

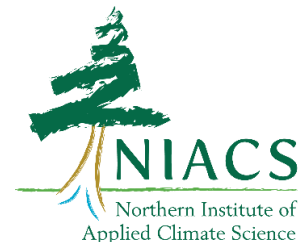
# Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup: Climate Adaptation Tools and Strategies for Urban Forest Management

October 4, 2023

*An overview of resources from the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science*

**Patricia Leopold**, Climate Adaptation Specialist, NIACS and R9 State, Private, and Tribal Forestry

**Maddy Baroli**, Climate Adaptation Specialist, NIACS and Michigan Technological University



# Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

Climate

Carbon

The Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) develops synthesis products, fosters communication, pursues science, and provides technical assistance in climate change adaptation and carbon management.

**Multi-institutional collaborative chartered by USDA Forest Service, universities, and non-profit and tribal conservation organizations**



# USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub (Operated by NIACS)



United States Department of Agriculture  
Climate Hubs



**NIACS** operates the USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub on behalf of the Forest Service (via the Northern Research Station)

## Hubs Mission:

- Develop and deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies to agricultural and natural resource managers that enable climate-informed decision-making, and to
- Provide assistance to implement those decisions

[www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northern-forests](http://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northern-forests)

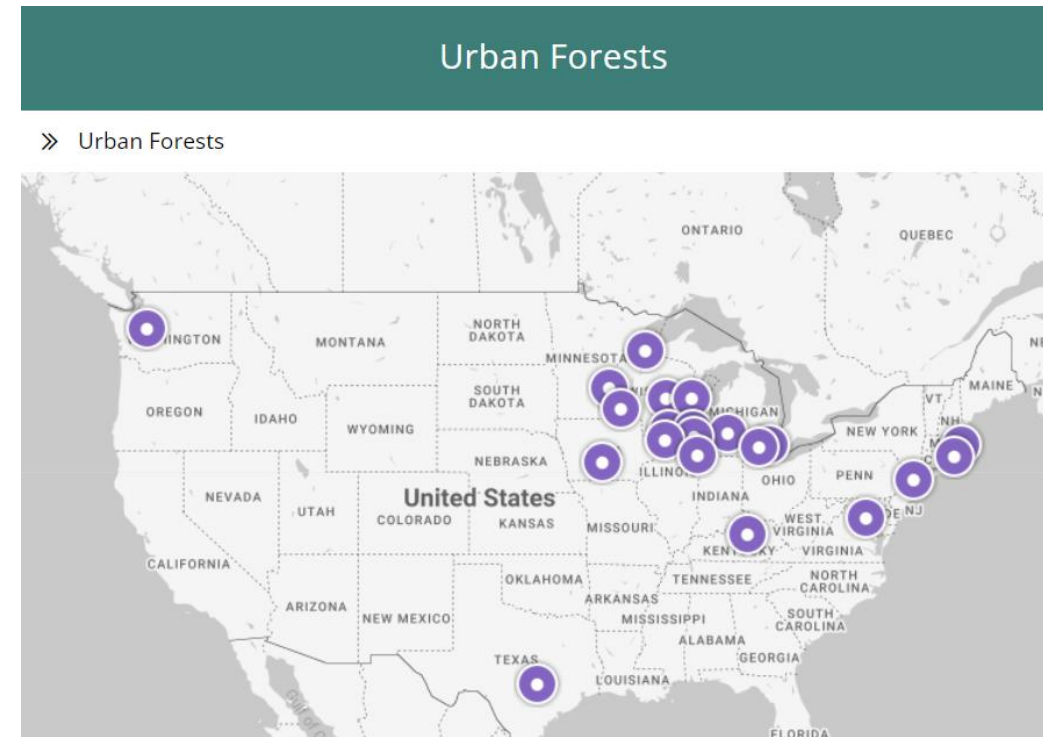
# NIACS Urban Climate Change Response Framework

Urban Forestry 'Menu of Adaptation Strategies' and Approaches first published 2016

More than 70 real-world urban & community forestry demonstration projects using Adaptation Workbook and Menu!

**Urban Forest Vulnerability Assessments and/or tree species vulnerability resources have been created for many cities:**

- Chicago, IL
- Detroit, MI
- Twin Cities, MN
- Baltimore, MD
- Washington DC
- Providence, RI
- Austin, TX
- Phoenix, AZ
- Puget Sound, WA
- Boston, MA
- Indianapolis, IN



Learn more at: [forestadaptation.org/urban](https://forestadaptation.org/urban)



# Climate Adaptation Planning in Urban Forests



Robust strategies are needed to help urban forests adapt to climate change



Urban forest managers and allied professionals need access to tools and information to support these efforts



Will vary widely depending on geographic location, extent of development, ownership, and management goals



Consider community needs and values to guide planning, implementation, education and outreach, research, policy



# Climate & Health Action Guide

Maximize the benefits of trees to address climate change and improve human health.

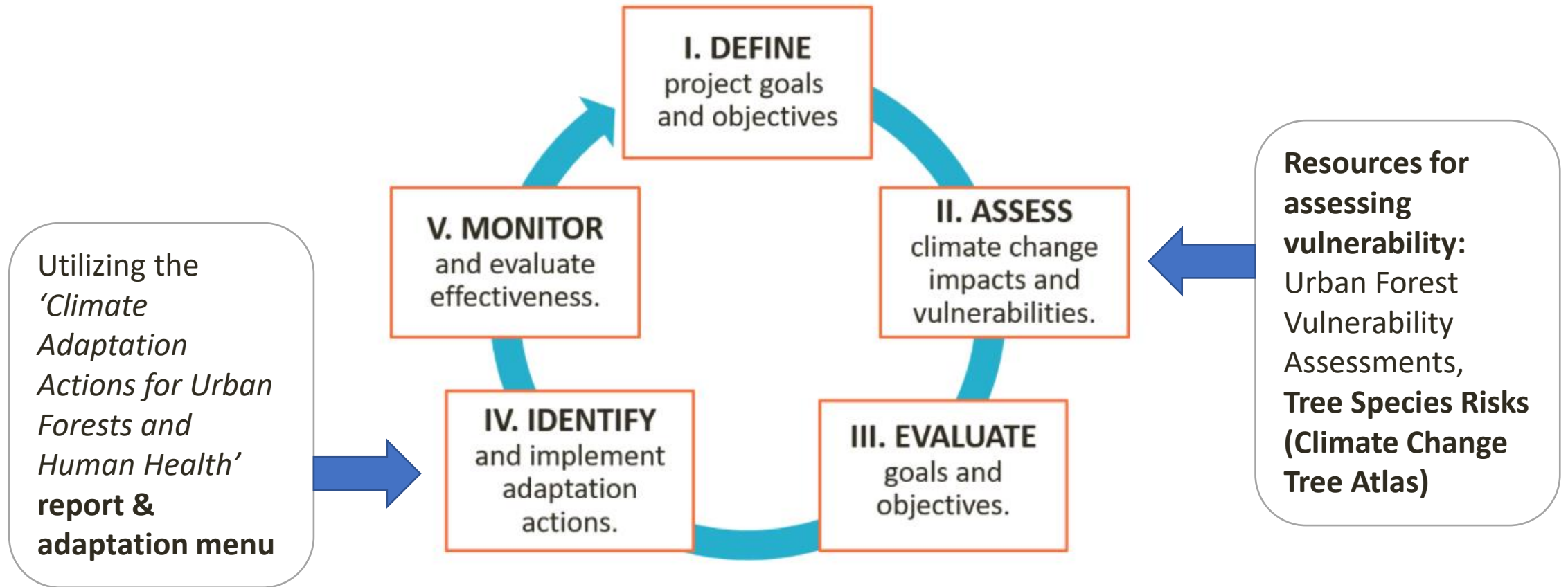
GET STARTED →

PHASE:



<https://www.vibrantcitieslab.com/guides/climate-health-action-guide/>

# Adaptation Workbook Process



# Mid-Atlantic Forest Ecosystem Vulnerability Assessment

- Series of reports for **natural resource professionals**
- Focus on **tree species and forest ecosystems**
- Examine a **range** of future climates
- Evaluate **key ecosystem vulnerabilities** to climate change
- Does **not make recommendations** or assess vulnerability to changes in mgmt., land use, policy






# StoryMap






## Climate Change and Adaptation: Mid-Atlantic Forests

[Home](#)[Changing Climate](#)[Effects on Forests](#)[Forest Vulnerability](#)[Adaptation Stories](#)[Credits](#)

Forests are a prominent feature of the landscape across the Mid-Atlantic region. Sweeping from the Atlantic coastal plain to the Catskill Mountains, forests cover approximately half of the 60-million acre assessment area. These forests provide many benefits to residents of this region, including clean air and water, fish and wildlife, and places for families to spend time outdoors. Working forests also give us lumber, maple syrup, ginseng, and other products that support the local economy.

