional Forestry, Daniella Pereira is responsible for the successful development and implementation of new and improved models for growing the Chicago region's forest canopy. As a member of Openlands senior leadership, she oversees the sustainable expansion of Openlands Forestry programs, creates and strengthens strategic partnerships, collaborates on urban forestry policy both locally and with the State's Urban Forestry Committee, and leads Openlands role in the Chicago Region Trees Initiative.

Daniella returned home to Chicago in 2013 after working for the Natural Resources Group at NYC Parks and its MillionTreesNYC Initiative. She is a certified arborist and has worked as an Environmental Educator, an Urban Forester, and a Agro-Forestry volunteer with the Peace Corps in Panama. She has received the USFS Chief's Honor Award and is a 2017 Fellow at the University of Chicago Civic Leadership Academy.

Education

B.A., Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago

M.S., Forestry, Michigan Technological University



Lydia Scott

Director of Chicago Region Trees Initiative

The Morton Arboretum

lscott@mortonarb.org

Lydia Scott is Director of the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) and Manager of the Community Trees Program at The Morton Arboretum. The CRTI is a partnership of organizations, communities, landowners and managers working together to improve the health of the urban forest in the seven county Chicago Region. The Community Trees Program is the outreach arm of The Morton Arboretum providing education and resources to public and private landowner, managers and individuals across Illinois. Lydia has nearly 20 years' experience in the public sector working in public works and spent the last five years at The Morton Arboretum. She understands the challenges of managing the urban forest and natural areas where people live, work and recreate.

Education

Master of Science degree from the University of Illinois in Environmental Sciences.



Michael Brunk

Illinois Forestry Development Council
Governor Appointee

City Arborist

City of Urbana

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Mike has been the City Arborist for Urbana, Illinois for the last 26 years. He started with the city 6 years before that as a tree climber. Over his tenure, Mike has managed the community forestry and landscape beautification programs and a countywide multi community Landscape Recycling Center, the first municipal-operated facility established in Illinois. Mike also assists with City planning, ordinance and program development and maintains his public access as the community tree consultant. In the early 90's Mike initiated an ongoing countywide marketing and education campaign that attracted the necessary support for the recycling operation to sustain a self-sufficient "no tax dollar" operation for the last twenty-five years. Mike has created a number of how-to-publications for Urbana and in 1997 in cooperation with IDNR initiated the creation of a statewide educational campaign to provide homeowners consistent answers to common tree questions. The effort resulted in four Illinois regional Tree Growing Guides. Through the support of the Forestry Development Council and the Illinois Arborist Association, Mike and a team of state professionals later compiled the information into one statewide publication titled "Under the Canopy, A Guide To Selecting, Planting, and Caring for Trees In Illinois". On its second edition, 120,000



copies of the Under the Canopy publication have been distributed across Illinois and parts of Indiana, and Missouri and Iowa. A year after the new century, Urbana Mayor Prussing asked Mike to research and address a proposed utility tree trimming tariff. Over the course of the following year, Mike joined 17 municipalities, the Illinois Municipal League and State Legislators to create and in 2002 successfully pass present day utility tree trimming legislation.

Mike has been involved with the Illinois Forestry Development Council for 14 years and in addition to his years at the City of Urbana, has worked for the private tree care industry and the Illinois Shawnee National Forest. Mike has a University of Illinois Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree, is currently a state-licensed Landscape Architect and an ISA Certified Arborist.

Reinee Hildebrandt, Ph.D.

State Urban and Community Forestry
Program Administrator

Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources

reinee.hildebrandt@illinois.gov



Dr. Hildebrandt has been the Illinois State Urban and Community Forestry Program Administrator for nearly 27 years. Reinee has administered over \$5 million in grants to local units of government for tree ordinances, management plans, tree inventories, tree planting and storm recovery projects. She administers the Tree City USA technical assistance/recognition program raising Illinois second in the nation from 1993 to mid-2010's. IL is currently holding at third in the nation for the number of Tree City USA communities. Under her leadership, Illinois has also ranked 1st or 2nd in the Growth Award. Additionally, she administers the Tree Campus USA program and the Tree Line USA program. Reinee prepares the TCU Newsbits (a weekly to monthly newsletter), administers the IDNR Urban and Community Forestry Webpages and oversees the IDNR Conservation World Famous and Historic Tree Arboretum. During the Emerald Ash Borer crisis, Dr. Hildebrandt created an EAB poster, an EAB Look Alike Poster, and door hangers of which nearly half a million were distributed.

Past projects have included: establishing five regional urban forestry councils from 1991 to 2010, conducting the "Trees Are Terrific" Arbor Day poster contest with two national winners being from Illinois. Most recently, under Reinee's leadership, Illinois became the first NE US state to create a State-level Urban Forestry Strike Team (UFST) modeled

after the USDA Forest Service UFST program. This project was done in partnership with Trees Forever and the USDA Forest Service. Reinee serves on many committees including CFD Urban and Community Forestry Committee, NAASF State Program Administrator's Storms Subcommittee, Illinois Urban Manual (IUM) Technical Committee and has attended Legislative hearings such as the utility tree trimming legislation. In 2017, Dr. Hildebrandt updated the IUM Tree Protection Standards.

Prior to coming to Illinois, Dr. Hildebrandt taught urban and community forestry and forest and park recreation at the university level for nine years; worked in Extension and Research prior to coming to Illinois.

Education and Qualifications:

B.S. Forest Recreation and Agriculture
Extension

M.S. Urban and Community Forestry

Ph.D. Mgmt. Admin. of Forestry

Lifetime Member of the International Society
of Arboriculture

Lifetime Member of the Illinois Native Plant
Society

TRAQ Qualified

Debbie Fluegel

Field Coordinator & Program Manager

Trees Forever

dfluegel@treesforever.org

Debbie Fluegel is a Field Coordinator and Program Manager for Trees Forever, an environmental nonprofit organization in Iowa and Illinois, whose mission is to plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community, and promoting stewardship. She manages the Illinois Buffer Partnership and Pollinator Habitat Conservation programs for both Iowa and Illinois. Debbie works with communities, landowners, and farmers to conduct hands-on planting projects to diversify and enhance community forests and to establish and restore native plant areas. She also trains volunteers who, in turn, work with adult and youth groups.

Debbie's favorite part of her job? "Meeting new people and visiting many of the unique areas in Illinois that most people don't have the opportunity to visit." Debbie is a certified arborist, Project Learning Tree facilitator, RiverWatch trainer, and member of the Illinois Forestry Development Council's Urban and Community Forestry Committee, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, the Illinois Forestry Association, the Soil & Water Conservation Society and the Association for Temperate Agroforestry. Debbie has a B.S. in Biology with Marine concentration from the University of Maine at Machias.

In 2017, Debbie was nationally recognized as one of Project Learning Tree's (PLT) "Outstanding Educators of the Year".



She has designed and facilitated PLT and other professional development opportunities for a wide range of audiences, including Salvation Army seasonal camp employees, Girl Scout leaders, and vocational agriculture teachers. She also helped the national PLT office in a pilot to evaluate various training formats