

MUNICIPAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE

JEKYLL ISLAND, GEORGIA
February 22-27, 2026

JOIN MFI TO GROW AS AN URBAN FORESTRY LEADER

Why attend MFI?

MFI is an exciting learning and growth opportunity that will enhance your professional leadership journey. This week-long educational program will help you master skills in program administration, coalition building, strategic thinking, and program planning. At MFI you'll invest in your personal growth, while building a supportive network of individuals who understand and champion your work.

What will you learn?

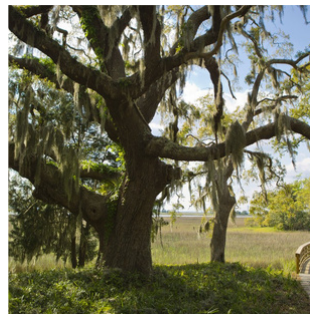
The MFI training curriculum is developed by a team of experienced urban forestry professionals. MFI will deepen your self-awareness and understanding of the human factors impacting urban forestry, provide insight into the context in which you work, and give you a platform for maintaining momentum.

Who should attend?

MFI is designed for individuals who plan, manage, or advocate for urban forestry initiatives and aspire to become more effective leaders. Graduates of MFI encompass a wide range of individuals who make daily tree stewardship decisions, including municipal and state, private industry, and non-profit professionals.



APPLY BY
SEPT. 19,
2025



Registration Details

The all-inclusive registration fee for MFI covers the following:

- Cutting-edge education
- All course materials
- Five nights hotel lodging, Sunday through Thursday
- All meals from Sunday dinner through Friday breakfast

Registration Investment

\$2,550 USD for UCFS members

\$2,750 USD non-UCFS members

Participants are responsible for airfare

Diversity scholarships that cover the full registration cost plus a \$500 travel stipend are available.

More information and registration at www.ucfsociety.org

“The 'community' in UCFS took a spotlight during this Institute. The presentations on leadership, troubleshooting, and professional and critical decision-making were top-notch. But, the community formed while here was priceless. Great experience!”



What does MFI Cover?

The week-long Institute guides participants through a journey of self-awareness, better understanding of your daily work context, how to cultivate partnerships, and guidance for building a mindset of continuous improvement. It addresses the non-technical aspects of urban forestry, emphasizing the importance of leading from any position. The curriculum is delivered by experienced urban forestry professionals through a mix of lectures, large and small group discussions, peer-learning exercises, and real-life scenarios.

By the end of the Institute, you will have the confidence to:

- Assess your own personal leadership capacity and develop a leadership growth plan to become the leader you aspire to be.
- Lead through challenges and opportunities from within your position and program.
- Understand and analyze the context within which you work.
- Cultivate a growth mindset for continuous improvement.
- Build and maintain a leadership network of urban forestry colleagues, peers, and mentors.
- And much more!

What should you expect?

Required Institute Pre-Work

The MFI experience includes three virtual Pre-Institute meetings where you'll meet the other attendees, learn what to expect during the Institute, and engage in simple exercises to prepare you for MFI. These meetings will be held in January and February 2026. Anticipate committing two to four hours each month for the Pre-Institute work.

MFI Week Schedule

MFI is an intensive learning experience. Your full attendance is required at every session. You must be able to attend from 4:00pm on Sunday until 12:30pm on Friday. There are breaks and a little free time, but the Institute requires your full attention. Plan any sight-seeing before or after, not during MFI. Sorry but pets, partners, and dependents or guests cannot be accommodated at MFI.

Location and Travel Details

MFI 2026 will be held on beautiful Jekyll Island, Georgia. Jekyll Island is a state park with miles of beach, beautiful mature trees, and a rich history.



Participants will fly into the Jacksonville, Florida airport, which is about an hour from Jekyll Island. UCFS will arrange a group bus transport from the airport to the site. Participants are welcomed to drive and arrive on their own.

All hotel reservations and transport from the airport will be handled by UCFS. Participants are responsible for airfare.

Scholarships Available

A limited number of scholarships are available – typically available based on financial need. Note that only a limited number are available and not everyone who requests will receive a scholarship.

Scholarships typically cover all or part of the cost of tuition and potentially a travel stipend. Those who qualify and can benefit from the financial assistance can indicate their interest on the application form.