

Rachel Holmes is the Urban Forestry Strategist for North America Cities at The Nature Conservancy. She supports urban forestry projects and programs throughout the North America Region by providing strategic and technical support to Conservancy colleagues engaging in urban greening, especially through forestry. She also provides strategic guidance on urban forestry priorities for the organization and leads three strategic initiatives in partnership with the USDA Forest Service relating to urban forest health and human health. Rachel represents the Conservancy on the [Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition](#), for which she currently serves as Vice Chair. Prior to joining the Conservancy, Rachel served as an urban forester and Volunteer Coordinator for the State of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and designed and created urban forestry workforce development programming for Groundwork Bridgeport and Solar Youth, both in Connecticut. Rachel holds a Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University, a Master of Divinity from the Yale Divinity School and a Master of Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She is proud to be a wildland firefighter and a professional Flamenco dancer.