



Careers in Urban Forestry & Arboriculture

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If you like working outdoors,
helping the environment, and
combining physical and mental
challenges, you should think about
a career in arboriculture.

UMass Stockbridge School website

<http://stockbridge.cns.umass.edu/academics/associate-degrees/arboriculture>

Careers in Urban Forestry

- Arboriculture vs. Urban Forestry
- Private Sector (Commercial)
- Municipal and non-profit



Urban forestry & arboriculture

Management of trees in populated areas

- Pruning for safety and aesthetics
- Planting to increase the urban canopy
- Preservation of trees during construction
- Replacement of trees removed
 - during construction
 - due to safety concerns
 - following storm damage
- Ensuring electric reliability by managing trees near wires

Urban foresters and arborists work
to ensure healthy populations of
trees to provide sustained benefits
to billions of people.

Facts

- More than 80% of people in the United States live in cities and suburbs
- More than 50% of the world's population lives in cities and suburbs
- Trees take on special importance in densely populated areas
 - Aesthetics
 - Quality of life
 - Climate modification
 - Habitat for urban wildlife
 - Storm water retention

Urban, residential, and park environments

Especially challenging for trees due to

- compacted soils
- pavement
- utility lines
- buildings



Increasing opportunity in arboriculture

- American households spend \$13 billion on tree care annually
- Homeowners, business owners, and public officials recognize the benefits of hiring qualified arborists to care for trees and shrubs

Opportunity in a dynamic industry

"The tree care industry today faces a critical shortage of trained professionals."

Peter Gerstenberger, Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA)

"In the Northeast, wages have increased dramatically and are above the national average."

UMass Stockbridge School website

Jobs in Private and Public Sectors

- Commercial
- Utility arboriculture -maintaining trees to reduce interference with service utilities.
- Municipal

Commercial Arboriculture



Utility Arboriculture



Municipal Arboriculture



Education and Training

- College programs
 - Two-year, four-year, advanced degrees
- Internships
- Paid job experience
- Licenses for certain jobs
- Certifications
 - ISA, MCA
- Continuing education

Career opportunities


PRIVATE SECTOR

- Climber
- Crew leader
- Plant health care technician
- Safety trainer
- Salesperson
- General manager
- Tree care company owner
- Utility arborist
 - Vegetation management

PUBLIC SECTOR

- Urban forester
- Community outreach professional
- City/town arborist (tree warden)
- Municipal tree crew
- Crew leader

Urban and Community Forestry

- Program funded by the U.S. Forest Service
- Each state has its own Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator
- In Massachusetts, U&CF under Dept. of Conservation and Recreation 
- Coordinators and their departments work with municipalities and community advocates to promote and increase the canopy of public trees



WALPOLE
TOWN FOREST



TREE CITY USA
Arbor Day Foundation

What is a Tree Warden

- A tree warden is a person in charge of shade trees on public town lands.
 - The word “warden” was a common title for natural resource officials in the late 1800s.
 - Being a warden signified a unique legal responsibility: to guard public resources against destructive forces that might include persons, insects, or diseases.
- Since 1899, Massachusetts General Law has mandated that all cities and towns in the Commonwealth have a tree warden who is responsible for trees on public property.

The Liberty Tree in Boston



Tree Warden Management Tasks

- Pruning of trees for safety and health
- Removal of trees that are dead or dying (from storms, insects, disease, or old age)
- Identification of appropriate planting sites
- Planting new trees
- Creation or updating of a tree inventory, often on computer
- Assessment of trees for potential hazards to public safety
- Oversight of utility arboricultural operations
- Preparation of budget presentations
- Supervision of town tree workers
- Creation of bid proposals for contract tree work
- Inspection of contracted tree work
- Facilitate public meetings and tree hearings
- Writing grant proposals
- Tree City U.S.A.



Website Job Postings

Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Assn.

www.masstreewardens.org

International Society of Arboriculture,

New England Chapter

www.newenglandisa.org

Massachusetts Arborists Assn.

www.massarbor.org

Thank you!



www.masstreewardens.org