Foresters, biologists, and land managers are working hard to preserve these forests for future generations, as part of the Mid-Atlantic Climate Change Response Framework. Understanding how our forests are changing now and how they will continue to change in the future is the key to making sustainable choices. To help with these decisions, the [Mid-Atlantic Forest Ecosystem Vulnerability Assessment and Synthesis: a report from the Mid-Atlantic Climate Change Response Framework](#) summarizes the best available information about these forests from published research and local knowledge. The first three sections of this story map highlight key themes from the report and describe the general effects of anticipated changes across the region. The final section shows what foresters and land managers are doing to protect these forests and all of the benefits they provide for us.





<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=8917a92ee63c48a2aa7c34ca665a486a>



# Climate Change Tree Atlas: About

- A tool used to describe tree habitat distribution and colonization under changed climate.
- Model results for 125 species (and relative abundance for 24 species)
- Information about colonization potential (SHIFT) and overall ability to tolerate future conditions (Capability)
- **New tutorials** and explanations throughout the site.

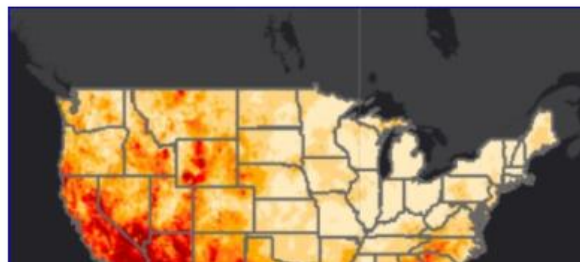
## Regional Summary Tree Tables

### Current and Potential Future Habitat, Capability, and Migration

Summaries for tree species are available for a variety of geographies, in both PDF and Excel format. These summaries are based on [Version 4 of the Climate Change Tree Atlas](#)

- [National Forest Summaries](#)
- [National Park Summaries](#)
- [HUC6 Watersheds](#)
- [Ecoregional Vulnerability Assessments \(EVAS\)](#)
- [USDA Forest Service EcoMap 2007 Sections](#)
- [National Climate Assessment \(NCA\) 2016 Regional Summaries](#)
- [1 x 1° Grid Summaries](#)
- [Eastern United States](#)
- [Urban Areas](#)

## Other Products



Atlas site: [fs.usda.gov/nrs/atlas/tree/](https://fs.usda.gov/nrs/atlas/tree/)





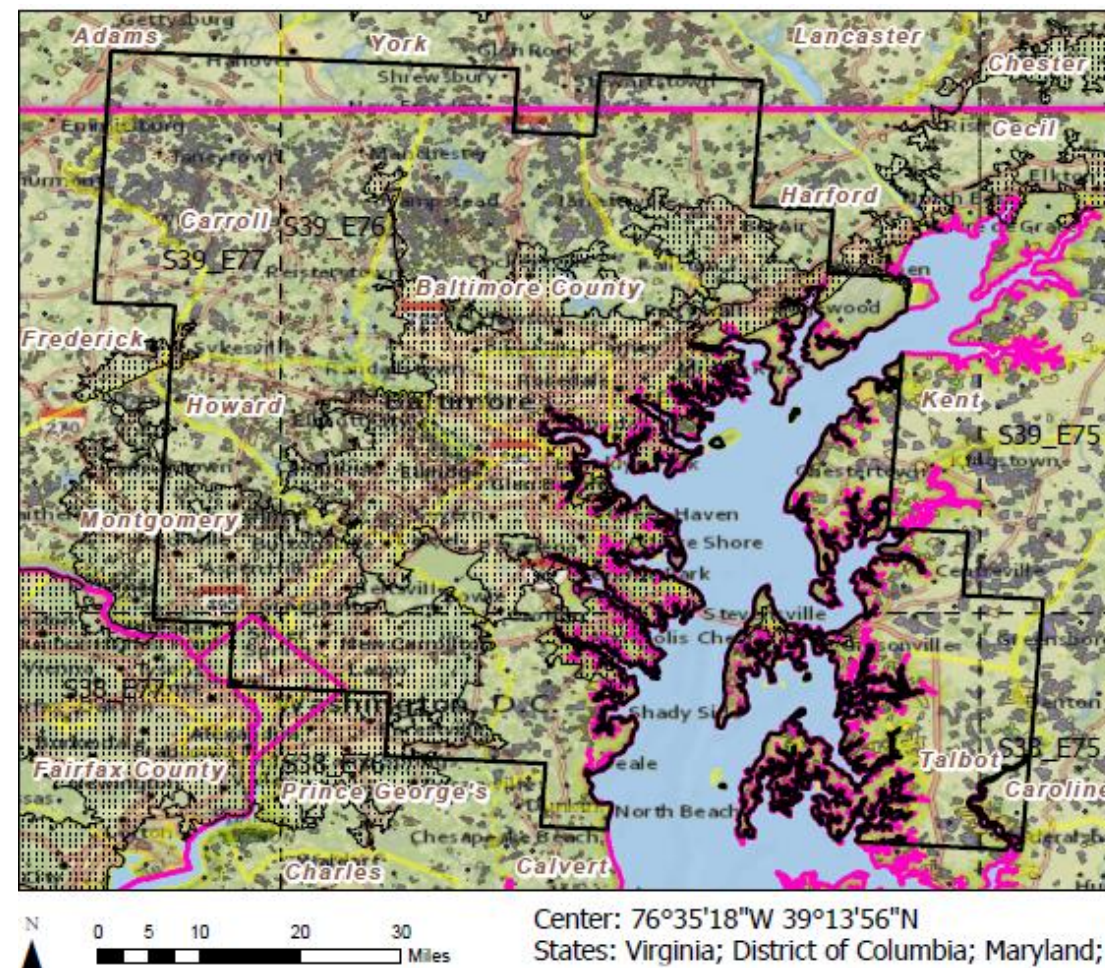
# Climate Change Tree Atlas: Baltimore

Results describe trends across the greater Baltimore area

- Urban area (sq. km) = 1,922
- Urban buffer area (sq. km) = 9,137
  - 90 tree species modeled
  - 22% urban land cover

**Rare, nonnative, or cultivar species are likely not modeled.**

- These species may have vulnerability ratings based on projected heat and hardiness zones.





# Climate Change Tree Atlas: Baltimore

- Common and scientific names
- Range
- Model reliability
- FIA sum
- Habitat change class
- Adaptability
- Capability
- SHIFT

	Scientific Name	Range	MR	%Cell	FIAsum	FIAiv	ChngCI45	ChngCI85	Adap	Abund	Capabil45	Capabil85	SHIFT45	SHIFT85	SSO	N
14	Quercus rubra	WDH	Medium	37.1	117.6	6.5	No change	No change	High	Common	Good	Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	1	13
15	Quercus coccinea	WDL	Medium	27.6	113.9	6.8	Sm. dec.	Sm. dec.	Medium	Common	Fair	Fair	Infill +	Infill +	1	14
16	Carya glabra	WDL	Medium	31.4	112.2	6.9	No change	No change	Medium	Common	Good	Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	1	15
17	Fraxinus americana	WDL	Medium	25.6	104.4	7.7	No change	No change	Low	Common	Good	Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	1	16
18	Sassafras albidum	WSL	Low	35.9	100.5	5.0	Lg. dec.	Sm. dec.	Medium	Common	Fair	Fair	Infill +	Infill +	1	17
19	Juglans nigra	WDH	Low	20.4	91.6	6.8	Sm. dec.	Sm. dec.	Medium	Common	Fair	Fair	Infill +	Infill +	1	18
20	Pinus taeda	WDH	High	12.7	84.5	15.7	Lg. inc.	Lg. inc.	Medium	Common	Very Good	Very Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	2	19
21	Platanus occidentalis	NSL	Low	16	81.1	9.5	Sm. inc.	Sm. inc.	Medium	Common	Very Good	Very Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	2	20
22	Acer negundo	WSH	Low	19.5	77.2	6.0	No change	No change	High	Common	Good	Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	1	21
23	Populus deltoides	NSH	Low	2.8	68.6	28.0	Sm. dec.	Sm. dec.	Medium	Common	Fair	Fair			0	22
24	Picea abies	NSH	FIA	1.1	61.3	50.0	Unknown	Unknown	NA	Common	NNIS	NNIS			0	23
25	Quercus pagoda	NSL	Medium	1	61.3	45.9	No change	No change	Medium	Common	Good	Good			2	24
26	Pinus strobus	WDH	High	1.1	44.9	36.7	Lg. dec.	Lg. dec.	Low	Rare	Poor	Poor			0	25
27	Ulmus rubra	WSL	Low	3.4	42.0	11.4	Sm. dec.	No change	Medium	Rare	Poor	Fair	Infill +	Infill +	2	26
28	Quercus falcata	WDL	Medium	12.5	37.4	6.6	Lg. inc.	Lg. inc.	High	Rare	Good	Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	2	27
29	Acer saccharinum	NSH	Low	6.8	35.0	13.9	Sm. dec.	No change	High	Rare	Poor	Fair			2	28
30	Quercus palustris	NSH	Low	4.5	33.8	6.9	Sm. dec.	Sm. dec.	Low	Rare	Poor	Poor	Infill +	Infill +	2	29
31	Ailanthus altissima	NSL	FIA	8	31.4	6.5	Unknown	Unknown	NA	Rare	NNIS	NNIS			0	30
32	Carya cordiformis	WSL	Low	6.6	29.6	7.2	No change	No change	High	Rare	Fair	Fair	Infill +	Infill +	2	31
33	Ulmus americana	WDH	Medium	15.8	24.3	7.7	Sm. inc.	Lg. inc.	Medium	Rare	Good	Good			2	32
34	Cornus florida	WDL	Medium	16.6	19.5	1.6	Sm. inc.	Sm. inc.	Medium	Rare	Good	Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	1	33
35	Carpinus caroliniana	WSL	Low	7.4	19.1	2.6	Sm. inc.	Sm. inc.	Medium	Rare	Good	Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	1	34
36	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	WSH	Low	4	18.7	5.2	Sm. inc.	Sm. inc.	Medium	Rare	Good	Good			2	35
37	Quercus phellos	NSL	Low	3.8	16.6	4.5	Sm. inc.	Sm. inc.	Medium	Rare	Good	Good			2	36
38	Acer platanoides	NSL	FIA	7.9	14.1	3.9	Unknown	Unknown	NA	Rare	NNIS	NNIS			0	37
39	Quercus imbricaria	NDH	Medium	2.3	12.7	5.2	Sm. dec.	Sm. dec.	Medium	Rare	Poor	Poor			0	38
40	Morus alba	NSL	FIA	10.4	10.7	5.5	Unknown	Unknown	NA	Rare	NNIS	NNIS			0	39
41	Asimina triloba	NSL	Low	6.4	9.8	2.8	Sm. dec.	Lg. dec.	Medium	Rare	Poor	Poor			0	40
42	Ilex opaca	NSL	Medium	13.1	9.0	2.4	Lg. inc.	Lg. inc.	Medium	Rare	Good	Good	Infill ++	Infill ++	1	41

