

15 Years of Urban Soil Restoration Work – Yujuan Chen

Soils play a critical role in urban tree establishment and growth. However, typical urban land development practices usually lead to compacted soils which can potentially impair tree growth and long-term ecosystem services. Soil Profile Rebuilding is an urban soil rehabilitation technique to address compacted urban soils on site. This presentation will share the results of a long-term urban soil rehabilitation study 15 years after experimental installation as well as a newly established research project.

Urban Forests, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice from an International Perspective – Yujuan Chen

As a nature-based solution, urban forests can play an important role in climate change mitigation and adaptation (e.g., sequestering carbon and providing cooling). However, urban forest resources (e.g., tree canopy cover) are not equally distributed and our communities are disproportionately experiencing climate impacts (e.g., heat, stormwater runoff) which lead to environmental injustice concerns. This talk will share the role of urban forests in building a more climate-resilient and equitable future from an international perspective.

Presenter Bio –

Dr. Yujuan Chen is an associate professor of urban forestry at Tennessee State University. She co-authored the 1st global Guidelines on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry and initiated and led the Healthy Soils for Healthy Communities Initiative. Prior to joining Tennessee State University, Dr. Chen held a range of positions with TreePeople, University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and New Jersey State Forestry Services.