

## UCFS Board Member Profile: Travis Stokes

**Name:** Travis Stokes

**City, State/Province, Country:** Rogersville, MO USA

**Place of Employment:** City of Springfield, MO

**Job Title:** Arboriculture Supervisor

**Educational level and major field:** B.S. Horticulture,  
M.S. Agriculture

**List any professional certifications:**

- Professional Grounds Management Society  
Certified Grounds Manager
- ISA Certified Arborist
- ISA Certified Urban Forest Professional
- ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified



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

- Missouri Community Forestry Council

**LinkedIn profile link:** [www.linkedin.com/in/travis-stokes433](https://www.linkedin.com/in/travis-stokes433)

**Brief bio:**

I was born and raised in Sioux City, Iowa. I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture from Northwest Missouri State University (Northwest). Following graduation, I began working on the university grounds while pursuing graduate studies in agriculture. Over 13 years at Northwest, I advanced through several positions, culminating in my role as Landscape and Sustainability Manager and Director of the Missouri State Arboretum.

Afterwards, I briefly worked at Ryan Lawn and Tree, a local tree company, before joining the City of Springfield as an arborist. I quickly advanced to my current role as Arboriculture Supervisor, where I oversee all trees on city-owned properties and supervise a team of 16 individuals.

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

I have a fairly diverse career starting with mowing lawns as a teenager and then following an education path to work in landscaping and forestry. Through natural progression during my professional career.

**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 think the best ways that I could contribute to the strategic direction of UCFS is through promoting public awareness of proper arboriculture practices and through stimulating greater interest in the planting and presentation of trees and other landscape plants. Also, since I love to get to know people the camaraderie piece of the strategic plan may be an area that I could contribute. I feel like I'm in a place in my career where I can find and mentor younger professionals to become leaders in arboriculture.

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

Having a positive impact on the industry. Being able to connect with like minded individuals trying to make a difference in their community, region or country. I like having the ability to be a mentor to new leaders and helping them realize their full potential.

**Favorite tree and why?**

My favorite tree is a paperbark maple. I love the extremely slow growing nature of the tree, it's a testament to patience and endurance. I'm drawn to its resilience and that it offers year round interest; in the summer it has unusual leaves that are unlike any other maple, the brilliance of its red fall color helps it stand apart from any other tree in the urban forest and, of course in the winter (and year round), the subtle, unique bark that peels away as the tree develops its strong sturdy trunk.