[fs.usda.gov/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries/urban/](https://fs.usda.gov/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries/urban/)



# Climate Change Tree Atlas: Results for Greater Baltimore

NEW!

## CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL TREE SPECIES GREATER BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



This list was developed to aid Greater Baltimore community forestry practitioners in selecting trees to reduce climate change vulnerability of their urban forests. It is meant to be a complement to other tree selection resources. Other factors may also need to be considered, such as aesthetics, local site conditions, wildlife value, or nursery availability. It is also important to note that some species may have climate

benefits but may not be suitable for planting for other reasons, such as having invasive potential or susceptibility to pests or pathogens.

The Landscape Change Research Group recently updated the Climate Change Tree Atlas, and this handout summarizes information for the Greater Baltimore region. Full Tree Atlas results are available online at [www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/](http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/). Two climate scenarios are presented to "bracket" a range of possible futures. These future climate projections (2070 to 2099) provide information about how individual tree species may respond to a changing climate. Results for "low" and "high" emissions scenarios can be compared on the reverse side of this handout.

### The updated Tree Atlas presents additional information helpful to interpret tree species changes:

- Suitable habitat** - calculated based on 39 variables that explain where optimum conditions exist for a species, including soils, landforms, and climate variables.
- Adaptability** - based on life-history traits that might increase or decrease tolerance of expected changes, such as the ability to withstand different forms of disturbance.
- Capability** - a rating of the species' ability to cope or persist with climate change in this region based on suitable habitat change (statistical modeling), adaptability (literature review and expert opinion), and abundance (FIA data). The capability rating is modified by abundance information; ratings are downgraded for rare species and upgraded for abundant species.
- Migration Potential Model** - when combined with habitat suitability, an estimate of a species' colonization likelihood for new habitats. This rating can be helpful for assisted migration or focused management (see the table section: "New Habitat with Migration Potential").

Remember that models are just tools, and they're not perfect. Model projections can't account for all factors that influence future species success. If a species is rare or confined to a small area, model results may be less reliable. These factors, and others, could cause a particular species to perform better or worse than a model projects. Human choices will also continue to influence forest distribution, especially for tree species that are projected to increase. Despite these limits, models provide useful information about future expectations. It's perhaps best to think of these projections as indicators of possibility and potential change.

SOURCE: This handout summarizes model results for the Greater Baltimore, Maryland area, available at [https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries/urban/ua\\_04842.xlsx](https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries/urban/ua_04842.xlsx). More information on vulnerability and adaptation in the Mid-Atlantic region can be found at [www.forestadaptation.org/mid-atlantic](https://www.forestadaptation.org/mid-atlantic). A full description of the models and variables are provided in Iverson et al. 2019 ([www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/57852/](https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/57852/)) and [www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/59105/](https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/59105/) and Peters et al. 2019 ([www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/58353/](https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/58353/)).



[www.forestadaptation.org](http://www.forestadaptation.org)

### CLIMATE CHANGE CAPABILITY

#### POOR CAPABILITY

Bigtooth aspen	Pin oak
Black ash	Quaking aspen
Eastern white pine	Shingle oak
Pawpaw	Swamp white oak

#### FAIR CAPABILITY

American beech	Eastern cottonwood
Bitternut hickory	Red mulberry
Black locust	Sassafras
Black walnut	Scarlet oak
Chestnut oak	Virginia pine

#### GOOD CAPABILITY

American elm	Northern red oak
American holly	Pignut hickory
American hornbeam	Red maple
Black cherry	Shagbark hickory
Black oak	Southern red oak
Blackgum	Sugar maple
Boxelder	Swamp chestnut oak
Cherrybark oak	Sweetbay
Eastern hophornbeam	Sweetgum
Eastern redcedar	Sycamore
Flowering dogwood	White ash
Green ash	White oak
Hackberry	Willow oak
Loblolly pine	Yellow Poplar

#### MIXED RESULTS

Silver maple	Common persimmon
Slippery elm	Black willow

#### NEW HABITAT WITH MIGRATION POTENTIAL

Bald cypress	River birch
Blackjack oak	Shortleaf pine
Eastern redbud	Sourwood
Laurel oak	Sugarberry
Longleaf pine	Swamp tupelo
Hackberry	Water oak
Pond cypress	Water tupelo
Post oak	Winged elm
Redbay	

**ADAPTABILITY:** Life-history factors, such as the ability to respond favorably to disturbance, that are not included in the Tree Atlas summary and may make a species more or less able to adapt to future stressors.

- + HIGH Species may perform better than modeled
- MEDIUM
- LOW Species may perform worse than modeled

**HABITAT CHANGE:** Projected change in suitable habitat between current and potential future conditions.

- ▲ INCREASE: Projected increase of >20% by 2100
- NO CHANGE: Projected change of <20% by 2100
- ▼ DECREASE: Projected decrease of >20% by 2100
- ★ NEW HABITAT: Tree Atlas projects new habitat for species not currently present

**ABUNDANCE:** Based on Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) summed Importance Value data, calibrated to a standard geographic area.

- + ABUNDANT
- COMMON
- RARE

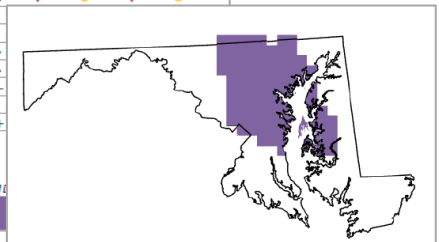
**CAPABILITY:** An overall rating that describes a species' ability to cope or persist with climate change based on suitable habitat change class (statistical modeling), adaptability (literature review and expert opinion), and abundance within this region.

