

# Virginia Tech’s UFMP Synopsis 2023

## Mission

Virginia Tech’s campus in Blacksburg, Virginia, encompasses about 900 acres and is home to more than 11,500 living trees and several forests. The example Virginia Tech sets for ethical and professional management and conservation of the campus urban forests significantly influences the university community and surrounding region while supporting the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment.

“Virginia Tech shall ensure its community has the opportunity to enjoy the campus urban tree canopy for generations to come through adaptive, professional, ethical, and sustainable management of the urban forest located on university properties.”

## Critical Challenges

- Currently, the urban tree canopy is 14.7 percent, low when compared to other urban areas.
- Limited resources for responsive maintenance are stretched between competing priorities resulting in a persistent and growing backlog.
- No resources are allocated for routine maintenance which inflates expenses related to responsive maintenance and exposes the Virginia Tech community to increased risk.
- Various tree planting efforts have resulted in a patchwork of young trees with no central objective, maintenance plan, or strategic tree canopy management plan.
- There is no official Tree Policy to comply with the Climate Action Commitment.

<b>Tree Campus Higher Ed. Institutions</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>Total Per Capita Expenditures</b>
SCHEV Peer Institutions	\$403,289	\$9.23
Land Grant Institutions	\$392,459	\$9.50
Virginia Tech	\$135,072	\$4.16

Virginia Tech invests > \$250,000 less in urban forestry than peer institutions.

# Major Recommendations

- Adopt the Virginia Tech Urban Forest Master Plan and the CPIF Tree Procedure to comply with the Climate Action Commitment.
- Secure resources for comprehensive urban forest management at Virginia Tech.
- Recruit personnel for maintenance and management capacity.
- Institute a tree emergency response system.
- Resolve the tree maintenance backlog.
- Institute routine tree maintenance on campus.
- Establish comprehensive tree asset replacement and pursue net gain tree planting programming.
- Institute effective tree protection and preservation programming.

## Next Step

Adopt the Urban Forest Master Plan and the CPIF Tree Procedure.

This new program and comprehensive master plan align completely with industry standards and are positioned to be best in class and this due diligence has prepared us to apply to the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative's Urban and Community Forestry accreditation program](#). Adoption of the master plan and tree procedure are the final steps towards accreditation and after we meet these two last standards we will qualify to be the first accredited collegiate program.