

# Urban Forestry 2020: A Critical Look at the Profession

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**Q. What is Urban Forestry 2020?**

A. A 3-year research and networking project that aims to define the urban forestry profession, understand its relationship with allied professions, and make strategic recommendations to make urban forestry an attractive career choice.

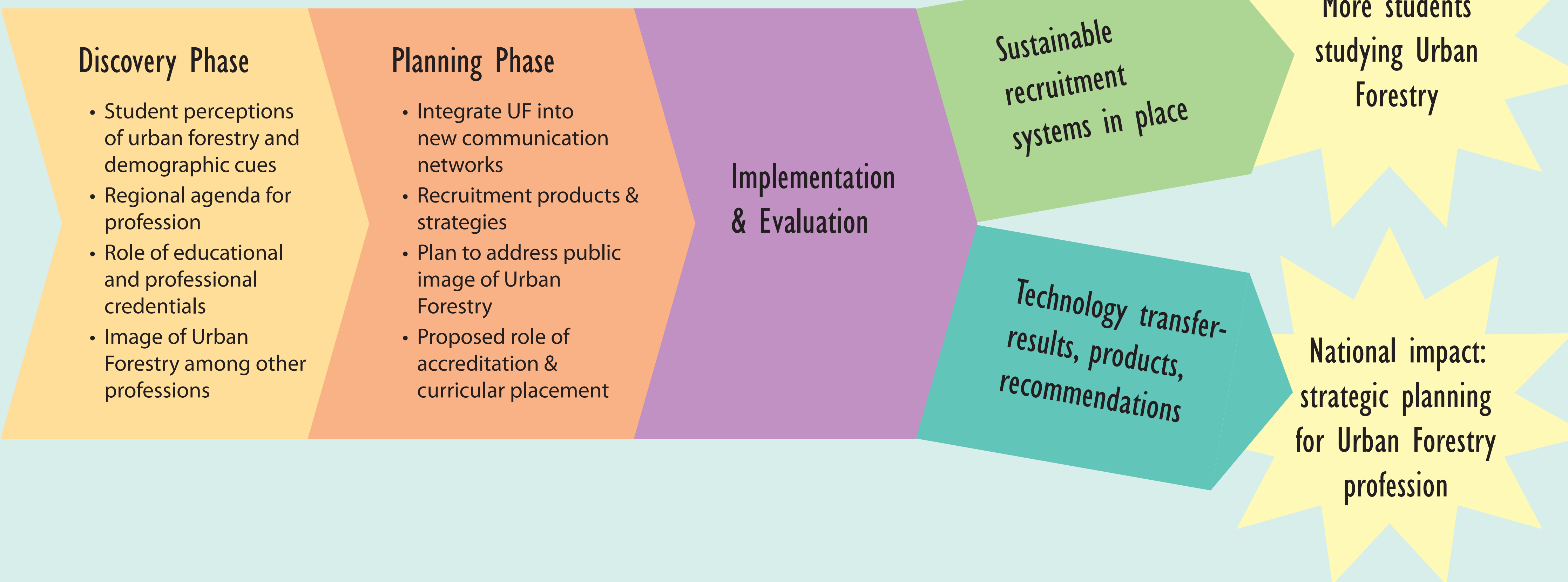
**Q. Who is involved in Urban Forestry 2020?**

A. The project is run by a consortium of four universities (Virginia Tech, University of Maryland, West Virginia University, and Virginia State) and includes a national steering committee representing the diverse urban forest stakeholder community. UF2020 is supported in part by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (USDA Forest Service).

**Q. What will the results of the project be?**

A. A research-based assessment of how urban forestry is perceived as a profession by young people, employers, and allied professionals that will allow for analysis of the influence of demographics and professional support systems on these perceptions. Ultimately, the project will produce research-based recommendations for strategic planning.

## Project Timeline



**Steering Committee Members**

Sarah Anderson, Alliance for Community Trees	Jerri LaHaie, Society of Municipal Arborists
Pat Brewer, Bartlett Tree Experts	Julie Mawhorter, US Forest Service
Seth Brown, Water Environment Federation	James McGlone, VA Dept. of Forestry
Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees	Allan S. Mills, Virginia Commonwealth University
Keith Cline, Fairfax County, Virginia	Louise Murgia, Society of American Foresters
Robert Corletta, District Department of Transportation	David Myers, University of Maryland
Mike Galvin, SavATree Consulting Group	Steven F. Resh, Allegany College of Maryland
Jay Griles, Dominion Virginia Power	Paul Revell, VA Dept. of Forestry
Bob Hannah, WV Division of Forestry	David Rouse, American Planning Association
Jason Henning, The Davey Institute	Jim Schwab, American Planning Association
Brian Keiling, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College	Jim Skiera, International Society of Arboriculture
Steve Koehn, USDA Forest Service	Vincent Verweij, Arlington, Virginia

## What is the **ROLE** of the Urban Forester in Relation to Allied Professions?

(These findings are based on perceptions of UF2020's Steering Committee and roundtable discussions with urban foresters)

**Urban foresters are MORE LIKELY than other professionals to be engaged in managing:**

- Forest health, inventory, & assessment
- Risk Management related to the urban forest
- Arboricultural practices and planting programs
- Planning & financing of the urban forest

**KEY roles of urban foresters where allied professionals are EQUALLY LIKELY to be engaged:**

**Green Infrastructure Planning and Implementation**

- Professions equally or more likely to be involved in GI include: Landscape Architects, Urban Planners, Environmental Consultants and Stormwater Engineers.

