



## Tree transpiration and urban temperatures: current understanding, implications, and future research directions

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**Abstract**

Expansion of urban tree canopy is a commonly proposed nature-based solution to combat excess urban heat. The influence trees have on urban climates via shading is driven by morphological characteristics of trees, while tree transpiration is predominantly a physiological process dependent on environmental conditions and the built environment. The heterogeneous nature of urban landscapes, unique tree species assemblages, and land management decisions make it difficult to predict the magnitude and direction of cooling by transpiration. Here we synthesize the emerging literature on the mechanistic controls on urban tree transpiration. We present a case study which illustrates the relationship between transpiration (using sap flow data) and urban temperatures. We examine the potential feedbacks between urban canopy, the built environment, and climate with a focus on extreme heat events. Finally, we present modeled data demonstrating the influence of transpiration on temperatures with shifts in canopy extent and irrigation during a heat wave.

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3 36 Cities across the world are pledging to uphold the Paris Agreement goals to  
4 37 reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Rosenzweig et al. 2010) with the creation of climate  
5 38 action plans, many of which include efforts to increase tree canopy cover as a nature-  
6 39 based solution (Lamb et al. 2019; Anderson et al. 2019). Trees provide a suite of  
7 40 essential ecosystem services; their ability to cool local air temperatures improves  
8 41 human health and reduces building energy demands (Pataki et al. 2011a), both of which  
9 42 are key to cities in the era of climate change. Most cities experience the urban heat  
10 43 island (UHI) effect, wherein the air temperatures of the urban core are warmer ( $\approx 1\text{--}3^{\circ}\text{C}$ )  
11 44 than the surrounding areas (Oke et al. 2017). The impacts of increased frequency,  
12 45 intensity, and duration of heat waves under a warming urban climate presents a major  
13 46 public health concern (IPCC, 2012; Krayenhoff et al. 2018; Li and Bou-Zeid 2013).  
14 47 Extreme heat events are currently the number one cause of weather-related deaths in  
15 48 the United States (Weinberger et al. 2017). As urban air temperatures rise there is an  
16 49 urgent need for an improved mechanistic understanding of the mitigation potential of  
17 50 urban tree canopy on air and surface temperatures to help inform local governments  
18 51 establishing climate action plans (Zhou et al. 2019).

19 52 The cooling effects of tree canopies have been widely recognized (Bowler et al.  
20 53 2010; Rahman et al. 2020). Trees cool the environment directly via two primary  
21 54 mechanisms. First, trees reduce surface temperatures by blocking incoming daytime  
22 55 solar radiation from reaching the ground, such as pavement, which have high-heat  
23 56 absorption capacity (or surface storage;  $Q_s$ ; Fig. 1). In turn, this shading results in less  
24 57 absorption and storage of incoming short-wave radiation by surfaces and the re-  
25 58 emission of long-wave radiation from surfaces to the atmosphere, thereby lowering local  
26 59 air temperatures. Studies show that tree shade can result in reductions of short-wave  
27 60 radiation reaching the surface by 60–90% with upwards of  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  differences in surface  
28 61 temperatures between shaded areas and sunny asphalt areas (Rahman et al. 2020;  
29 62 Bowler et al. 2010). The impact shading can have on surface temperatures is shown to  
30 63 vary with the underlying surface type. For example, for every unit of canopy leaf area  
31 64 index (LAI) a grass surface was cooled by  $1.2\text{--}3^{\circ}\text{C}$ , while an asphalt surface was cooled  
32 65 by  $5\text{--}6^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Gillner et al. 2015; Harden and Jensen 2007). Collectively, studies show that  
33 66 the influence of tree shading is strongly controlled by tree morphological characteristics  
34 67 such as canopy size, shape, and structure (McPherson et al. 2018; Rahman et al. 2015;  
35 68 Smithers et al. 2018; Rahman et al. 2020). However, tree canopy can also raise night-  
36 69 time air temperatures compared to identical areas without them because tree canopy  
37 70 can trap long-wave radiation in the atmosphere under the canopy (Ziter et al. 2019).  
38 71 The relationship between air temperature and the temperature of the canopy itself is  
39 72 also species dependent (Leuzinger et al. 2009). Datasets exist that report  
40 73 morphological characteristics that influence shading influence for popular urban tree  
41 74 species (McPherson et al. 2018; Rahman et al. 2020) and some urban climate models  
42 75 have introduced parameterization to include such effects (Grimmond et al. 2010).

43 76 Second, trees cool the environment by the process of transpiration, wherein  
44 77 water is taken up by tree roots, moved through the stem, and then evaporates through  
45 78 leaf stomates. The term evapotranspiration includes both transpiration and the  
46 79 evaporation of water from all urban surfaces (e.g. leaf surfaces, lakes, and/or soil  
47 80 surfaces). The energy (i.e., latent heat) used to evaporate water transpired by trees  
48 81 consumes heat energy (i.e., sensible heat) in the local environment that would

otherwise raise air temperature, and instead cools leaf surfaces and nearby air temperatures by advection. In Los Angeles, irrigated street trees collectively moved to the atmosphere upwards of 30 million gallons of water per day (Pataki et al. 2011b), shifting the local energy balance toward greater latent than sensible heat fluxes (or conductive heat flux), cooling the local and regional air temperatures (see Fig. 1 for more details). The impact of transpiration on air temperatures has been shown to vary between 1-8°C (Georgi et al. 2006; Rahman et al. 2017). Similar to shading, the extent of cooling provided by transpiration is strongly influenced by morphological characteristics of trees, however, transpiration is also influenced by physiological characteristics such as species level differences in wood anatomy, water use efficiency (WUE, the ratio of C uptake via photosynthesis relative to the amount of water lost via transpiration), and the regulation of stomatal conductance in response to environmental conditions and the built environment. The suite of physiological responses of transpiration in urban environments is more difficult to quantify than morphological characteristics, and until recently there has been a paucity of data examining the eco-physiological controls on urban tree transpiration.

