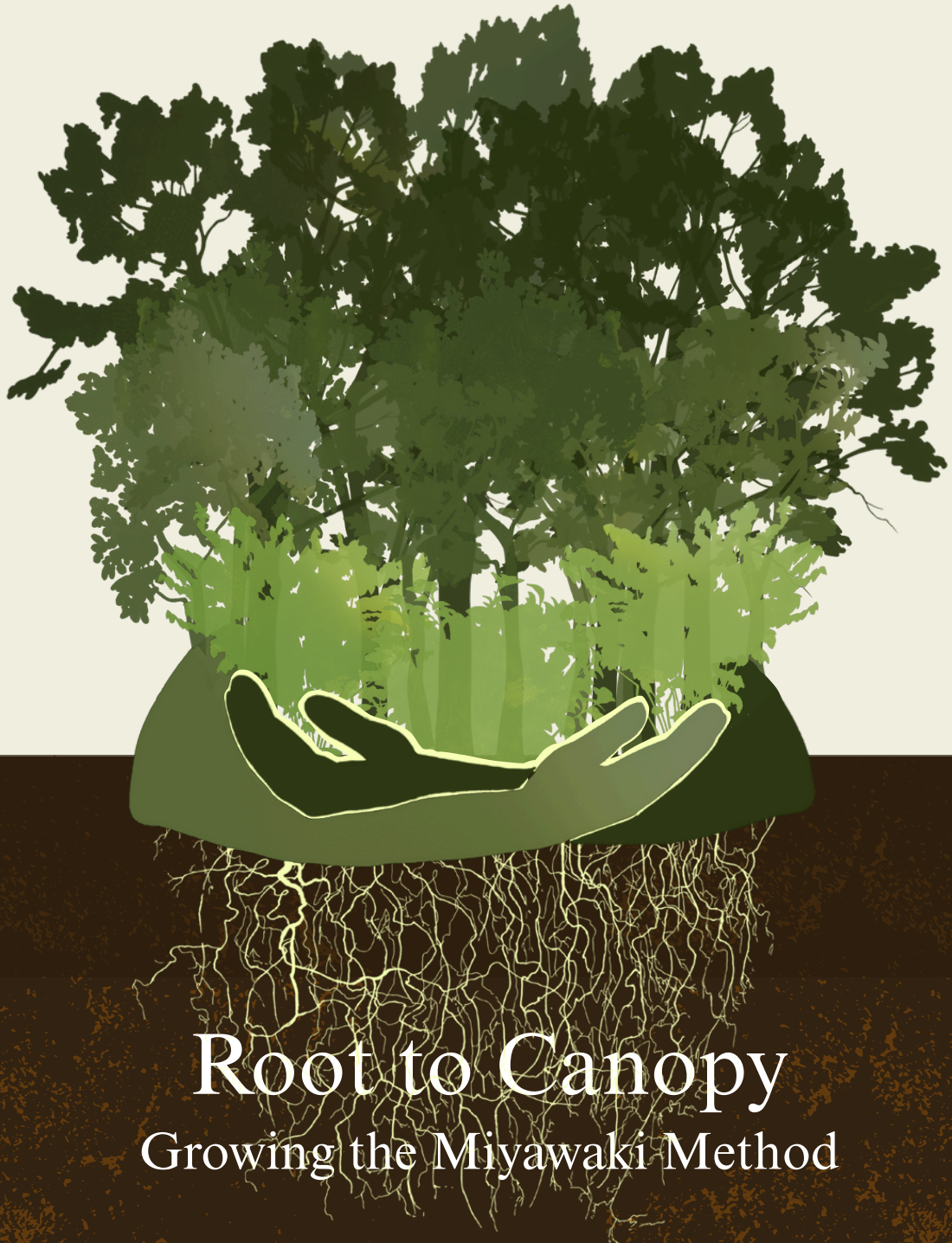
2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit

Bus Tour | July 19, 2025

Virtual Summit | July 24 & 25, 2025



Root to Canopy

Growing the Miyawaki Method

Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming

2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit
Bus Tour Schedule*

Saturday | July, 19 2025

9 am ET
Cambridge, MA

Greene-Rose Park Miniforest

Alexandra Ionescu, *Associate Director of Regenerative Projects at Bio4Climate*
Andrew Putnam, *Superintendent of Urban Forestry & Landscapes, City of Cambridge*

The Greene-Rose Heritage Park Miyawaki Forest in Cambridge, MA, was planted in November 2022 through a partnership between the City of Cambridge and Biodiversity for a Livable Climate. Spanning 1,400 square feet, the miniforest was planted at a density of 7 plants per square meter, setting it apart from other local miniforests, which are typically planted at a density of 3 plants per square meter. Home to 900 native plants across 40 species, it contributes to expanding the neighborhood's tree canopy and is part of a larger urban forestry plan developed by the City of Cambridge. Situated on a busy urban street dominated by impervious surfaces, this miniforest offers a much-needed green respite, demonstrating how even the smallest spaces can be transformed into vibrant biodiversity and climate resilience hotspots.

