

# THE VALUE OF URBAN GREEN SPACE



## Saturday, November 18th, 2017

Inn at Laurel Point, 680 Montreal Street, Victoria, BC

Join the BCSLA Vancouver Island Chapter as your hosts for a one-day conversation centered on the value of urban green space.

Experts in the field will discuss new research findings on the correlation between human health indicators and access to green space, the benefits of green space to infrastructure, and the climate-resiliency that trees and green spaces help build into cities.

Urban green space is critical – help us reinforce the case for green space inclusion on development and re-development projects in our city.

### Delegates & Tickets:



This workshop is intended for local professionals, academics, politicians and interest groups. Tickets are available through the BCSLA at <https://goo.gl/ideM8B>. **Early bird prices end on October 31.**

For more information, please contact the BCSLA at (604) 682-5610 or [admin@bcsla.org](mailto:admin@bcsla.org).

### Program:

8:30am – 9:30am

*Breakfast Buffet*

*– Proudly supported by DL Bins Ltd.*

9:00am – 9:30am

Delegate Sign-in

9:30am – 9:45am

Introductions: Paul de Greeff, MBCSLA & Illarion Gallant, MBCSLA

**9:45am – 10:45am**

**KEYNOTE: Don Luymes, Manager of Community Planning (City of Surrey)**

*– Proudly supported by Nordic Industries Ltd.*

*Don Luymes will provide an overview of his and his community's experience in shaping the redevelopment and renewal of the fastest growing urban center in British Columbia.*

**Program cont.**

10:45am – 11:00am

Coffee Break – Proudly supported by Van Isle Bricklok Surfacing

11:00am – 12:00pm

**Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk, UBC Professor (Urban Forestry)**

– Proudly supported by CityGreen Systems Ltd.

Cecil Konijnendijk is the Director of the new Urban Forestry program at UBC. His research interests include green space governance, people-nature relationships, cultural ecosystem services, urban forestry and urban greening.

12:00pm – 12:15pm

Coffee Break – Proudly supported by Wes-Tech Irrigation Systems Ltd.

12:15pm – 1:15pm

**Dr. Matilda van den Bosch, UBC Professor (Public Health & Forest Conservation)**

– Proudly supported by Deep Root Canada Ltd.

Matilda van den Bosch is a Doctor in Medicine (MD) as well as in landscape planning and public health. She is an assistant professor at UBC, and investigates how environmental exposure can influence human health.

1:15pm – 2:45pm

Luncheon Buffet – Proudly supported by ARYZE and Kinsol Timber Systems

2:45pm – 3:30pm

**Brian French, ISA Certified Arborist & President of Ascending the Giants**

– Proudly supported by Bartlett Tree Experts

Brian French is a skilled tree climber and researcher on a wide range of tree-related topics. He is the founder and president of Ascending the Giants, a not-for-profit dedicated to documenting champion trees around the world.

3:30pm – 3:45pm

Coffee Break – Proudly supported by Jawl Properties Ltd.

3:45pm – 4:30pm

**Dr. Patrick Mooney, UBC Professor (SALA)**

– Proudly supported by DL Bins Ltd.

Patrick is a professor of Landscape Architecture at UBC. Patrick teaches sustainable landscape planning and management, ecological restoration and planting design. He has received research awards for his work on the effects of exterior environments for people suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and has recently written extensively on the subject of ecosystem valuation.

4:45pm – 5:30pm

**Scott Murdoch & Brianne Czypyha, Stormwater Specialist (City of Victoria)**

– Proudly supported by CDm2 Lightworks

Brianne spearheaded the establishment of the City of Victoria's new stormwater utility. Scott Murdoch of Murdoch de Greeff Inc. Landscape Architects provided input on the City's Rainwater Rewards Program, an incentives program tied to the stormwater utility.

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Closing Networking Reception

Paul de Greeff, MBCSLA & Illarion Gallant, MBCSLA will lead the closing remarks. Listen to the experts engage each other in a dialogue about the aspects that were talked about in the day's session while enjoying a delicious snack and a cocktail.

In the interests of ensuring the highest quality program content, session topics, scheduled times, titles, meeting rooms and speakers/presenters are subject to confirmation or change. Check [www.bcsla.org](http://www.bcsla.org) for updates.