- ▲ GOOD: Increasing suitable habitat, medium or high adaptability, and common or abundant
- FAIR: Mixed combinations, such as a rare species with increasing suitable habitat and medium adaptability
- ▼ POOR: Decreasing suitable habitat, medium or low adaptability, and uncommon or rare

SPECIES	LOW CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 4.5)		HIGH CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 8.5)		SPECIES	LOW CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 4.5)		HIGH CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 8.5)	
	ADAPT	ABUN	HABITAT	CAPABIL		ADAPT	ABUN	HABITAT	CAPABIL
American beech	•	•	▲	●	Pignut hickory	•	•	▲	●
American elm	•	•	▲	▲	Pin oak*	•	•	▼	▼
American holly	•	•	▲	▲	Pond cypress	•	•	•	•
American hornbeam*	•	•	▲	▲	Post oak	•	•	•	•
Bald cypress	•	•	•	•	Quaking aspen	•	•	▼	▼
Bigtooth aspen	•	•	▼	▼	Red maple	•	•	▲	▲
Bitternut hickory*	•	•	•	•	Red mulberry*	•	•	•	•
Black ash	•	•	▼	▼	Redbay*	•	•	•	•
Black cherry	•	•	▲	▲	River birch*	•	•	•	•
Black locust*	•	•	▲	▲	Sassafras*	•	•	•	•
Black oak	•	•	▲	▲	Scarlet oak	•	•	•	•
Black walnut*	•	•	▲	▲	Shagbark hickory	•	•	▲	▲
Black willow*	•	•	•	•	Shingle oak	•	•	▼	▼
Blackgum	•	•	▲	▲	Shortleaf pine	•	•	•	•
Blackjack oak	•	•	•	•	Silver maple*	•	•	•	•
Boxelder*	•	•	▲	▲	Slippery elm*	•	•	•	•
Cherrybark oak	•	•	•	•	Sourwood	•	•	•	•
Chestnut oak	•	•	▲	▲	Southern red oak	•	•	▲	▲
Common persimmon*	•	•	•	•	Sugar maple	•	•	▲	▲
Eastern cottonwood*	•	•	▲	▲	Sugarberry	•	•	•	•
Eastern hophornbeam*	•	•	▲	▲	Swamp chestnut oak*	•	•	▲	▲
Eastern redbud*	•	•	•	•	Swamp tupelo	•	•	•	•
Eastern redcedar	•	•	▲	▲	Swamp white oak*	•	•	▼	▼
Eastern white pine	•	•	▼	▼	Sweetbay	•	•	▲	▲
Flowering dogwood	•	•	▲	▲	Sweetgum	•	•	▲	▲
Green ash*	•	•	▲	▲	Sycamore*	•	•	▲	▲
Hackberry	•	•	▲	▲	Virginia pine	•	•	•	•
Laurel oak	•	•	•	•	Water oak	•	•	•	•
Loblolly pine	•	•	▲	▲	Water tupelo	•	•	•	•
Longleaf pine	•	•	•	•	White ash	•	•	•	•
Mockernut hickory	•	•	▲	▲	White oak	•	•	•	•
Northern red oak	•	•	•	•	Willow oak*	•	•	•	•
Overcup oak	•	•	•	•	Winged elm	•	•	•	•
Pawpaw*	•	•	▼	▼	Yellow Poplar	•	•	•	•

\*Species with low model reliability based on five statistical metrics of the habitat models that affect change class. See maps and tables for more information ([www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries/](https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries/)).

Created



[forestadaptation.org/baltimore](http://forestadaptation.org/baltimore)

# Climate Change Tree Atlas: Results for Greater Baltimore

## POOR CAPABILITY

Bigtooth aspen	Pin oak
Black ash	Quaking aspen
Eastern white pine	Shingle oak
Pawpaw	Swamp white oak

## FAIR CAPABILITY

American beech	Eastern cottonwood
Bitternut hickory	Red mulberry
Black locust	Sassafras
Black walnut	Scarlet oak
Chestnut oak	Virginia pine

## GOOD CAPABILITY

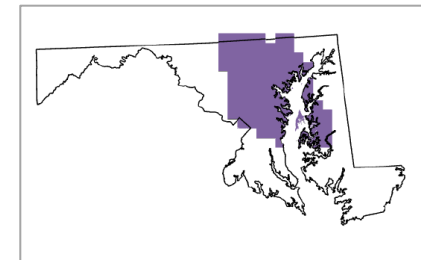
American elm	Northern red oak
American holly	Pignut hickory
American hornbeam	Red maple
Black cherry	Shagbark hickory
Black oak	Southern red oak
Blackgum	Sugar maple
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Loblolly pine	Yellow Poplar
Mockernut hickory	

## MIXED RESULTS

Silver maple	Common persimmon
Slippery elm	Black willow

## NEW HABITAT WITH MIGRATION POTENTIAL

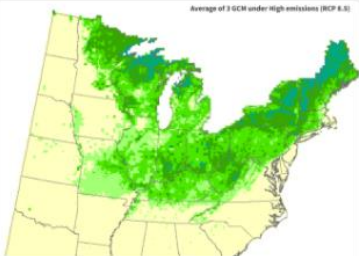
Bald cypress	River birch
Blackjack oak	Shortleaf pine
Eastern redbud	Sourwood
Laurel oak	Sugarberry
Longleaf pine	Swamp tupelo
Overcup oak	Water oak
Pond cypress	Water tupelo
Post oak	Winged elm
Redbay	



[forestadaptation.org/baltimore](https://forestadaptation.org/baltimore)

# Tools to inform Baltimore tree planting

## USFS Tree Atlas Baltimore, MD




Average of 3 GCM under high emissions (RCP 8.5)

**Tree Atlas** Version 4

Modeled potential suitable habitat for 125 tree species in the East, with an additional 23 species with current information only

[Latest Tree Atlas](#)



**Bird Atlas** Version 2

Potential changes in abundance and range for 147 bird species in the East

[Latest Bird Atlas](#)

### Regional Summary Tree Tables

Current and Potential Future Habitat, Capability, and Migration


Summaries for tree species are available for a variety of geographies, in both PDF and Excel format. These summaries are based on [Version 4 of the Climate Change Tree Atlas](#)

- [National Forest Summaries](#)
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- [USDA Forest Service EcoMap 2007 Sections](#)

- [National Climate Assessment \(NCA\) 2016 Regional Summaries](#)
- [1 x 1° Grid Summaries](#)
- [Eastern United States](#)
- [Urban Areas](#)

## Heat & Hardiness Zones Washington, DC

### CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY OF URBAN TREES WASHINGTON, D.C.



This list was developed to aid Washington, D.C. community forestry practitioners in selecting trees to reduce climate change vulnerability of their urban forests. It is meant to be a complement to other tree selection resources. Other factors may also need to be considered, such as aesthetics, local site conditions, wildlife value, or nursery availability. It is also important to note that some species may have climate benefits but may not be suitable for planting for other reasons, such as having invasive potential or susceptibility to pests or pathogens.

**Vulnerability:** Trees can be vulnerable to a variety of climate-related stressors such as intense heat, drought, flooding, and changing pest and disease patterns. Climate vulnerability is a function of the impacts of climate change on a species and its adaptive capacity. Species with negative impacts on habitat suitability and low adaptive capacity will have high vulnerability and vice versa. The following factors were used to determine climate vulnerability:

**Urban adaptability:** Adaptability scores were generated for each species based on literature describing its tolerance to disturbances such as drought, flooding, pests, and disease, as well as its growth requirements such as shade tolerance, soil needs, and ease of nursery propagation. Scores were assigned to species using methods developed in an urban forest vulnerability assessment for Chicago for trees planted in developed sites. A positive score indicates that a species is tolerant to a wide range of disturbances and can be planted on a variety of sites. A negative score indicates a species is highly susceptible to disturbances and/or is limited to specific planting sites.

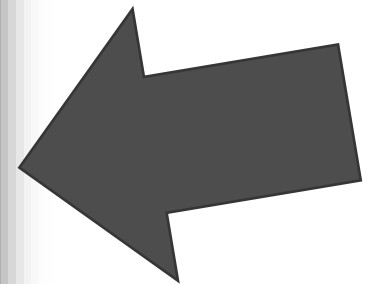
**Hardiness and heat zone suitability:** Tree species ranges were recorded from government, university, and arboretum websites. Species tolerance ranges were compared to current and projected heat and hardiness zones for Washington, D.C. using downscaled climate models under low emissions (RCP 4.5) and high emissions (RCP 8.5) scenarios for changes in greenhouse gases. Trees were considered to have suitable zone suitability if the species' tolerance was within the range of current and projected hardiness and heat zone through the end of the 21st century.

**NOTE:** This list was primarily created for species planted in developed sites, such as streets, yards, boulevards, and parks. If you are interested in projected changes in habitat suitability for native species in natural areas, see the Climate Change Tree Atlas at [www.fs.fed.us/nps/atlas/](http://www.fs.fed.us/nps/atlas/).

Current and projected USDA Hardiness Zones and AHS Heat Zones for Washington, D.C. Hardiness zone is determined by the average lowest temperature over a 30 year period. Heat zones are determined by the number of days above 86°F.