10: 15 am
Winchester, MA

Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy Miniforest

Prassede Calabi, *Founder and Project Director, WIN Fast Forest*
Walter Kittredge, *Ecology Advisor and Founder of Oakhaven Sanctuary Nursery*

Grow Local is restoring some 6,000 square feet of agricultural wetlands to mature red maple swamp forest, at Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, Winchester, MA. On September 21, 2024, 200 people planted nearly1100 plants of 42 native woody species. The lead-up included filing permits, fund-raising, and engaging scouts, faith communities, middle and high school students, and the public.

Site prep was per the Miyawaki method. We weeded and hand-tilled the area, adjusted pH, super-charged the soil with loam, compost and microorganisms; and mulched heavily. Fencing successfully excluded rabbits and deer, and the plants are radiantly healthy.

2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit
Bus Tour Schedule*

Saturday | July, 19 2025

11:45 am
Devens, MA

Lunch at Devens Playground Miniforest

Boxed lunches provided by Marty's Corner Cafe.

12:45 pm
Shirley, MA

Ayer-Shirley Middle School Pocket Forest

Amanda Smith, *Ecologist, Ecological Designer and Project Manager*

The Ayer-Shirley Middle School Pocket Forest is a living laboratory where students can observe and experience how nature-based solutions and climate resilience projects directly address today's climate challenges including improving air quality, reducing the urban heat island effect, managing stormwater runoff, and enhancing biodiversity. The 8th grade class was involved in the design and installation of this mini forest, which is in the shape of a paw print, inspired by the school mascot, the Panthers.

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2 pm
Worchester, MA

McGrath Parking Lot Miniforest

Caseylee Bastien, RLA, CPSI, *Landscape Architect/ Ecologist, Senior Associate, BSC Group Inc.*

The McGrath Parking Lot Miniforest is located between McGrath Boulevard---a multilane high speed thorough fare---and the library, where a portion of parking lot has been replaced by forest.

3:30 pm
Cambridge, MA

Greene-Rose Park Miniforest

Drop off.

*NOTE: The bus tour is NOT included in the free summit ticket. To attend the bus tour, please purchase a separate ticket at https://bit.ly/miniforestbustour2025

2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit
Summit Schedule

Thursday, July 24

12 pm ET

The Miniforest as a Microcosm

Alexandra Ionescu, *Associate Director of Regenerative Projects at Bio4Climate*

A miniforest is a microcosm for learning how nature works. It provides a hands-on opportunity to explore ecological processes and witness firsthand how ecological restoration can transform our landscapes. Plant growth, the water cycle, and soil health become moments of inquiry and awareness, helping to reconcile natural processes with urban challenges like stormwater management and the heat island effect. This presentation will set the tone for the summit by addressing key questions and challenges, while also offering an overview of Biodiversity For a Livable Climate's Miyawaki Forest Program.

12:20 pm ET

The Miyawaki Method: Past, Present, Future

Hannah Lewis, *Author of the Miniforest Revolution*

In this opening keynote address, Hannah Lewis defines the Miyawaki Method, describes who Akira Miyawaki was, explains how this practice became a global phenomenon, and introduces mini-forests as a mechanism for embracing and understanding ecology.

12:50 pm ET

Stories from the Field: Miniforests in Cities, Schools, and Farms in Northeast US

Andrew Leahy, *Education & Outreach Specialist, Horn Farm Center*
Bram Gunther, *VP of Science and Development, Plan it Wild*
Caseylee Bastien, RLA, CPSI, *Landscape Architect/ Ecologist, Senior Associate, BSC Group Inc.*
Mary Ellen Lemay, *Director, Landowner Engagement Aspetuck Land Trust*

This session highlights miniforests in four contexts: urban areas, school grounds, residential spaces, and rural farms across the Northeast US.
Followed by Q & A with Hannah Lewis & all panelists.

