

## UCFS Board Member Profile: Steven Traylor

**Name:** Steven Traylor

**City, State/Province, Country:** Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A.

**Place of Employment:** City of Norfolk

**Job Title:** City Forester

**Educational level and major field:** Bachelors of Science in Forest Resource Management from Virginia Tech. I am currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Urban Forestry from Oregon State University.



**List any professional certifications:**

- ISA Certified Arborist, ISA Certified Tree Climber
- Certified Urban Forest Professional
- ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification
- Tree Care Industry Association Certified Tree Care Safety Professional
- Society of American Forester's Certified Urban and Community Forester
- National Recreation and Park Association Certified Park and Recreation Professional
- Certified Applicator with Virginia Department of Agriculture, and Wilderness First Aid
- CPR Certified with the American Red Cross

**List any other urban forestry, arboriculture, or related organizations you're involved with:**

- Board of Directors with the Virginia Urban Forest Council (AKA Trees Virginia)
- Mid-Atlantic Chapter (MAC-ISA) of the ISA Board of Directors 2019-2023
- Plant Collections Committee member for the Norfolk Botanical Gardens
- Saluting Branches Site Leader 2016 Denver
- Colorado and 2019-2025 in Hampton Roads, Virginia
- Tree Climbing Competition (TCC) Coordinator in MAC-ISA from 2020 to 2023

**LinkedIn profile link:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/steven-traylor-6b97798/>

**Brief bio:**

Steven Traylor has served as the City Forester for Norfolk, Virginia, since May 2018. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resource Management from Virginia Tech and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Urban Forestry from Oregon State University.

Prior to his current role, Steven worked as a Forestry Supervisor for the City of Denver, Colorado, from 2007 to 2018. His career in arboriculture and urban forestry began with Bartlett Tree Experts in Yorktown, VA, from 2002 to 2005, followed by a position at Swingle Lawn Tree and Landscape in Denver, CO, from 2005 to 2007.

Steven is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) as a Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Climber, and Certified Urban & Community Forest Professional. He also holds the Certified Tree Safety Professional (CTSP) credential from the Tree Care Industry Association. Additionally, he is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) through the National Parks and Recreation Association. In 2024, he became one of the first 52 professionals to earn the Certified Urban and Community Forester (CUCF™) credential from the Society of American Foresters (SAF).

He is an active member of the Mid-Atlantic Society of Arboriculture and advocates for urban forestry on a statewide level as a member of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Urban Forest Council (also known as Trees Virginia). He is also a member of the ISA, SAF, and the NRPA.

Outside of work, Steven enjoys hiking, camping, skiing and spending quality time with his wife, Maureen, and their children, Elizabeth and Henry.

**What got you interested in the field of urban forestry?**

I became interested in the field of urban forestry through my professional work as a field arborist in private and municipal tree care combined with my formal education in traditional forest management. The opportunity of working at scale to grow, plant, and manage a group of trees within a community is extremely gratifying and meaningful to me.

**In what ways do you want to contribute to the [mission](#) and [strategic direction](#) of UCFS? Are you particularly interested in a certain area of board service such as governance, policy, outreach, financial oversight, etc.? Do you see any of your strengths being especially helpful to leading the organization?**

I have an interest specifically in outreach. I have been very impressed by the multi-faceted effort by the current board and the executive director to engage at conferences with public works, and planning associations. I would like to be involved with the board to support that continued outreach to the professional societies and associations. The strategic direction of building confidence, competence, and camaraderie along with the capacity for the society to carry these goals forward is inspiring and nurturing for our profession. I have vested interest in the success of this society and have been rewarded from my time engaging with it since MFI class of 2020 to

engaging with the Industry Trends committee over the last 2 years. I am excited to have the opportunity to engage and serve the membership of UCFS over the next 3 years in governance, policy and financial oversight.

**What makes you happy about being an UCFS member?**

I really, really enjoy engaging at the UCFS conference with fellow members and especially love the field tours at this event. It is the most meaningful conference for me as a professional recharging my battery, stoking my wood stove of motivation and connecting my professional roots to the wider global network.

**Favorite tree and why?**

Right now, it is the *Asimina triloba* or paw-paw as this past weekend I had the pleasure of eating a couple while canoeing down the James River in western Virginia. I like this species because it is so adaptable with habitat ranging from the Appalachian Mountains down to the sandy forests of Norfolk and Virginia Beach.