

Austin Forest Adaptation Planning and Practices

November 6-7, 2019 | Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Urban foresters, natural areas managers, and planners face the tremendous challenge of developing and implementing **actions** that help ecosystems respond to **climate change**. This session will:

- Provide information on the **current** and **anticipated** effects of climate change on the Austin metro and its urban forests and natural areas.
- Describe **resources** and **tools** that can be used to integrate climate change into urban forest and natural areas management.
- Outline adaptation **concepts** and **strategies**.
- Identify **actions** that enhance the ability of urban forests and other ecosystems in the Austin region to **adapt** to changing conditions.
- Highlight **real-world** examples of adaptation projects, and **engage** participants in a variety of interactive activities to identify climate change issues and potential adaptation actions.

Agenda: Day 1 - Preparing for Climate Change

8:30 **Registration & Coffee**

9:00 **Welcome & Introduction:** *Zach Baumer, City of Austin Climate Program Manager, & Leslie Brandt, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science and US Forest Service*

9:30 **Changing Climate in the Austin Region:** *Cait Rottler, USDA Central Plains Climate Hub*

10:15 **Break**

10:30 **Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity of Trees in the Austin Region:** *Leslie Brandt*

11:30 **Local Observations Engagement Activity**

12:00 **Lunch On-site**

12:45 **Adapting Urban Forests to Climate Change: Approaches for Action:** *Leslie Brandt*

1:15 **Real-world Examples of Forest Adaptation:** Panel and Q&A

- Mycorrhizal Fungi & Soil Health, Lisa O'Donnell, City of Austin Wildlands Division
- Bioswales/Terracing to Capture & Sink Water, Pete Van Dyck, Drought Proof Texas
- Grow Zones, John Clement, City of Austin Watershed Protection
- Onsite Reuse of Wood Waste for Water Retention, Bryan Hummel, EPA

2:30 **Break**

2:45 **Activity: Integrating Climate Change into Your Work**

3:00 **Group Rounds and Discussion**

3:30 **Discussion of Breakout**

3:50 **Closing Comments:** *Leslie Brandt*

4:00 **Adjourn**



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Forest Adaptation Planning and Practices is an active, hands-on training, to assist urban forest and natural areas managers in incorporating climate change **considerations** and identifying **actions** for adaptation into their own real-world forest management projects. Through this training, participants will be able to:

- Describe **regional** and **local** effects of climate change on urban forests and ecosystems.
- Understand adaptation **concepts** and **principles** in the context of sustainable urban forest management.
- Use *Forest Adaptation Resources* in **real-world** management projects to:
 - Identify challenges and opportunities for management.
 - Develop actionable steps to adapt forests to changing conditions.
 - Create their own climate-informed forest management project.

Agenda: Day 2 - Adaptation Planning

- 8:30 **Introduction:** *Leslie Brandt, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science and US Forest Service*
- 9:00 **Step 2: Climate change vulnerability on your project area – Activity**
- 10:00 **Break**
- 10:15 **Adaptive Capacity**
- 10:45 **Vulnerability Determination**
- 11:00 **Step 3: Challenges/Opportunities for Meeting Management Objectives – Overview**
- 11:15 **Step 3: Challenges/Opportunities for Meeting Management Objectives – Breakouts & Activity**
- 12:15 **Lunch**
- 1:00 **Step 4: Identifying Forest Adaptation Approaches and Tactics – Overview**
- 1:30 **Step 4: Identifying Forest Adaptation Approaches and Tactics – Breakouts**
- 2:15 **Step 4: Identifying Forest Adaptation Approaches and Tactics – Discussion**
- 2:45 **Step 5: Monitoring – Introduction & Activity**
- 3:15 **Final Poster Presentations – Work Time**
- 3:45 **Poster Presentations from Each Group**
- 4:15 **Next Steps & Wrap-up**
- 4:30 **Adjourn**

