

Chicago Wilderness Virtual Congress 2020

Online Resources from Urban Soils Workshop

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Online Resources About Soils

[Soil Health Assessment and Soil Quality Indicators](#) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

This website introduces the concept of soil health and the ways soil quality indicators can be used to evaluate soil health. These soil quality indicator sheets describe 17 different soil properties and explain methods for measuring these properties and interpreting the results.

[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)

The USDA website provides information about many topics and funding programs such as conservation, disaster preparedness and recovery, food and nutrition, forestry, organic food production, plants and recreation.

[James Urban FASLA Resources and Toolkits](#)

James Urban is a landscape architect who has worked extensively on issues of urban soils and arboriculture. His website provides resources on topics such as urban soils, compaction, compost, and planting in paved environments. There are also guides for testing soils, writing landscaping specifications, and videos.

[Soil Quality Test Kit - Pre-Made](#)

[Soil Quality Test Bucket - Build your own](#)

NRCS provides both a pre-made soil test kit that you can order as well as instruction for building your own custom test kit. Soil tests that can be conducted with these kits include bulk density, organic matter, electrical conductivity, and pH, among others.

Soil Mapping

[Web Soil Survey](#)

This is an interactive mapping system that lets users view soil map data for any location in the United States. You can access the most recent "How to use Web Soil Survey" guide [here](#).

[SoilWeb Apps \(UC Davis California Soil Resource Lab\)](#)

This website contains a series of interactive maps which can help you identify the soil type at a given location using Google Maps or Google Earth and see regional distribution of soil types and soil properties.

For Educators

[Soil Education & Soil Health for Educators](#) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The NRCS Soil Education website provides handouts and lesson plans about soil topics for elementary, middle, and highschool as well as college and professionals. The Soil Health for Educators provides guides and videos about assessing soil quality.

[Soil Science Society of America K-12 Soil Science Teacher Resources](#)

This website provides background information and lesson plans on a range of soil topics, including soil biology, chemistry, forensics, and archaeology.

Soil Testing Labs

[University of Illinois Extension Soil Testing Labs List](#)

This is a regional list of soil testing labs, their contact information, the types of samples the lab accepts, and if the lab can analyze samples for heavy metals.

Learn More

The Morton Arboretum

[Plant Clinic](#) - Get help with plant selection, identifying and managing pests and disease, and other issues.

[Plant Finder](#) - Use this database to search to find the right plant for your site.

[Center for Tree Science](#) - Learn about research initiatives at The Morton Arboretum.

[Gateway to Tree Science](#) - Learn about choosing and caring for urban trees as well as many other aspects of tree science at The Morton Arboretum's new interactive outdoor exhibit.

[Urban Agriculture Program](#) - The Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest is an education and jobs-training program helps to bring food, health, and jobs to the Chicago community.

[Tree Husker YouTube Channel](#) - Videos about arboriculture and urban forestry produced by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Regional and Community Forestry Degree Program.

[eLearn: Urban Forestry](#) - An online training course covering a range of urban forestry topics. Participants can receive a certificate of completion and/or continuing education unit credits for the program.

[Arboriculture Video Series](#) - Series of videos on topics such as tree anatomy and biology, pruning, roots, soil, urban design, and more created by Dr. Ed Gilman of the University of Florida.

[Urban Forestry Today](#) - Contains resources and archived webcasts about a variety of urban forestry and soil topics managed by the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

[Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series](#) - Monthly presentations on the latest science, practice, and policy about urban forestry and the environment. Continuing education credits available.

[TREE Fund Webinars](#) - Regular webinar series featuring tree science researchers. Continuing education credits available.