Time Period	Hardiness Zone Range		Heat Zone Range	
	Low Emissions	High Emissions	Low Emissions	High Emissions
1980-2010	7		7	
2010-2039	7	8	7 to 8	8
2040-2069	7 to 8	8	8	9
2070-2099	8	8 to 9	8	9 to 10

SOURCE: Adaptability scores were assigned using methods developed in an urban forest vulnerability assessment for Chicago by Brandt et al. 2017. <https://www.fs.fed.us/nps/atlas/atlas.pdf>. Future heat and hardiness zone information were provided from: <https://www.epa.gov/epaosr/climate/epa-2017-climate-scenarios>. [www.forestadaptation.org](https://www.forestadaptation.org)



# NIACS Washington DC climate change resources

Tree species projections (simplistic):

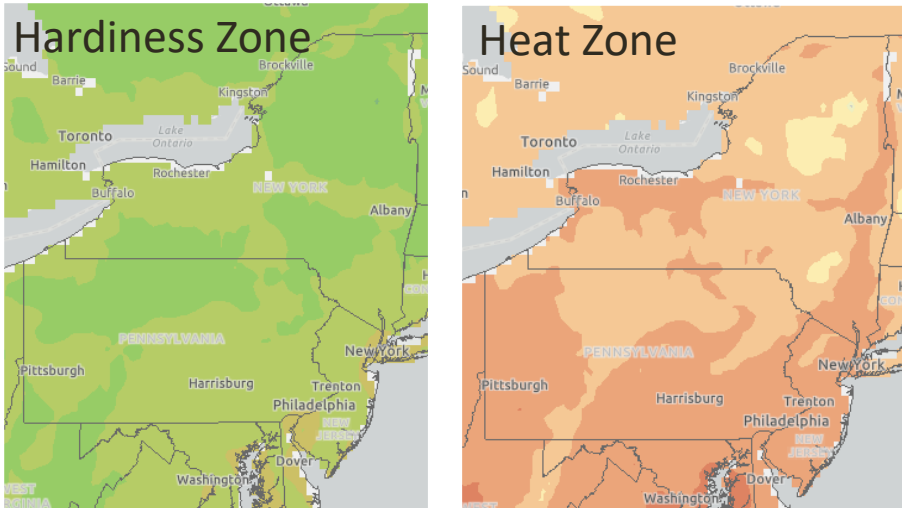
Tree characteristics

Adaptive capacity scoring

+ **Future heat zone and hardiness zone projections**

Climate informed habitat projections

High Climate Change Scenario (RCP 8.5)



Time Period	Hardiness Zone Range		Heat Zone Range	
1980–2010	7		7	
	Low Emissions	High Emissions	Low Emissions	High Emissions
2010–2039	7	8	7 to 8	8
2040–2069	7 to 8	8	8	9
2070–2099	8	8 to 9	8	9 to 10

Current and projected USDA Hardiness Zones and AHS Heat Zones for Washington, D.C. Hardiness zone is determined by the average lowest temperature over a 30 year period. Heat zones are determined by the number of days above 86°F.



# NIACS Washington DC climate change resources

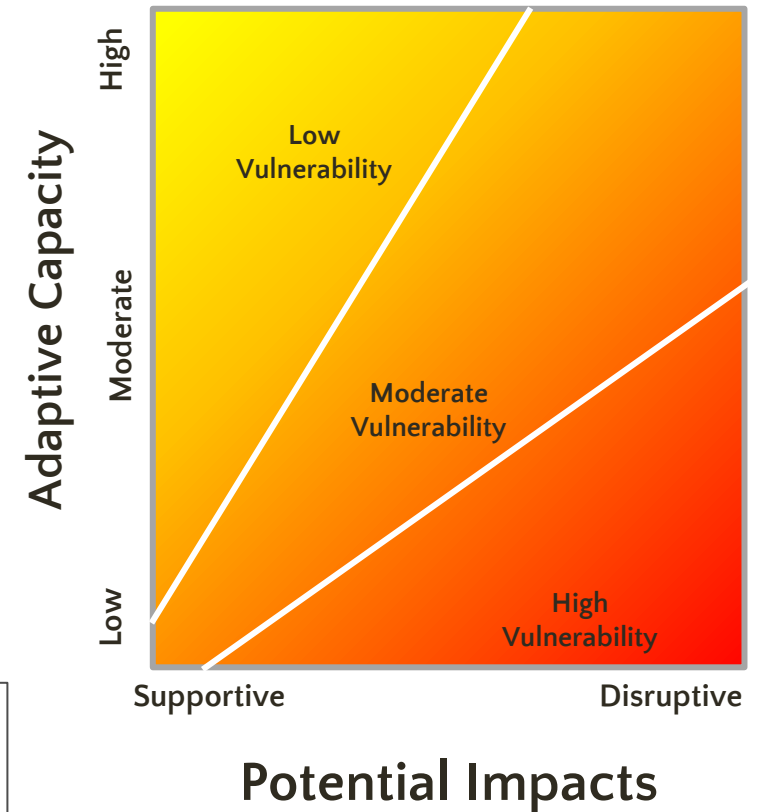
Tree species projections (simplistic):

Tree characteristics

Additional vulnerability considerations

+ Future heat zone and hardiness zone projections

**Climate informed habitat projections**



## ZONE SUITABILITY:

- ✓ *Suitable*
- ✗ *Not Suitable*

## VULNERABILITY:

- ▼ *Low: Suitable zone, high adaptability*
- *Low-moderate: Suitable zone, medium adaptability*
- ⊖ *Moderate: Suitable zone, low adaptability or zone not suitable, high adaptability*
- *Moderate-high: Zone not suitable, medium adaptability*
- △ *High: Zone not suitable, low adaptability*

# NIACS Washington DC climate change resources

URBAN ADAPTABILITY:	ZONE SUITABILITY:	VULNERABILITY:	
+ <b>High:</b> Species may perform better than modeled	✓ <b>Suitable</b>	▼ <b>Low:</b> Suitable zone, high adaptability	○ <b>Moderate-high:</b> Zone not suitable, medium adaptability
• <b>Medium</b>	✗ <b>Not Suitable</b>	● <b>Low-moderate:</b> Suitable zone, medium adaptability	△ <b>High:</b> Zone not suitable, low adaptability
- <b>Low:</b> Species may perform worse than modeled		⊖ <b>Moderate:</b> Suitable zone, low adaptability or zone not suitable, high adaptability	

\*Invasive species

LOW EMISSIONS						HIGH EMISSIONS					
COMMON NAME	ADAPT	ZONE		ZONE		COMMON NAME	ADAPT	ZONE		ZONE	
		SUIT	VULN	SUIT	VULN			SUIT	VULN	SUIT	VULN
Alleghany serviceberry	+	✓	▼	✗	⊖	Honeylocust*	•	✓	●	✗	○
American linden, Basswood	•	✓	●	✗	○	Ironwood	+	✓	▼	✓	▼
American sweetgum, fruitless	+	✓	▼	✓	▼	Japanese flowering cherry	-	✗	△	✗	△
American beech	•	✓	●	✓	●	Japanese pagoda tree	•	✓	●	✗	○
American elm	•	✓	●	✓	●	Japanese tree lilac	+	✗	⊖	✗	⊖
American sycamore	•	✓	●	✓	●	Japanese zelkova	+	✓	▼	✗	⊖
Amur corktree*	+	✗	⊖	✗	⊖	Jefferson elm	+	✓	▼	✓	▼
Amur maackia	+	✗	⊖	✗	⊖	Katsura tree	-	✓	⊖	✗	△
Amur maple*	•	✗	○	✗	○	Kentucky coffeetree	+	✓	▼	✗	⊖
Bald cypress	+	✓	▼	✓	▼	Kousa dogwood	+	✓	▼	✗	⊖
Bipinnate goldenrain tree	+	✓	▼	✓	▼	Lacebark elm	+	✓	▼	✓	▼
Black alder	•	✗	○	✗	○	Littleleaf linden	+	✗	⊖	✗	⊖
Black locust	•	✓	●	✗	○	London planetree	•	✓	●	✗	○
Black oak	•	✓	●	✗	○	Musclewood	+	✓	▼	✓	▼
Black tupelo, Black gum	+	✓	▼	✓	▼	New Harmony elm	+	✓	▼	✓	▼
Black walnut	-	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	Northern red oak	+	✓	▼	✗	⊖
Blackjack oak	-	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	Northern white cedar, Arborvitae	•	✗	○	✗	○
Boxelder	•	✓	●	✗	○	Norway maple*	+	✗	⊖	✗	⊖

More information: [forestadaptation.org/washington-dc](https://forestadaptation.org/washington-dc)