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# SPEAKERS

## DON LUYMES *KEYNOTE*

***Can a Denser City be a Greener City?*** Surrey faces rapid urbanization and densification, with parallel loss of green space. Despite urban greening initiatives and fairly stringent tree protection measures, Surrey's urban forest canopy is decreasing. It seems the pace of development is outstripping the capacity of sites to regenerate green for the city. However, Surrey is pursuing growth management, protection of the existing urban forest, replanting of tomorrow's urban forest and tools for public engagement. This talk will focus on best practices for urban greening, with specific reference to Surrey but will also reference best practices elsewhere.



**BIO** Don Luymes is the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the City of Surrey, responsible for advancing a range of key corporate and community strategic priorities in conjunction with the rest of the City of Surrey's Senior Management Team. Don is also the City's Planning Lead for the Surrey LRT Project.

Don was formerly the Manager of Community Planning for Surrey, responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the Official Community Plan, Town Centre Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, and policy development in zoning, housing, social planning, environment, heritage, agriculture and urban design.

Don has held faculty positions at Penn State University and at UBC, where he is an Adjunct Professor in the Master of Urban Design Program. Don began his career as an urban design consultant in Toronto including involvement in several award-winning design projects. He received a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Guelph and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from UBC. Don regularly lectures and makes public presentations on a range of subjects related to strategic planning, urban planning and design, and serves on the Council of Advisors for the Urban Studies Program at SFU.

## DR. CECIL KONIJNENDIJK

***Promoting green space values – the urban forestry approach*** The many benefits provided by green spaces and trees have become recognised, but 'green values' continue to fall victim to urban development and poor planning and management. Based on experiences from across the globe, this talk presents a more strategic and integrative approach to securing and enhancing green values. It builds on an urban forestry approach, which draws theories, methods and expertise from a wide range of disciplines, and connects trees and people across urban areas, assesses resources and benefits, and links between governance, planning and day-to-day management. Both good and bad practices will be discussed, and specific recommendations will be provided for developing successful urban forestry programs with green values in focus.



**BIO** Cecil Konijnendijk is professor of urban forestry at the University of British Columbia. He also is Director of the university's Bachelor of Urban Forestry. For over two decades Cecil Konijnendijk has studied and taught on the role of trees and green space in cities and towns, based on his passion for maintaining our contact with nature in an increasingly urban world. His particular interests are green space governance and planning, people-nature relationships and cultural ecosystem services. He has always worked in close dialogue with decision-makers and practitioners, and has led urban forestry projects in Europe, Asia and

North America. Previous countries of Cecil's employment include his native The Netherlands, the Nordic countries and Hong Kong. He has (co-)authored several widely read books about urban forestry (including 'The Forest and the City: the cultural landscape of urban woodland' and the Routledge Handbook of Urban Forestry), and is editor-in-chief of the journal Urban Forestry & Urban Greening. Cecil is also a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Arboriculture.



# DR. MATILDA VAN DEN BOSCH

**Human health indicators and urban green space** An increasing amount of research indicates that exposure to urban green spaces has positive effects on human health. This shows in many ways, for example, as decreased mortality, improved mood and cognitive development, and reduced prevalence of asthma. These effects may be due to increased opportunities for physical activity, stress relief, and social interactions. In addition, regulating ecosystem services from green spaces, such as reduced air pollution, noise, and excessive heat may contribute to positive health effects. This presentation will provide an overview of the evidence on the relation between green spaces and human health. It will also discuss barriers to efficient knowledge translation and optimal policy impact.



**BIO** Matilda is a doctor in medicine as well as in landscape planning and public health. Since July 2016 she is an assistant professor at The University of British Columbia, Canada, where she holds a shared affiliation between the School of Population and Public Health and the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences. She investigates how environmental exposures, for example urban green spaces, can influence human health and how this displays in various populations across various socioeconomic conditions. The policy goal is to develop evidence-based plans for healthier cities in a changing climate, with sustainable solutions for the health of humans and natural environments. Her interests include regulating urban ecosystem services, such as heat reduction and consequential reduction in heat related morbidity and mortality, as well as cultural services from urban nature, involving for example increased physical activity and stress recovery in relation to preventing several non-communicable diseases. Much of the research focuses on linkages between various types of land-use data and health mediators or outcomes. Previous studies have included experimental research in virtual reality laboratories, analyzing psychophysiological responses to different standardized environments with biomarkers.