**Roles where urban foresters are LESS LIKELY to be engaged than allied professions:**

**Land Use Planning**

- Professions considered MORE LIKELY than urban foresters to be involved include: Urban Planners, Developers, Landscape Architects, Natural Resource Professional or Traditional Forester, City Managers, Project Engineers, GIS Specialists, Board or Commission Members

**Networking in Urban Forestry**

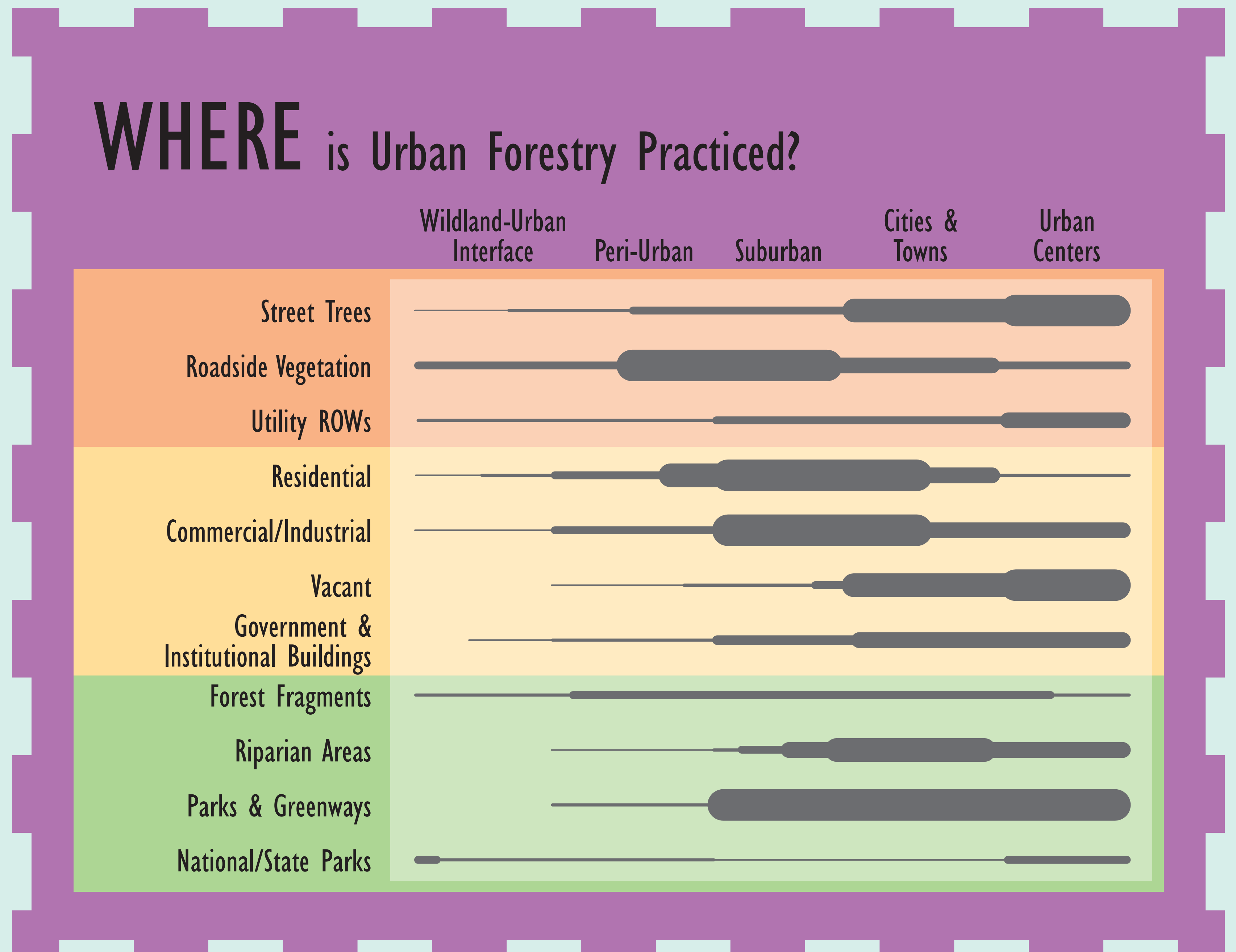
- Many urban foresters feel that they have multiple valuable local or regional networks that help them problem solve
- Urban foresters belong to a lot of different organizations and networks, but there is NO universal list
- Some urban foresters perceive there are few places to interact with peers about their professional role
- Many urban foresters belong to non-urban forestry organizations

## What's **YOUR** take?

- What is the role of urban foresters in urban natural resource management?
- Are allied professionals just as effective at managing the urban forest as urban foresters in terms of green infrastructure (GI) and land use planning (LUP)?
- Should urban foresters be more involved in the planning and creation of GI?
- What can we do to increase recognition of urban foresters as valuable team members in LUP?

**Do urban forestry networks need to be...**

- More NATIONAL in emphasis?
- More [or less] formal or STRUCTURED?
- Stronger ADVOCATES for involvement in GI and LUP?



## Where should we go from here? Defining the Urban Forestry profession

Urban Forestry is at a critical point in its development. Our urban forests are receiving more attention than ever thanks to accelerating interest in the benefits of urban forests and environmental management tools such as green infrastructure. In addition to the efforts of UF2020, professional organizations such as the International Society of Arboriculture and the Society of American Foresters are engaged in market research to understand the nature and needs of the profession. Professions advance and develop when a wide array of professional support systems are in place. Our goal in UF2020 is to understand the current status of the profession and where we should head from here. By working with discussion groups and our steering committee, we are starting to bring the urban forestry profession into sharper focus.