2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit
Summit Schedule

Thursday, July 24

1:55 pm ET

BREAK

2:30 pm ET

BREAKOUT ROOMS:
STORY SHARE CIRCLES & NETWORKING

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3 pm ET

From Asphalt to Miniforest: Transforming Impervious Surfaces to Manage Stormwater Runoff, Flooding and the Heat Island Effect

Caseylee Bastien, RLA, CPSI, *Landscape Architect/ Ecologist, Senior Associate, BSC Group Inc.*
Leigh Meunier, *Organizer, Green & Open Somerville*
Max Rome, PhD, *Senior Stormwater Program Manager, Charles River Watershed Association*

This panel explores how depaving and green infrastructure, including miniforests, can address stormwater runoff, flooding, and the heat island effect. It invites a fresh perspective on urban spaces dominated by asphalt and concrete, with insights from the transformation of a 6,400 sq ft parking lot into a miniforest in Worcester, MA.

Depaving removes impervious surfaces to allow water absorption, serving as an act of ecological care that reconnects the land with natural cycles and cultivates healthier urban environments. This session encourages us to recognize the importance of permeable surfaces and their role in supporting the web of life.

Followed by Q & A with all panelists.

2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit
Summit Schedule

Thursday, July 24

3:50 pm ET

Using the Miyawaki Method to Empower Agroecology and Food Forestry

Coakee William Wildcat, *Founder, Mother Tree Food & Forest; Director, EcoRestoration Alliance; Director, School of Constructive Arts*

The Miyawaki method and successional agroforestry systems illuminate and empower each other. Native species forests are food forests. We'll take a look at what the Miyawaki method teaches us about the ecology of the metaorganism, and how we can use this wisdom to grow healthier farms and gardens.

Followed by Q & A with Coakee William Wildcat.

4:25 pm ET

Closing Thoughts

Beck Mordini, *Executive Director at Bio4Climate*

2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit
Summit Schedule

Friday, July 25

9 am ET

Miniforests as a Part of the Homegrown National Park

Doug Tallamy, *Professor, University of Delaware, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology*

What is the Ecological Potential of Mini Forests? Urban centers have never been seriously considered for conservation, yet adding productive native plants to our cities can help manage the watershed, support complex communities of pollinators, support local food webs, and sequester carbon. Evidence is mounting that mini forests can meet all of these essential ecological goals.

Followed by Q & A with Doug Tallamy

9:35 am ET

Scientific Research (Current and Emerging) around Miniforests

Melory Brandao, *Master's Student, University of Delaware*
Nicolas de Brabandère, *Founder of Urban Forests*
Nicholas Geron, PhD, *Assistant Professor in Geography and Sustainability, Salem State University*
Prassede Calabi, *Founder and Project Director, WIN Fast Forest*

This session highlights scientific research on miniforests, covering topics such as their cooling benefits, insect-host plant relationships, microbial and fungal communities, and data collection methods in the Northeast US and Belgium.

Followed by Q & A with all panelists.

10:45 am ET

BREAK

2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit
Summit Schedule

Friday | July, 25 2025

11:15 am ET

The Life-Cycle of a Miniforest Project: Initiating, Creating, Stewarding & Educating

Andrew Putnam, *Superintendent of Urban Forestry & Landscapes, City of Cambridge*
Anita Roy Dobbs, *Team Leader, Forests for Watertown*
Beth Suedmeyer, *Associate Planner, Devens Enterprise Commission*
Bram Gunther, *VP of Science and Development, Plan it Wild*
Walter Kittredge, *Ecology Advisor and Founder of Oakhaven Sanctuary Nursery*

This panel explores the key challenges and stages of a miniforest project, from Initiation — securing land, funding, and community support — to Preparation & Planting — site preparation, design, and planting — to Stewardship — maintenance and volunteer involvement — and lastly to Education — integrating miniforests into schools and their broader impact on research and public perception. Expect the session to unfold dynamically, with topics emerging organically, and certain aspects potentially being covered in greater depth than others.

Followed by Q & A with all panelists

12:40 pm ET

BREAKOUT ROOMS:
STORY SHARE CIRCLES & NETWORKING

1:10 pm ET

BREAK

2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit
Summit Schedule

Friday | July, 25 2025

1:20 pm ET

The Miyawaki Method vs. Ecology of Place: The Importance of Experimentation and Curiosity in Canada's Mini Forest Network

Heather Schibili, *Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, University of Guelph; Administrator at the Network of Nature*

Mini forests - biodiverse plantings referencing local forest communities - have taken hold across the globe since the Miyawaki Method was popularized by Shubhendu Sharma's 2014 TED talk. In this presentation, professor Schibli will discuss how this method has become a means to introduce ecological restoration principles and challenge human exceptionalism in gardening, horticulture, and landscape architecture.

Followed by Q & A with Heather Schibili.

1:55 pm ET

Closing Thoughts

Beck Mordini, *Executive Director at Bio4Climate*
Alexandra Ionescu, *Associate Director of Regenerative Projects at Bio4Climate*

2025 Northeast Miniforest Summit

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