

Burnell Fischer, School of Public and Environmental Affairs



[Burnell “Burney” Fischer](#) (PhD Purdue University, 1974) is Clinical Professor and Director, Undergraduate Programs in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is affiliate faculty member and chair of the Workshop Advisory Council in the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at IUB as well as an adjunct professor at Purdue. His research interests are in forestry, particularly urban forest management. He is interested in community and urban forest management practices and issues, and how collaboration plays a role in sustaining urban forests, particularly at the neighborhood or sub-municipal level. He teaches courses in urban forest management and urban ecology, co-teaches the IFRI course with Catherine Tucker and Elinor Ostrom, and in the recent past has taught courses in sustainable forestry as well as the SPEA introductory course in environmental management “Environment and People.”

Dr. Fischer is currently funded on research projects from the US Forest Service (Evaluation of the USFS State & Private Forestry Redesign Program), Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the City of Bloomington, IN (Urban Forestry Resources and Institutions Research Program; Partnering for the Urban Forest), and the National Science Foundation (Tom Evans PI, Dynamics of Coupled Social-Ecological Systems: Modeling Land-Use Decision Making and Policy Impact). Also, Dr. Fischer is a co-PI on four internal IUB seed grants regarding sustainability studies of urban forests (with Sarah Mincey and Rich Thurau), institutional dynamics on urban tree canopy cover (with Tom Evans), comparing the design and outcomes of competitive funding program in federal natural resources agencies (with Sergio Fernandez), and developing local institutional architecture for REDD+ (with Elinor Ostrom and Michael McGinnis).

Dr. Fischer was the State Forester and Director, Indiana Division of Forestry, from 1990–2005. In that leadership role, he managed a state agency of 160+ full-time employees with a \$20+ million biannual budget. The Division of Forestry was involved in all state forestry issues regarding public and private lands. While state forester, he was elected president of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) in 2003–04, represented the NASF on the USDA National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (2000–03), and served on numerous other committees at the state, regional, and national level. Prior to serving as state forester, he was a

professor and extension forester at Purdue University (1977–1990) and co-coordinator of the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program (1985–89).

Dr. Fischer continues to be active in a wide range of organizations. He is a vice president and board member of the Indiana Urban Forest Council (statewide nonprofit for urban forestry for Indiana), board member of the national Alliance for Community Trees (national organization uniting city and regional urban forestry nonprofits), member of the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA committee, and president of the National Association of State Foresters' Foundation.