

UFMP Team Bios

Peter Duinker

Dr. Duinker is Professor and Director of the School for Resource and Environmental Studies in the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University. He is also Associate Dean Research for the Faculty.

Dr. Duinker is a scholar of forest management and policy, having studied these themes across Canada and in Europe. He specializes in environmental assessment, biodiversity conservation, public-engagement processes, climate change, and forest-management systems.

Dr. Duinker helped prepare the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan. He and his graduate students are studying various aspects of urban sustainable forest management, with a particular focus on forest sustainability in the face of climate change.

Gary Davidson

Gary is a graduate student enrolled in the Masters of Resource and Environmental Management program at Dalhousie University. His interest in environmental management goes back to his undergraduate education, where he studied biology at Dalhousie University.

Gary's primary research interests lie in climate change, environmental impact assessment, and renewable energies. He is currently working on two projects over the summer. He is involved with the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan for HRM, and he is also examining climate change impacts on coastal communities in Nova Scotia. His current research will be used to create a framework for developing municipalities that are more resilient to a changing climate.

Justin Hack

Justin Hack has a strong interest in environmental management and ecosystem health. He is pursuing a career that will enable him to develop and implement practical solutions related to managing ecosystems and resources, addressing the cumulative effects of human activities on our natural ecosystems. The urban forest is one of these resources that Justin finds important.

Justin has a strong scientific background as he completed a Bachelors of Science, Honours Biology from Queen's University. Currently he is finishing his Master's at Dalhousie in Resource and Environmental Management, and he is delighted to contribute to and help author HRM's Urban Forest Master Plan.

Maliheh Rostami

Maliheh Rostami is a Masters of Environmental Studies candidate at School for Resources and Environmental studies, Dalhousie University. She enrolled in this program because of her interest to research urban forests, and has been working with Dr. Peter Duinker since September 2009 on her thesis, "Tree species selection for the Halifax urban forest under a changing climate".

Prior to coming to Canada Maliheh completed an undergraduate degree at the University of Tehran, Iran, where she studied Landscape Horticulture and graduated in 2008. Maliheh spent her undergraduate Internship working with Tehran's Municipality, on urban park design.

Jen Ross

Jen Ross is a Graduate student at the School for Resource and Environmental Studies taking a Masters of Resource and Environmental Management. With a Bachelors degree from Saint Francis Xavier University in the Interdisciplinary Studies of Aquatic Resources, Jen has always studied both the ecological and social dimensions of resource management.

Jen's primary interests lie in conservation, public participation, and environmental education. This summer Jen is an Intern under Dr. Duinker working on the UFMP, where her focus is on community engagement opportunities with the UFMP.

Alison Walsh

Alison is a graduate student at the School for Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University. Under the supervision of Dr. Peter Duinker, Alison is conducting a case study on the carbon sequestration and storage potential of Burnside Industrial Park's urban forest. Through her research, Alison hopes to expose industrial parks as ideal opportunities for urban forest development.

Before coming to Dalhousie, Alison studied Environmental Horticulture at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) in Truro, NS. It was during her years at NSAC, and experience in the field collecting data for the Urban Forest Master Plan, that she established a keen interest in urban forest issues, particularly those associated with urban development patterns.