2013 Urban Forestry Institute
Urban Forest Policy, Planning, Management, and Technology

Originating from an issue paper presented to the Southern Group of State Foresters in 2011 asking them to invest in professional development, the Urban Forestry Institute is designed to provide state agency foresters and allied professionals with in-depth, current urban and interface natural resource management education and training. The scope of the 2013 training was to address a higher level of urban forest planning, technology, and management.

UFI Planning Committee
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Below is an outline of the curriculum for the 2013 Urban Forestry Institute:

What does the city have –
- The urban forest resource
- Different types of plans
- Land use zoning
- Ordinances, codes, and regulations

What does the city want –
- Clarifying the vision
- Setting goals and objectives

How does the city get what it wants –
- Comprehensive planning
- Urban forest-related ordinances
- Urban forest design
- Adaptive management principles
- Working with professionals and partners
- Cyclical planning

Is the city getting what it wanted –
- Urban forest monitoring tools
- Monitoring and analysis
- Evaluating and revising the plan
Participant Survey Results - Highest rated modules:

Score¹ Module
3.7   Land Use Zoning
3.7   Urban Forest Design
3.6   Comprehensive and master plans
3.4   Comprehensive planning
3.4   Working with arborists and utility foresters
3.4   Working with partners
3.4   Cyclical planning
3.3   Land development regulations
3.3   Urban forest monitoring tools
3.3   Future urban forestry technology tools

Financial Management
- Granted $65,000 through Regional Investment Project
- Instructor/Student travel $13,803.59
- Contractual services $33,605.02
- Materials/supplies $1,252.41
- TOTAL $48,661.02

Lessons Learned
- Evening enrichment sessions were not well attended
- Obtain workbook materials well in advance of the workshop
- Seemed to have plenty of funding for scholarships and instructors
- Application for registration was confusing
- Sit down with state fiscal folks well in advance to lay out needs for reimbursement
- Trees VA was not adequately reimbursed due to state fiscal reasoning

2015 UFI Topic Needs?
- Do we dive deeper into policy, planning, management, or technology?
- Inventory technologies (UTC, LiDAR, Hyperspectral imagery, i-Tree, EnviroAtlas, etc.)
- Green Infrastructure
- Conveying information to policymakers / influencing policy

¹ Average score was 3.2