

Agenda

7:30 am	Registration & Breakfast
8:15 am	Welcome & Opening Remarks – <i>Ryan Gustafson, MSA President & Louise Levy, MSA Programs & Education Committee Chair</i>
8:30 am	Accident Investigation Principles – <i>Addison Hill & Nels Spence</i> This session will cover principles and processes for investigating workplace accidents.
9:30 am	Introduction of Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board’s new Director of Forestry – <i>Chris McMaster</i>
9:45 am	Networking & Exhibitor Break
10:15 am	Designing for Longevity: Tree Health and the Landscape Architecture Process – <i>Brit Erenler & Jodi Refsland</i> Trees play a vital role in landscape architecture, offering aesthetic, environmental, and long-term sustainability benefits. This presentation explores how tree health is addressed from concept design through construction administration. Topics include tree preservation, grading coordination, planting design, soil specifications, and construction and maintenance planning. Real-world insights, including from the Plymouth Community Center project, will highlight strategies and common challenges.
11:15 am	Utility Panel: Part 1 - Introductions & Context – <i>Christopher Loiselle, Brandon Lunde, Nicholas Perry, Moderator: Sam Wallace</i> This session will introduce the panel members for our afternoon discussion, and provide context for their goals, obligations, and frustrations when managing the conflict between vegetation and utilities. <i>Have questions for the Utility Panel? Ask them at slido.com and enter code #MSA</i>
12:00 pm	MSA Annual Update & Awards Luncheon
1:00 pm	Utility Panel - Part 2: A Deeper Dive – <i>Christopher Loiselle, Brandon Lunde, Nicholas Perry, Moderator: Sam Wallace</i> This session will build on the morning discussion about constraints on utilities and vegetation management contractors, with a focus on improving communication between all stakeholders involved when a tree is near a conductor. <i>Have questions for the Utility Panel? Ask them at slido.com and enter code #MSA</i>
2:30 pm	Networking & Exhibitor Break
3:00 pm	Landscape Architect Panel – <i>Jason Condit, Brit Erenler, Anna Springer, Moderator: Wes Nichols</i> Understand more about landscape architecture. This panel of landscape architect professionals will share more about what they do, their education and training, the landscape architecture process, and how tree-related considerations and best practices are incorporated along the way.
4:30 - 6:00 pm	MSA Social
4:30 - 5:30 pm	Plymouth Community Center Site Walk – <i>Brit Erenler & Jodi Refsland</i> Join us following the conference for a site walk of the Plymouth Community Center (PCC). The PCC renovation and expansion, completed in 2022 and designed by HGA, serves as a case study in sustainable site design. This session will feature an informal walk-through with the landscape architect who led the site planning and design. As a B3-compliant project under the State of Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines, careful attention to tree protection, planting design, and construction specifications played a key role in meeting sustainability goals. (1 CEU possible)
Up to 6.75 ISA CEUs possible for the Conference + PCC Center Site Walk. Scan the QR Code when prompted and fill in the form that pops up with your Name and ISA Certification ID. If you do not have this capability – don’t worry! Please visit the MSA registration table to mark your attendance.	

Speakers

Jason Condit – Landscape Designer, Metro Blooms Design + Build Jason graduated this Spring from the Master of Landscape Architecture program at the University of Minnesota. Currently he is a Landscape Designer at Metro Blooms Design + Build, working primarily on private residential projects. Prior to landscape design he was an elementary teacher for 5 years and a climbing arborist in Michigan for 1.5 years. This summer he became an ISA Certified Arborist.	utility field , ranging from a Lineworker, to the Safety Manager, to currently the Operations Manager. Dakota Electric is a larger electric cooperative located in the south metro with a diverse service territory of dense urban to very rural.
Brit Erenler, PLA, ASLA – Senior Associate Landscape Architect, Damon Farber Landscape Architects Brit is a senior associate at Damon Farber Landscape Architects. She is energized by the potential of all projects, from large-scale plans to small-scale works, to create inspiring places. She is committed to creating livable, healthy, and beautiful places that champion environmental sustainability and high quality of life for those using them. As a landscape architect and urban designer, her process is deeply rooted in the context of place and her clients’ culture and histories.	Chris McMaster – Director of Forestry, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Chris joined the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board as the new Director of Forestry in February. Learn more about Chris and his background during his introduction!
Addison Hill – Safety Coordinator, Bartlett Tree Experts Addison’s journey into tree care started at the University of Minnesota where he was working on a degree in Environmental Sciences. Throughout his college career Addison continually found himself in Forestry courses. As it turned out, Addison quite liked trees and learning about them in any capacity from the individual stem to forest ecosystems as a whole. In an arboriculture course taught by Gary Johnson, Addison learned that people actually climbed trees professionally and couldn’t stay away! After graduating Addison started working at Bartlett Tree Experts as a grounds person, eventually climbing the ranks to Arborist Climber, Crew Leader, and now the Local Office Safety Coordinator. In his free time, Addison likes to hike and camp with his partner Michaela, spend time with family, and play games with friends.	Nicholas Perry Nicholas graduated from the U of M with a degree in urban forestry and a minor in forest resources. He’s been working in the field of forestry/arboriculture for the last 20+ years.
Christopher Loiselle – Vegetation Management Program Manager, Xcel Energy Christopher D. Loiselle is a Vegetation Management Program Manager with 27 years in utility forestry. An ISA Certified Arborist and Utility Arborist Specialist, he holds a Forestry degree from Southern Illinois University. For the past 13 years, he’s led vegetation management initiatives at Xcel Energy, focusing on safety, sustainability, and operational excellence.	Jodi Refsland, ISA Certified Arborist, SITES AP, PLA – Associate Principal, Landscape Architect, Damon Farber Landscape Architects Jodi is a landscape architect with an emphasis on ecological and sustainable design at Damon Farber Landscape Architects. Her approach focuses on restoring and enhancing native ecosystems, interpreting ecology, and inviting human engagement. Her work at the intersection of design and science creates landscapes that are beautiful, functional, and foster landscape stewardship—and she is an avid advocate for early coordination and enhanced tree protection best practices in Landscape Architecture.
Brandon Lunde – Operations Manager, Dakota Electric Association Brandon has spent the last 20 years working in the electric	Nels Spence – Midwest Regional Trainer, Bartlett Tree Experts Nels has a formal education in horticulture and fitness technology. He worked at the U.S. Adidas headquarters and an athletic training and spinal rehabilitation facility around Portland, Oregon. This is where he developed a personal philosophy around physical health and wellness. In 2011 he began his career in arboriculture and has been working in the field for Bartlett Tree Experts for 13 years. He is an ISA certified arborist, TRAQ, CTSP, and an American Red Cross Instructor. He is a proud father of three boys and one dog.
2025 MSA Programs & Education Committee Louise Levy, Chair Michael Van Dyken, MSA Vice President	Anna Springer – Senior Landscape Architect, Bolton & Menk Anna Springer is a Senior Landscape Architect and Project Manager at Bolton & Menk in Minneapolis. She has a master’s degree in landscape architecture from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor’s degree in urban forestry from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Anna is an ISA Certified Arborist. She worked as a commercial arborist for 5 years before studying landscape architecture, and loves to apply her knowledge of trees to her work as a landscape architect. Wes Nichols Nicholas Perry Brian Volz Sam Wallace

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Thursday,
October 30

MSA 2025 Fall Conference

Branching Out to Grow Together

Plymouth Community Center
Plymouth, MN

