



Tree and Soil Research Fund Newsletter

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About the Tree and Soil Research Fund



As the profession of landscape architecture moves toward 'evidence based' practice, it is clear that much more research in this area is needed. TREE Fund, a national, nonprofit corporation dedicated

to empowering urban tree research and education, established the **Tree and Soil Research (TSR) Fund** to research questions directly related to the design, installation and management of trees in urban landscapes and support the work of landscape architects. TREE Fund has established an initial endowment goal for the

TSR Fund of \$500,000 and will award research grants of \$25,000 per year, in perpetuity, once this endowment level is secured.

Supported research will include research into questions about the design, specification, installation, best practices and long-term management of plants and soil in urban landscapes. Landscape architects and colleagues within the landscape industry who value the benefits of healthy, mature trees in our cities, are encouraged to support the TSR Fund endowment campaign today.



James Urban, FASLA
Urban Trees + Soils
Annapolis, MD

Remediating Compacted Soils Compromised by Urban Construction Webinar

Landscape architects frequently either work with sites that have reasonably good soil that is then graded and compacted during construction, or work on sites where previous development has compacted and degraded the soil. Often the response is to bring in new soils to correct the problem. But there are lower cost, more sustainable options



to work with the existing mineral resource at the site. TREE Fund supported researcher Dr. Nina Bassuk will present options to improve degraded and

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Remediating Compacted Soils Compromised by Urban Construction Webinar continued from page 1



Dr. Nina Bassuk
Cornell University

compacted soil. This webinar will give landscape architects new tools to increase sustainability and improve plant growth.

If you are not acquainted with Dr. Nina Bassuk's work, she has been a leader in the science of trees and soils for over 40 years. Professor Bassuk is the author of numerous articles and research papers that have guided the evolution of best practices in the landscape industry.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. Mountain

Earn 1.0 CEU from ISA, SAF, NALP or LACES for live broadcast. Space is limited so be sure to sign up early! Visit treefund.org to register or click [here](#).

Tree and Soil Research Best Practices



Your tree planting specifications say take off the wire basket and roll down the burlap. The contractor says this is bad practice and they won't guarantee the trees if forced to comply. The owner says they don't care, just get the project completed. What do you do? On this and many questions that drive decisions in a landscape architectural practice, science is slowly catching up with the myths of practice. Andrew Koeser and a team of researchers funded by a TREE Fund grant found that there was little difference in the long-term tree stress and growth regardless of full, partial or no removal of wire baskets and burlap. The study validates other previous research.

While not the last word on this subject, the study also finds that there are other considerations such as an increased need to stake trees with greater amounts of packaging removal, need to remove multiple layers of burlap and ropes and considerations for circling roots within layers of burlap. The study examined only natural fiber ropes and burlap. Synthetic materials were not studied.

A single study does not make definitive conclusions. Finding studies that validate other research, such as was done in the Koeser study*, increases reliability of conclusions. Industry 'best practices' evolve from the combination of science and experience. Designers need to rely on multiple studies but are not well trained to interpret scientific papers or understand subtle nuances in the findings and limitations inherent in all research. TREE Fund through its webinars and educational outreach can guide practitioners in the evolution of best practices. TREE

Fund's **Tree and Soil Research Fund** is an important step in this process, undertaking research focused on the needs of landscape architects.

BTW, your contractor was mostly correct, if you did not specify staking the tree, removing the basket may be a problem later with tree stability but not a problem if you do stake. Rolling the burlap down into the soil around the tree would reduce root development into the adjacent soil.

*Koeser, Andrew, et al. (2015), "Impacts of Wire Basket Retention and Removal on Planting Time, Root-Ball Condition, and Early Growth of *Acer platanoides* and *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*," *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* 41(1): 18–25. Click [here](#) to read.



James Urban,
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Annapolis, MD



Support the Tree and Soil Research Fund

If you are interested in supporting the science to produce better specifications and details for trees and soil, please support building **TREE Fund's Tree and Soil Research Fund!**

Here are some ways you can do this:

DONATE:

- Donate directly to the **Tree and Soil Research Fund** by visiting TREE Fund's website or click [here](#).
- Visit the Tour des Trees page on TREE Fund's website or click [here](#) to donate to TEAM ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) riders in TREE Fund's annual ride for research, the Tour des Trees. This year's event is held from September 16-20 starting and ending in Nashville, TN, and riding 433 miles over 5 days. **Be sure to indicate the donation is for the Tree and Soil Research Fund or TSR Fund.**

RIDE THE TOUR DES TREES:

- Become a rider on TEAM ASLA. Ride the entire 5 days or just a few days. There are only a few spots left on the Tour, and registration closes on July 1, so [sign up](#) soon if you are interested in joining TEAM ASLA.
- Become a **virtual rider** on TEAM ASLA. You can ride at home and raise money for TEAM ASLA. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Visit the Tour des Trees page on our website or contact team leader, [David Gorden, ASLA](#), or [Maggie Harthoorn](#) to learn more about TEAM ASLA and the Tour des Trees 2019.



HELP BUILD OUR NETWORK:

Help build our list of supporters by getting your colleagues, friends and clients to join our Tree and Soil Research Fund mailing list and also encourage them to make a gift to our fund. Contact [Jim Urban, FASLA](#) or [Monika Otting](#) for more information.

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