# What this data can and can't do

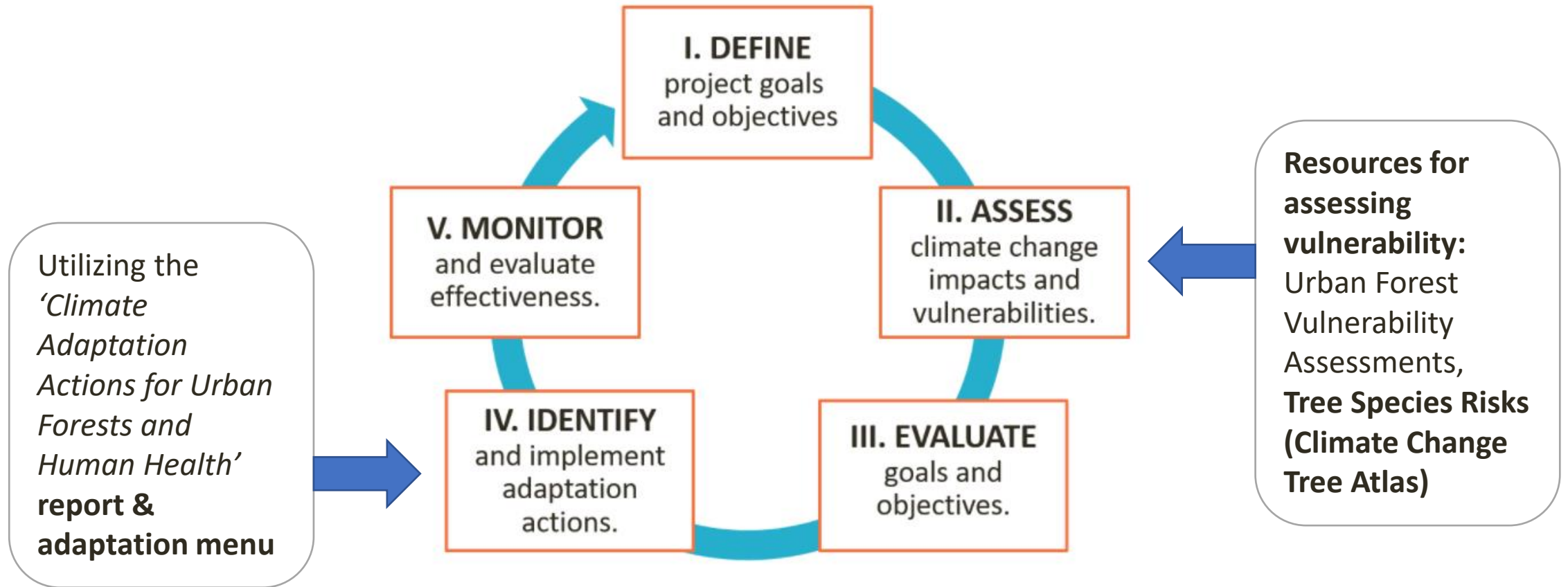
## *Can do -*

- Describe regional habitat suitability for certain trees given climate change (from less warming to greater warming)
- Links to peer-reviewed, unbiased and scientific data on the topic
- Create connections to broader climate-informed thinking across the region through the NIACS urban effort.

## *Can't do -*

- Tell you what to do.
  - These are model results and require additional **expertise** and **judgement** to determine site-level suitability

# Adaptation Workbook Process



# Climate change adaptation spectrum

## RESISTANCE



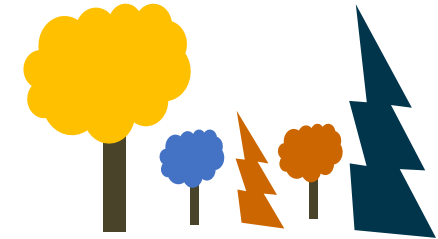
- Improve defenses of forest against change and disturbance
- Maintain relatively unchanged conditions

## RESILIENCE



- Accommodate some degree of change
- Return to prior reference condition following disturbance

## TRANSITION



- Intentionally facilitate change
- Enable ecosystem to respond to changing and new conditions

← \*Reduce impacts/maintain current conditions

\*Forward-looking/promote change →

# Identifying Adaptation Actions – Using “Menus” of Strategies and Approaches

NIACS’ adaptation menus provide a curated list of adaptation action options to help you *move from broad ideas to specific actions*:

- *Forests*
- *Forested watersheds*
- *Urban forests*
- *Recreation*
- *Agriculture*
- *Wildlife*
- *Forest Carbon*
- *and more. . .*





# Adaptation Menus of Strategies and Approaches

A “menu” of possible actions that allows you to decide what is *most relevant for a particular location and set of conditions.*

Brunch Classics			
Lemon Ricotta Pancakes Whipped Mascarpone Maple, Berries	15	AJ's Omelet Fontal Cheese, Spinach, Mushrooms	14
Cornflake Crusted French Toast Berries, Maple Syrup	15	Eggs Florentine Spicy Capicola, House-Made Cheddar Biscuit, Spinach	15
Bacon, Egg & Cheese Bacon, Two Eggs, Taleggio Cheese, Ciabatta	14	Porchetta Hash Poached Egg, Calabrian Chili Hollandaise	16
Avocado Toast Poached Eggs, Tomatoes, Chili Flakes, Sea Salt	15	Chia Pudding Chia Seeds, Toasted Coconut, Banana, Strawberry	14
Chicken Parmigiana Spicy Marinara, Fresh Mozzarella	22	Farmhouse Breakfast Two Eggs, House-Made Cheddar Biscuit, Chicken Sausage	14
Squid Ink fettuccine Vongole Little Neck Clams, Garlic, White Wine, Butter, Chili	22	Chicken Kale Caesar Chicken, Kale, Croutons	16
Create Your Own Pasta			
Shapes		Sauces	
Rigatoni Semolina, All-Purpose Flour, Olive Oil	14	Marinara San Marzano tomatoes, Garlic, White Wine, Basil, Chili	
Cavatelli All-Purpose Flour, Durum Flour, Eggs, Ricotta	15	Arrabiata All-Purpose Flour, Durum Flour, Eggs, Ricotta	+1
Tagliatelle All-Purpose Flour, Durum Flour, Eggs	15	Broken Meatball House Tomato Sauce with the Addition of Broken Meatballs	+4
Gluten-Free Rigatoni Gluten-Free All-Purpose Flour, Olive Oil, Eggs	16	Sunday Sauce House Tomato Sauce with Short Rib, Sausage, Veal	+4
Spaghetti Semolina, Durum Flour, Olive Oil	15	Roasted Garlic Pecorino Semolina, Durum Flour, Olive Oil	+2
Four Cheese Herb Ravioli Fontal, Ricotta, Parmesan, Pecorino	18	Carbonara Pancetta, Eggs, Peas, Pecorino	+3
Sides		Brunch Cocktails	
Pecorino Truffle Fries	8	Bloody Mary Vodka, Spiced Fresh DOP Tomato Juice, Horseradish	10/45
Potato Hash	6	Cointreau Spritz Cointreau Spritz, Aperol, Crème de Peche, Sparkling Wine	12/55
Bacon	6	Green Side Reyka Vodka, Green Juice, Lemon	12/55
Turkey Sausage	6	Morning Derby Bourbon, Grapefruit, Ginger, Carrot Juice	12/55
Field Greens	7	Sangria Red Wine, Fresh Fruit, Pisco, Crème de Peche	10/45
Two Eggs Any Style	6	Firing Squad Milagros Tequila, Cointreau, Fresh Lime, Grenadine	12/55
Beignets	8	Tall Mimosa Reyka Vodka, Cointreau, Jake's Mimosa Juice, Sparkling Wine	12/55
Baked Goods	10		



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Northern Research Station | General Technical Report NRS-203 | July 2021

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTIONS FOR URBAN FORESTS AND HUMAN HEALTH



# Climate and Health Adaptation “Menu” for Urban Forests

- Peer-reviewed list of adaptation strategies for climate adaptation and human health
- Supported by the best available science and practice
- Pick and choose based on your goals and needs

Available at: [www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/62807](http://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/62807)

# Who should use these resources?



Urban/community foresters



Public health professionals



Climate/sustainability professionals



Non-profits & community groups



Landscape architects



Planners





## STRATEGY 1:

Engage social systems to  
integrate climate change,  
urban forest, and human  
health actions





## STRATEGY 2:

Reduce the impact of human health threats and stressors using urban trees and forests





## STRATEGY 3:

Maintain or increase extent  
of urban forests and  
vegetative cover



Photos: Speak for the Trees Boston



## STRATEGY 4:

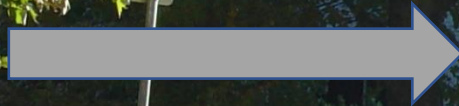
Sustain or restore fundamental ecological functions of urban ecosystems



Using permeable paving, suspended surfaces, or Silva Cells to enable trees ample growing space and enhanced ability to capture runoff.

