

# GREEN WORCESTER SUMMIT

*Building Resilience, Together*

Get inspired! Join us for a day of education and action. Let's work together to build a more resilient Worcester.

Find the full agenda and free registration on our website.

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[TINYURL.COM/  
GREENWORCESTERSUMMIT](https://tinyurl.com/greenworcestersummit)



**SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024  
11 AM - 4:30 PM**



**WORCESTER PUBLIC  
LIBRARY, 3 SALEM ST.**



**GREEN  
WORCESTER**

COMMUNITY | RESILIENCE | SUSTAINABILITY



This will be a zero-waste event. We will provide compostable food ware and composting bins. Please bring your own water bottle!



# Green Worcester Summit: Building Resilience, Together

## Agenda

Saturday, May 11, 2024 - 11am-4:30pm | Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Sq

11am – 11:30am	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <b>Overview of Planning and Actions for Climate Change Resilience in Worcester – Past, Present and Future</b> <i>Welcome by City Officials and the Green Worcester Advisory Committee - Saxe Room</i>		
	Track 1 - Saxe Room	Track 2 - Banx Room	Track 3 McGrath Parking Lot Outside the Library
11:35am-12:15pm	<b>Miyawaki Forests: Restoring Nature Downtown</b>  What are Miyawaki Forests, how are they different and why do they matter? Two Pilot Projects in Worcester: Municipal Parking Lot and residential Plumley Village – <i>Maya Dutta, Bio4Climate</i>  <i>Facilitator: Luba Zhaurova, Dir of Projects, Dept of Sustainability &amp; Resilience, City of Worcester</i>	<b>Stormwater &amp; Green Infrastructure Master Plan</b>  Stormwater system modelling, grey vs green infrastructure solutions, and next steps for reducing urban flooding in Worcester – <i>William Blais and Kara Keleher, Weston &amp; Sampson</i>  <i>Facilitator: John Odell, Chief of Dept of Sustainability &amp; Resilience, City of Worcester</i>	
12:15pm-1:30pm	<b>Zero Waste Lunch* and Networking (in Saxe Room)</b>  <i>* In keeping with the Green Worcester Plan goals – this event will be Zero Waste. We will be providing compostable food ware and composting bins. Please bring your own water bottle to the event!</i>		
1:30pm-2:30pm	<b>Sustainable Yards 101</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Native Pollinator Plants</b> – <i>Leo DaSilva, ReWild Habitat Gardens, member of Worcester Native Plant Initiative</i></li><li>• <b>Edible Plants</b> – <i>Nathan Fournier, Reimagined Roots LLC</i></li><li>• <b>Garden Gatherings: DIY Rain Gardens with Your Friends</b> – <i>Donna Williams, President of the Blackstone River Coalition</i></li></ul> <i>Facilitator: John Odell, Chief of Dept of Sustainability &amp; Resilience, City of Worcester</i>	<b>CoolPockets Come to Worcester</b>  What are CoolPockets and why do they matter? What is their role in helping cities adapt to the effects of climate change? See a concept plan of a CoolPocket Pilot Project at the Columbus Park Elementary School site – <i>Pallavi Kalia Mande, BSC Group</i>  <i>Facilitator: Luba Zhaurova, Dir of Projects, Dept of Sustainability &amp; Resilience, City of Worcester</i>	<u>1pm-3pm block</u>  <b>Let’s Get Our Hands Dirty!</b> McGrath Miyawaki Forest Planting (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2 planting events)  - <i>Led by Bio4Climate, BSC Group and Lead Volunteers.</i> - <i>Planted by Community Volunteers</i> - <i>Pre-planting training for Lead Volunteers will take place 12:30pm-1pm</i> -
	<b>15 min break</b>		
2:45pm-3:45pm	<b>Rooted Resilience: Worcester's Urban Forestry Master Plan and Forest Restoration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>What’s in Worcester’s new Urban Forest Master Plan?</b> - <i>Joy B. Winbourne, Chair of Worcester’s Urban Forestry Tree Commission</i></li><li>• <b>Worcester’s Trees After Asian Longhorned Beetle Infestation</b> - <i>John Rogan, Clark University and Nicholas Geron, Salem State University</i></li></ul> <i>Facilitator: John Odell, Chief of Dept of Sustainability &amp; Resilience, City of Worcester</i>	<b>Sustainable Yard Designs: Case Studies of Nature-Based Solutions for Stormwater Management for Worcester residents</b>  Learn about nature-based solutions and applications for selected properties in Worcester with history of flooding; be inspired to make changes to your yard! – <i>Janet Moonan and Catherine Druken, Weston &amp; Sampson</i>  <i>Facilitator: Luba Zhaurova, Dir of Projects, Dept of Sustainability &amp; Resilience, City of Worcester</i>	<u>3pm-4:30pm block</u>  <b>Let’s Get Our Hands Dirty!</b> McGrath Miyawaki Forest Planting - <i>Led by Bio4Climate, BSC Group and Lead Volunteers. Planted by Community Volunteers</i>
<b>3:45pm-4:00pm – Closing; Thank You and Next Steps for Getting Involved (Saxe Room)</b>			
<b>4pm-4:30pm – Visit, Learn More and Help Plant the Miyawaki Forest! (McGrath Parking Lot outside the Library)</b>			





