

## **NANCY FALXA SONTI**

USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station  
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### **Education and Training**

2019 Ph.D., Plant Science, University of Maryland – College Park  
2011 M.S., Conservation Biology, Columbia University  
2007 B.A., History, Stanford University

### **Professional Experience**

2025-present Research Ecologist and Team Leader, Baltimore Field Station, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Baltimore, MD  
2020-2024 Research Ecologist, Baltimore Field Station, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Baltimore, MD  
2014-2020 Ecologist, Baltimore Field Station, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Baltimore, MD  
2011-2014 Forestry Research Technician, NYC Urban Field Station, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, New York, NY  
2007-2009 Forestry Analyst, Central Forestry & Horticulture, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, Flushing, NY

### **Honors and Awards**

1. Zone VI Fellowship in Urban Forestry, Garden Club of America, 2010.
2. Graduate Fellow, Program for Society & Environment, University of Maryland, 2014-2019.
3. Zone VI Fellowship in Urban Forestry, Garden Club of America, 2017.
4. USDA Forest Service Chief's Honor Award to Excel as a High Performing Agency, 2021. To the Stillmeadow PeacePark project team for excellence in urban forestry and natural resources research and practice aiding underserved communities and faith-based efforts.
5. R.W. Harris Author's Citation, International Society of Arboriculture, 2023. Granted to authors for sustained excellence in the publication of timely information pertaining to the field of arboriculture.

### **Select Synergistic and Service Activities**

- Garden Club of America Zone VI Fellowship in Urban Forestry, review committee, 2019-present.
- Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup, 2014-present.
- Washington, DC Urban Forestry Advisory Council, 2021-present.
- Nominations and Elections Committee, International Society of Arboriculture, 2024-present.

### **Selected Recent Grants Received**

**2017.** Chesapeake Bay Trust Pooled Monitoring Initiative's Restoration Research Award Program (\$200,000) "Using a Novel Research Framework to Assess Water Quality Impacts of Urban Trees" *Senior Personnel* (PI: Neely Law, Center for Watershed Protection).

**2021.** USDA NIFA (\$499,057) "Selection in the city: understanding how natural and domestic selection shape urban forests" *Senior Personnel* (PI: Meghan Avolio, Johns Hopkins University).

**2021.** USFS U&CF Challenge Cost Share Grant (\$299,465) "Silviculture in the city: advancing urban and climate adapted management strategies for forested natural areas in the Northeastern U.S. through science and training" *Senior Personnel* (PI: Tara Trammell, University of Delaware).

- 2021.** Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (\$804,000) “Engaging Detroit communities through reforestation across six different site types” *Co-PI* (PI: Asia Dowtin, Michigan State University).
- 2022.** NSRC (\$184,511) “Wildlife in the WUI: investigating forest characteristics and impacts on mammalian diversity in the wildland-urban interface” *Co-PI* (PI: Dan Bogan, Siena College).
- 2023.** Chesapeake Bay Trust (\$68,761) “Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges & Opportunities” *Co-PI* (PI Andrew Koeser, University of Florida).
- 2024.** NASA (\$1,500,000) “Assessing access to nature and their benefits in EJ communities across US cities” *Collaborator* (PI: Clara Pregitzer, Natural Areas Conservancy).

### **Selected Recent Publications**

1. Hallett, R.A., M.L. Johnson, **N.F. Sonti**. 2018. Assessing the tree health impacts of salt water flooding in coastal cities: a case study in NYC. *Land & Urban Plan* 177: 171-177.
2. Maxwell, K.S., S. Julius, A. Grambsch, A. Kosmal, L. Larson, **N.F. Sonti**. 2018. Built Environment, Urban Systems, and Cities. In: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, pp. 438–478.
3. **Sonti, N.F.**, R.A. Hallett, K.L. Griffin, J.H. Sullivan. 2019. White oak and red maple tree ring analysis reveals enhanced productivity in urban forest patches. *For Ecol & Manag* 453: 117626.
4. Zukswert, J.M. R. Hallett, S.W. Bailey, **N.F. Sonti**. 2021. Using regional forest nutrition data to inform urban tree management in the northeastern US. *Urban For Urban Green*, 126917.
5. **Sonti, N.F.**, K.L. Griffin, R.A. Hallett, J.H. Sullivan. 2021. Photosynthesis, fluorescence, and biomass responses of white oak seedlings to urban soil and air temperature effects. *Physiol Plant* 172: 1535-1549.
6. **Sonti, N.F.**, P.M. Groffman, D.J. Nowak, J.G. Henning, M.L. Avolio, E.J. Rosi. 2022. Urban NPP: concepts, field methods, and Baltimore, MD case study. *Ecol Apps*, e2562.
7. **Sonti, N.F.**, C.C. Pregitzer, R.A. Hallett. 2022. Native tree seedling growth and physiology responds to variable soil conditions of urban natural areas. *Restor Ecol* 30(8): e13653.
8. Mikolajewski, D., V. D'Amico, **N.F. Sonti**, C.C. Pinchot, C.E. Flower, L.A. Roman, T.L.E. Trammell. 2022. Restoring the iconic *Ulmus americana* to urban landscapes: early tree growth responds to aboveground conditions. *Urban For Urban Green* 74: 127675.
9. **Sonti, N.F.**, R. Rieman, M.H. Mockrin, G. Domke. 2023. Expanding wildland-urban interface alters forest structure and landscape context in the northern US. *Env Res Let* 18: 014010.
10. Warner, K., **N.F. Sonti**, E.M. Cook, R.A. Hallett, L.R. Huttyra, A.B. Reinmann. 2024. Urbanization exacerbates climate sensitivity of eastern U.S. broadleaf trees. *Ecol Apps*, e2970.
11. Ponte, S., A.C. Oishi, **N.F. Sonti**, D.H. Locke, M. Pavao-Zuckerman. 2024. Interactions between management context and tree water use influence stormwater management potential of urban forests. *Urban For Urban Green* 95: 128321.
12. **Sonti, N.F.**, M. Baker, J. Lagrosa IV, M. Allman, J.M. Grove, M. Katoski. 2024. Shaping Baltimore's forests: past insights for present-day ecology. *Land Ecol* 39:136.
13. Ponte, S., D.H. Locke, **N.F. Sonti**, J. Mullinax, M. Pavao-Zuckerman. 2024. Investigating social-ecological linkages in Baltimore, MD: Environmental stewardship, green stormwater infrastructure, and tree canopy change at the neighborhood level. *CATE* 17(2): Article 7.
14. Baker, M.E., I. Yesilonis, L. Templeton, B. Shobe, J. Bos, **N.F. Sonti**, K. Lautar. 2025. Distributed urban forest patch characterization detects edge effects and patterns of ecosystem diversity for monitoring and management. *Ecosphere* 16: e70236.
15. **Sonti, N.F.**, M. Baker, M. Allman, R.A. Hallett, K. Lautar, M. Piana, C. Pregitzer. 2025. Whose woods are these? Forest patch characteristics and ownership across cities of the eastern United States. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 260: 105374.
16. Schmit, J.P., L. Johnson, M. Baker, L. Darling, R. Fahey, D. Locke, A. Morzillo, **N.F. Sonti**, T.L.E. Trammell, M. Aronson, M. Johnson. 2025. The influence of urban and agricultural landscape context on forest diversity and structure across ecoregions. *Ecosphere* 16: e70188.