## STRATEGY 5:

Reduce the impact of physical and biological stressors on urban forests



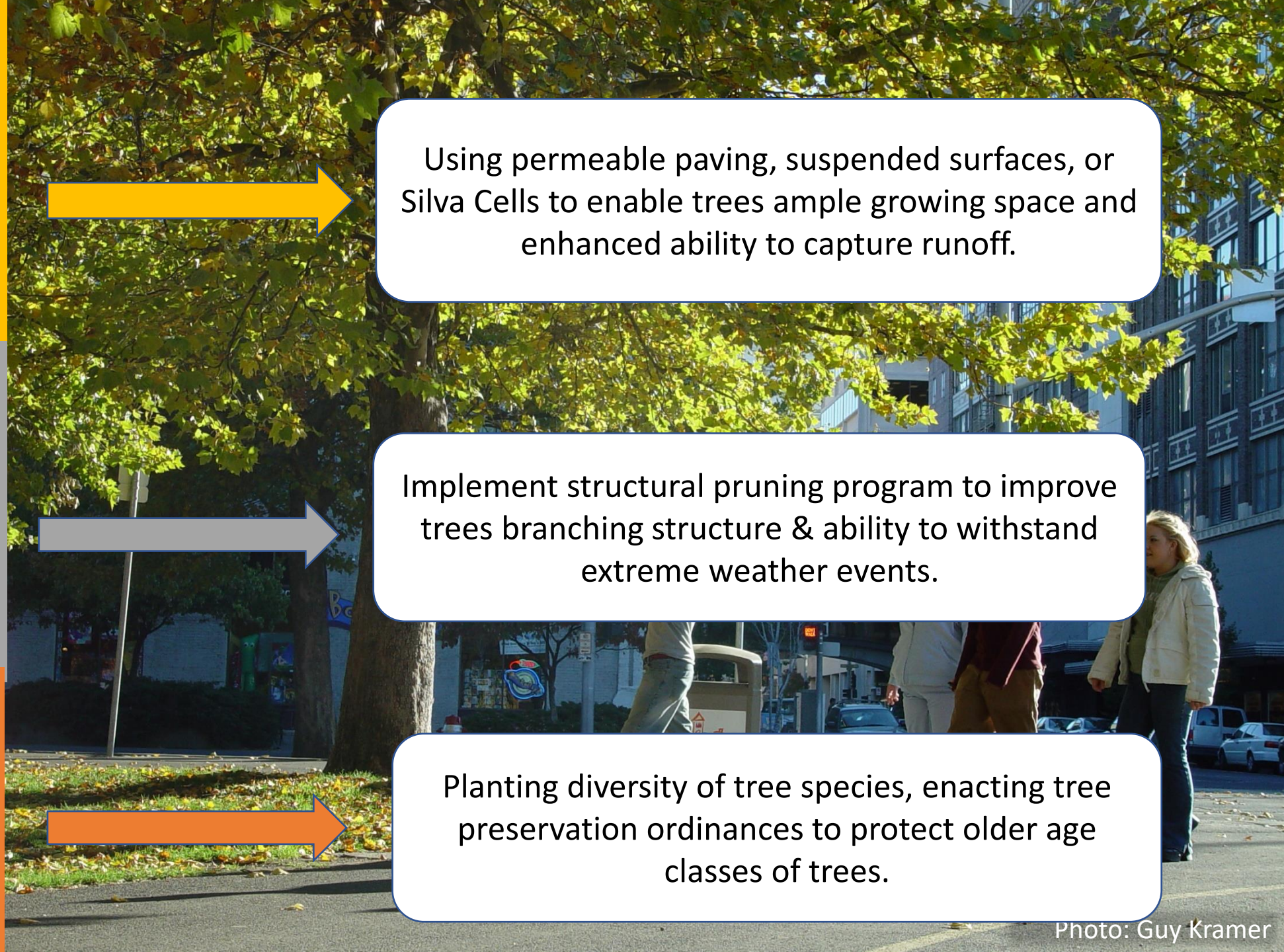
Implement structural pruning program to improve trees branching structure & ability to withstand extreme weather events.

## STRATEGY 6:

Enhance taxonomic, functional, and structural diversity



Planting diversity of tree species, enacting tree preservation ordinances to protect older age classes of trees.





## STRATEGY 7:

Alter urban  
ecosystems toward  
new and expected  
conditions







### **STRATEGY 8:**

Promote mental and social health  
in the face of climate change



Use trees and shrubs to create spaces that serve as community gathering spaces used for celebrations and other community events that build social cohesion.

### **STRATEGY 9:**

Promote human health co-benefits in  
nature-based climate adaptation activities

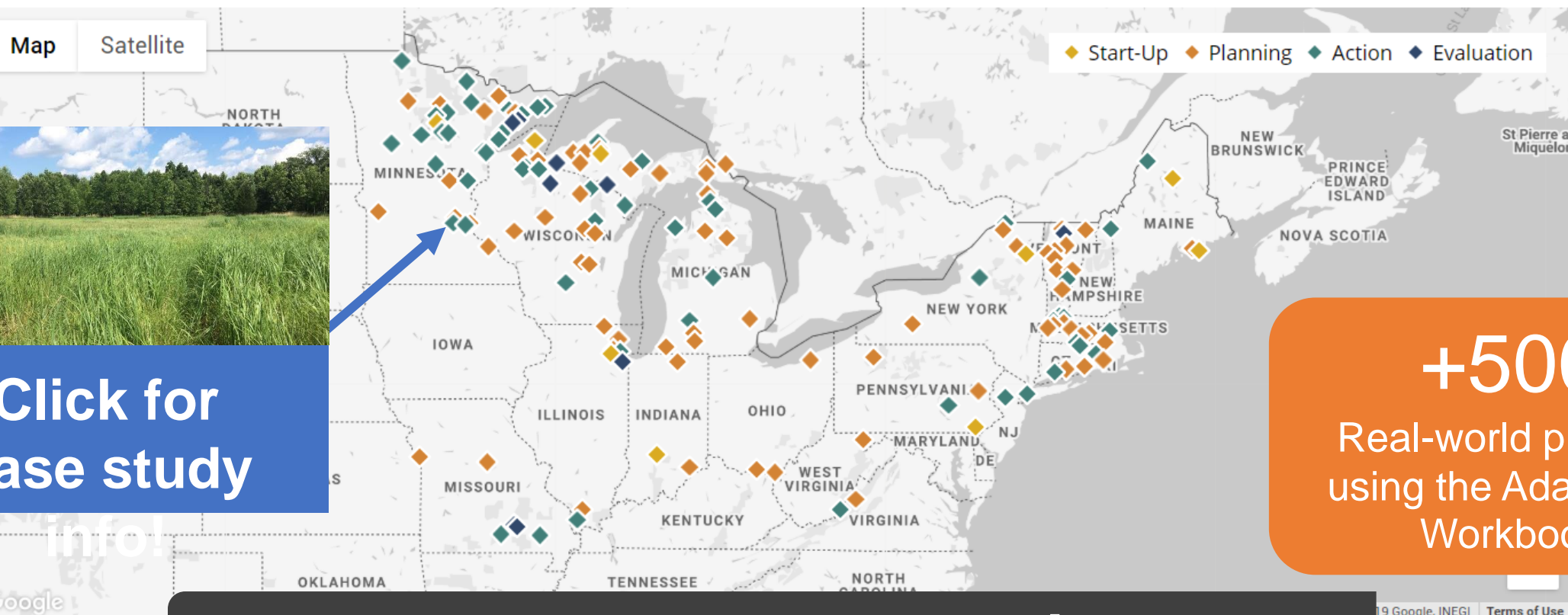


Engage engineers, urban planners, and sustainability officers, along with other allied professionals, to pursue co-benefits through project designs that integrate trees and shrubs.



## Adaptation Demonstrations

[Home](#) » [Adapt](#) » Demonstrations

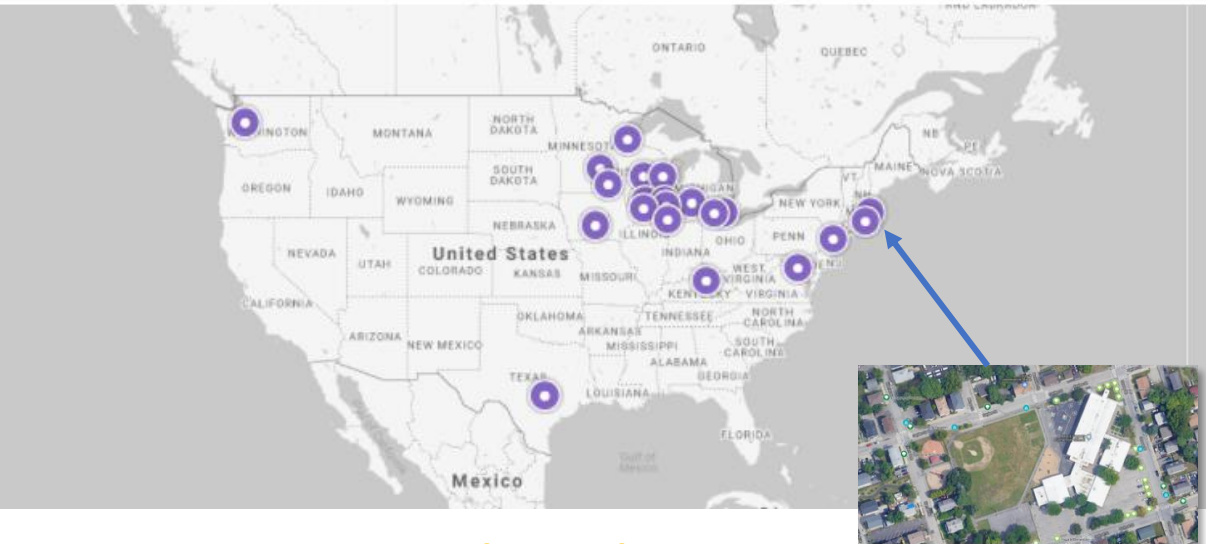


[Forestadaptation.org/demos](https://forestadaptation.org/demos)