# BRIAN FRENCH

As arborists, our job is to evaluate trees and offer solutions to mitigate risks. Often, we present wildlife habitat as ‘tree risks’ in the form of cavities, dead snags or broken tops. We could say that our job as an arborist is to identify wildlife habitat, then prune or remove it. Risks can be reduced and mitigated while retaining existing wildlife habitat or creating new wildlife habitat. Not all trees need to be used as habitat trees, but in the right place it can make a large difference to the community around. Furthermore, in some instances, removing habitat may be breaking the law. Often climbing arborists are making first ascents into the crowns of trees and may come in contact with wildlife. Knowing regulatory laws and protected species is the arborist’s responsibility.

This talk will showcase protected species in British Columbia, discuss laws that protect them and describe protocols when working among protected species. We will discuss the value of trees as habitat and demonstrate how instead of removing trees to the ground, portions can be retained and used to enhance wildlife habitat safely.



**BIO** Brian French is founder of Portland, OR based tree care company, Arboriculture International LLC since 2013. He has been a climbing certified arborist since 2001 and is an ISA qualified tree risk assessor. Serving as coordinator for the Oregon Champion Tree Registry and Portland Heritage Tree Program Chair, his work focuses primarily on the preservation of significant, old trees and associated flora and fauna. His volunteering for the Audubon Society of Portland has paved the way for various ongoing wildlife habitat projects including salmon habitat restoration, snag development, red tree vole surveys and developing urban wildlife guidelines.

## DR. PATRICK MOONEY MBCSLA, FCSLA, FCELA

**Biodiverse-city – what is it, how is it valued and how do we achieve it?** Preservation and enhancement of biodiversity within urban areas requires that communities bring green space values back to light in a significant way. However, the design process in high value urban areas is always about tradeoffs. With the intensity of use on sites increasing, green space very often gets short shrift. This is, in part because the full values of urban green spaces are not always considered. Documenting, the values of ecosystem services provided by urban green spaces can help justify green space preservation, or indicate design and management activities on the remaining green spaces.



**BIO** Patrick Mooney is a registered landscape architect in British Columbia. He has practiced in Canada, the United States, and China and is the recipient of professional awards for design, ecological restoration, research and service. In 1996, he was made a Fellow of The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects in recognition of his work and in 2000, the Vancouver Natural History Society awarded him the Sanford Medal for community service in biodiversity management. Patrick has received research awards from both the CSLA and ASLA for his work on the effects of exterior environments for people suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. In 2015, Patrick was elected to the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture Academy of Fellows in recognition of his lifetime accomplishments in teaching, scholarship, creative works, and service.

## BRIANNE CZYPYHA & SCOTT MURDOCH MBCSLA, R.P.BIO

The City of Victoria implemented a stormwater utility program in 2016, the first of its kind in BC. Brianne Czyphyia, City of Victoria Stormwater Specialist, will share information on the rationale for having a stormwater utility, describe how the utility works, discuss the utilities incentives program, and describe the Rainwater Management Standards developed for the City. There are also economic and landscape values that are generated as spinoff benefits. Scott Murdoch will describe how implementation of the utility can help the City increase the life span of existing infrastructure and better adapt to climate change, all while creating more livable, greener urban places for people.



**BIOS** **Brianne Czyphyia** is the Stormwater Management Specialist at the City of Victoria, responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of the first stormwater utility in the capital region. In nearly 15 years in the public sector, she has worked to forward watershed protection and water sustainability in the region, collaborating across jurisdictional and watershed boundaries, developing regulatory tools, incentives, social marketing and educational campaigns. In her current role at the City of Victoria, Brianne's focus is improving stormwater quality and re-introducing the natural water cycle into the urban environment through the use of green stormwater infrastructure and other innovative stormwater solutions.

**Scott Murdoch** is a principal at Murdoch de Greeff Landscape Architects in Victoria, B.C. He is both a Registered Landscape Architect and a Registered Professional Biologist with over 20 years of experience in integrated environmental planning and design, and urban design. Scott's experience, education and background as a fisheries biologist provide him with the skills needed to develop integrated design solutions. He has made numerous presentations on integrated rainwater management (BC Waste Water Association, BC SLA AGM, Urban Green Buildings Conference, etc.). Scott recently contributed to the [Blue Economy Initiative report – Blue City: The Water Sustainable City of the Near Future](#) and has spearheaded many of the innovative rainwater management projects in the capital region.

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