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## Presenter Bios

**William Blais** is a Project Manager at Weston & Sampson. William is an engineer with over 38 years of experience in computer modeling of sewer, drainage, and combined sewer systems. His computer modeling responsibilities include stormwater master planning, combined sewer master planning, peer-review services, Low Impact Design (LID's) / Green Infrastructure alternatives, and client software selection analysis.

**Leo DaSilva** is a founding member of the Worcester Native Plant Initiative, a volunteer organization dedicated to restoring Worcester's native ecosystem. He is also a member of the gardening team at the Unitarian Universalist in Worcester, which has installed the biggest public native plant display in the City over the past three years. Leo is a nurse by profession and runs a company called ReWild, which specializes in designing, installing, and maintaining habitat gardens.

**Catherine Druken** is a landscape designer at Weston & Sampson with 10 years of experience. Catherine focuses on drainage and stormwater solutions as well as modeling and visualization for design concepts. With experience in professional gardening and private yard design, Catherine has a strong understanding of the designed landscape from conception to application.

**Maya Dutta** works on project management, research, outreach, education and advocacy efforts at Biodiversity for a Livable Climate (Bio4Climate). She is an environmental advocate and ecosystem restorer working to spread understanding on the key role of biodiversity in shaping the climate and the water, carbon, nutrient and energy cycles we rely on. She is a 2022 SUGi Fellow and Forestmaker, a TED speaker, and worked with Bio4Climate to plant the first Miyawaki Forest in the Northeast US.

**Nathan Fournier** is a passionate advocate for community resilience and backyard food production. After an opportunity to work as an apprentice at a regenerative agriculture institute in New Zealand, he returned home and founded Reimagined Roots, an ecological and edible landscaping company. Through this venture, he empowers individuals to embrace backyard organic food production and environmental stewardship.

**Nicholas Geron** is an Assistant Professor at Salem State University's Department of Geography and Sustainability. Nicholas is also a research affiliate at the George Perkins Marsh Institute at Clark University. His research engages with communities to address environmental and climate justice concerns using remote sensing/GIS technologies. He has worked with municipal and state agencies, non-profits, and individual residents to examine the equitable distribution of urban tree planting in mid-sized cities.

**Kara Keleher** is a Senior Team Leader in the Wastewater Group at Weston & Sampson. She has more than 30 years of experience in the permitting, evaluation, study, design, rehabilitation, and construction of wastewater collection and stormwater systems. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in Massachusetts and an Envision Sustainability Professional.

**Pallavi Kalia Mande** is the Director of Climate Resilient Design at BSC Group and has been involved with water centric environmental restoration work in the Boston metropolitan area for the last two decades. Pallavi's design practice is heavily grounded in an understanding of watershed science and engineering with the goal of restoring natural resources, as well as improving a community's quality of life. With over 20 years of experience in environmental planning and green infrastructure design, Pallavi brings tremendous knowledge and expertise in developing nature and community-based solutions for climate resilience. She is deeply committed to serving environmental justice communities and is a passionate advocate for climate justice.

**Janet Moonan**, PE, is a Senior Project Manager at Weston & Sampson with nearly 20 years of experience. She leads interdisciplinary planning, design, and construction projects that improve water quality and mitigate flooding. Janet has a passion for employing nature-based solutions for climate resilience.

**John Rogan** is a Professor in the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University. He co-directs the Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) program with Professor Deborah Martin. The HERO program conducts research on urban forestry practices and stewardship in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

**Donna Williams** served as Massachusetts Audubon Society's Conservation Advocacy Coordinator at Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester for 22 years, retiring in 2011. In that role she helped create and establish the now 400+ acre wildlife sanctuary and visitor center. She planned, organized, and implemented programs and events with a particular focus on water resource protection in the Blackstone River watershed. Currently she serves on the Board of Directors of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor and the Blackstone Headwaters Coalition and is the President of the Blackstone River Coalition.

**Joy Winbourne** is an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the Department of Environmental, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences. Dr. Winbourne is an ecosystem ecologist and biogeochemist with a focus on studying urban ecosystems. Broadly her research investigates how plants and soils regulate the movement of carbon, nutrients, and water on land and in response to a variety of human perturbations, such as urbanization, deforestation, forest fragmentation, and climate change. Her research agenda is motivated by the need for actionable ecological data and theory to inform sustainable environmental policies and evaluate their efficacy especially in the context of global climate change.