Search on the map by location or filter by keyword

# Urban Adaptation Demos

## Urban Forests



[forestadaptation.org/adapt/urban](https://forestadaptation.org/adapt/urban)

Providence, RI:  
Climate & Health  
Adaptation on a  
Neighborhood Scale

The project area is primarily residential and light commercial. It is bordered by I-95 and the industrial Port of Providence to the

## Demonstrations



City of Columbia:  
Street Tree  
Management Plan

Columbia, Missouri, is home to the University of Missouri and is Missouri's fourth most-populous city, with an estimated 120,612 residents

[forestadaptation.org/adapt/demonstration-projects](https://forestadaptation.org/adapt/demonstration-projects)

(filter by focus: urban forests)



# Mid-Atlantic Urban Adaptation Demos

- [Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: Sligo Creek Reforestation with Climate Adaptation in Mind](#)
- [Friends of the Lower Appomattox River: Appomattox River Trail](#)
  - Working to incorporate climate change considerations into the development of the Appomattox River Trail blueway and greenway.
- [Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division: Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#)
  - Making better tree planting and preservation recommendations as well as natural resource management decisions in Fairfax County.
- [Longwood Gardens: Planning Future Plantings in a Changing Climate](#)
  - More than 9,000 identified and tagged trees, as well as several successional forest plots of different ages on the property.

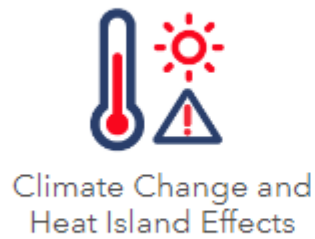
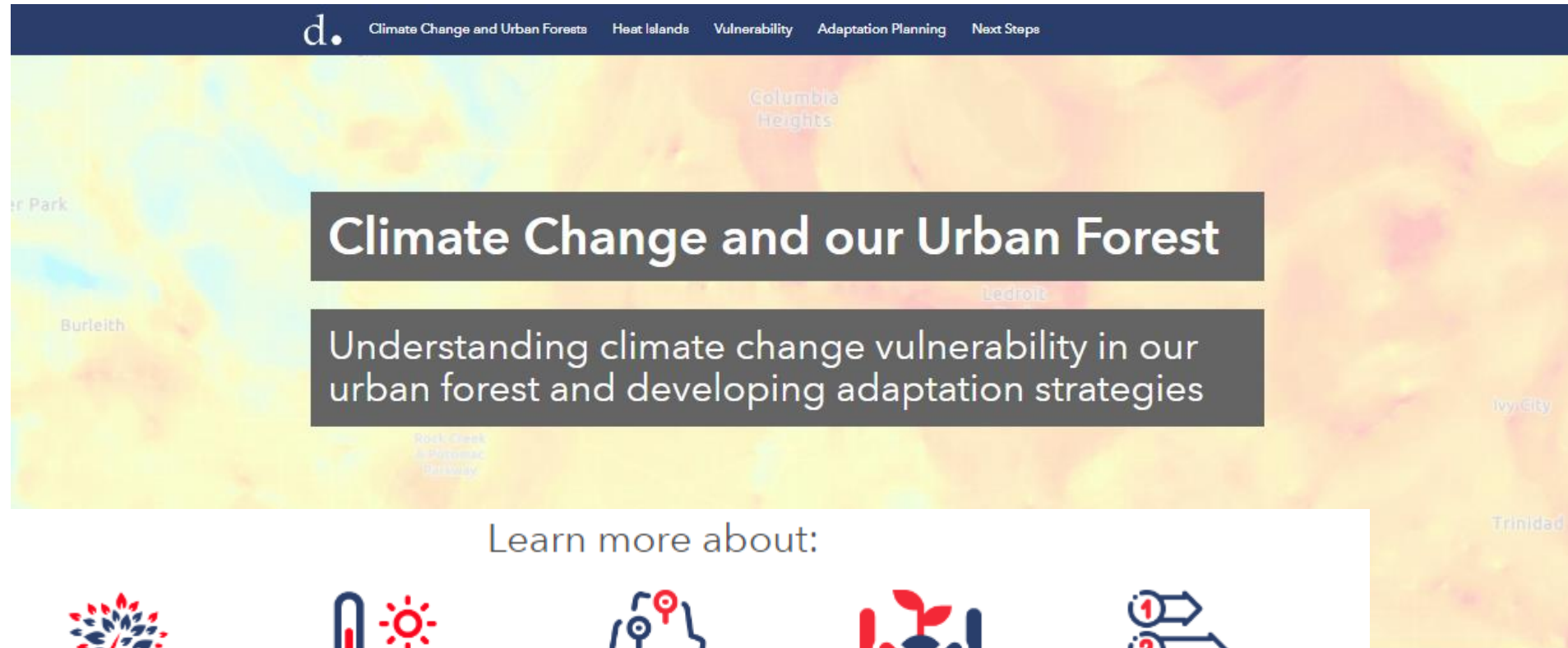


## Friends of the Lower Appomattox River: Appomattox River Trail

The Appomattox River Trail is being developed on a 20+ mile stretch of the scenic Appomattox River in the Tri-Cities Region of Central Virginia from the Brasfield Dam at Lake Chesdin to the confluence...

[> Learn more](#)

# Climate Change & DC's Urban Forest



StoryMap: <https://climatereadyforests.dc.gov/>

# NIACS is Here to Help

## Consultation

- Adaptation considerations and planning
- Large-scale or property-level planning
- Just get in touch – this is our job!
- Technical assistance by regional experts

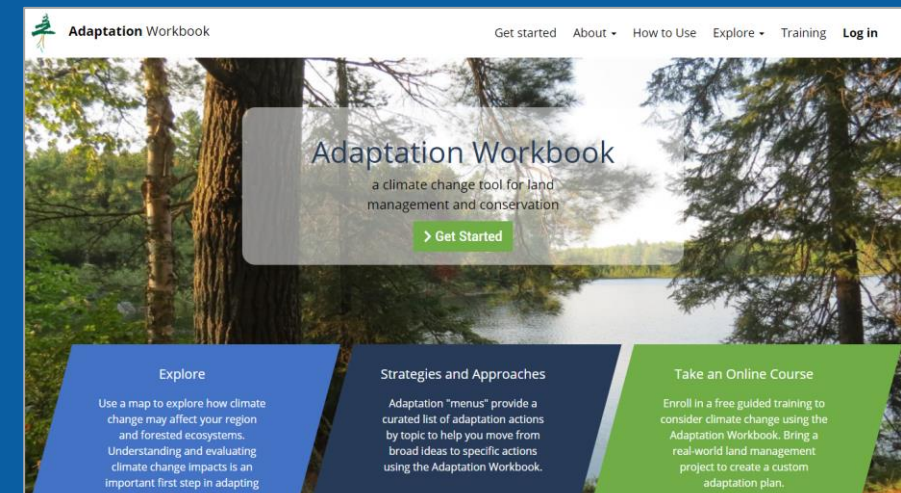
[www.forestadaptation.org/contact](http://www.forestadaptation.org/contact)



## Online Training

- FREE distance learning course
- Develop a custom plan with your own project
- 8 weeks, 1 session per week
- Continuing ed credits

[www.forestadaptation.org/training](http://www.forestadaptation.org/training)



Adaptationworkbook.org

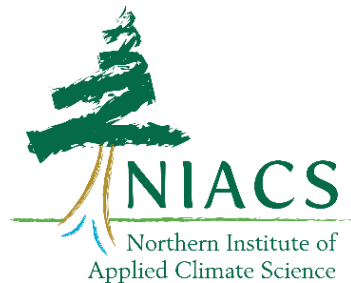
# Additional reading: Urban tree species assessment

Read a technical description:

Brandt, Leslie A., Gary R. Johnson, Eric A. North, Jack Faje, and Annamarie Rutledge, “Vulnerability of Street Trees in Upper Midwest Cities to Climate Change” *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* (2021): 623. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2021.721831>



# THANK YOU!



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