Additionally, trees can cool local air temperatures indirectly by reducing human dependence on and use of cooling services. Air conditioners emit waste heat to the outdoor environment in the short-term (Stratopoulos et al. 2018; Salamanca et al. 2014) and increase temperatures in the long-term through emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases (Pataki et al. 2011a; de Munck et al. 2012). Globally, cities consume over 75% of the world's energy, accounting for more than 70% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and energy consumption by cities is expected to increase 25-58% by 2050 due to the projected rapid increases in urban populations and climate warming (van Ruijven et al. 2019). Rarely, however, have the dynamic feedbacks between cooling services, urban trees, and local meteorological conditions been examined jointly, especially during extreme heat events when it matters the most for human health.

Investigations on the cooling influence of urban trees have focused primarily on the joint influence of shading and transpiration (Bowler et al. 2010; Shashua-Bar et al. 2009; Tan et al. 2018; Rahman et al. 2019). This focus is in part due to the difficulties in disentangling empirically the effects of shading and transpiration on urban temperatures without direct measures of tree transpiration, which are rare (Rahman et al. 2020). In heterogeneous urban areas where the assumptions of tower-based approaches for quantifying evapotranspiration are often violated, tree-based sensors can be used to track the movement of water by individual trees (known as sap flow sensors) and used to quantify tree transpiration. Until recently, there has been a paucity of data on urban transpiration using ground-based sensors. Consequently, studies attempting to quantify the role of transpiration in urban environments have assumed similar eco-physiological responses as those observed in rural areas (Litvak et al. 2017), preventing our full understanding of the mechanistic drivers that influence the cooling influence trees can have across different urban environments.

The extent to which urban trees can mitigate excess urban heat is largely influenced by how tree growth effects on shading and transpiration respond to unique urban environments and the feedbacks between trees and urban form (the physical characteristics that make up the built environment). Our understanding of urban forest

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3 128 structure and function, however, has been largely based on the translation of  
4 129 observations from well-studied rural, intact forests to urban areas with similar climatic  
5 130 and tree species composition (Pataki et al. 2011a). This approach may be inappropriate  
6 131 due to the unique environments created by urban areas, influencing the ability of  
7 132 different patches of urban vegetation to perform ecosystem functions, particularly the  
8 133 transpiration of water (Pataki et al. 2011b). For example, urban areas are often a  
9 134 patchwork of impervious surfaces and buildings that vary in their heat capacity, waste  
10 135 heat production, and influence on the channeling of air flow. The urban form and the  
11 136 corresponding local management decisions on trees (i.e. pruning, irrigation, fertilization,  
12 137 and soil structure) result in variable spatial extents of urban tree canopies that often  
13 138 tightly overlap and interact with the built environment. Furthermore, there are often  
14 139 unique species assemblages in urban areas that lack non-urban analogs.  
15 140 Consequently, these unique urban features make it difficult to predict the response of  
16 141 urban trees based on the functioning of trees in nearby rural counterparts (Ziter et al.  
17 142 2019; Trlica et al. 2020; Jenerette et al. 2016).

18 143 Here, we synthesize the published literature on the influence of urban trees to  
19 144 cool local temperatures via transpiration. In particular, we compiled the existing  
20 145 literature using ground-based approaches to quantify urban tree transpiration rates and  
21 146 identify the key mechanistic drivers influencing the magnitude and direction of the  
22 147 cooling effect of transpiration in urban environments. We present new empirical sap flow  
23 148 data that demonstrates the relationship between tree transpiration and urban  
24 149 temperatures. We demonstrate how these tree-level measurements can be related to  
25 150 changes in local climate conditions by utilizing urban canopy models that parameterize  
26 151 the unique aerodynamic features and full energy balance of the urban system. In doing  
27 152 so, we discuss the improvements needed in urban canopy models to more realistically  
28 153 incorporate the drivers of urban tree transpiration. Finally, we examine the potential  
29 154 feedbacks between urban tree canopies, the built environment, and climate with a focus  
30 155 on extreme heat events. In doing so, we identify key areas of future research needed to  
31 156 help optimize climate actions plans that incorporate tree canopies and transpiration to  
32 157 mitigate urban heat effects.

### 33 158 **Quantification of urban tree transpiration**

34 159 Quantifying rates of urban transpiration can help to inform our understanding of  
35 160 the role this process has on urban temperatures and the mechanistic drivers. By  
36 161 identifying the eco-physiological response of transpiration rates to different urban  
37 162 environments we can help guide the selection of tree species during planting initiatives  
38 163 and conservation efforts that aim to maximize the cooling influence trees have in cities.  
39 164 Classically, evapotranspiration is quantified using tower-based approaches (e.g. eddy  
40 165 covariance), however, these approaches are often challenging to deploy in urban areas  
41 166 because the heterogeneous terrain of urban areas often violates the methodological  
42 167 assumptions. Ground-based estimates of tree transpiration use sap flow sensors that  
43 168 estimate in real-time the movement of water in an individual tree stem. Measurements  
44 169 of sap flow can act as a proxy for transpiration or can be used in conjunction with  
45 170 estimates of sapwood area (the total area of hydraulically conductive tissue in a tree  
46 171 stem) to estimate rates of transpiration (Pataki et al. 2011b). Sap flow sensors allow for  
47 172 both fine spatial and temporal resolution of transpiration measurements and the study of  
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3 174 the dynamic response of trees to their unique urban environments. In order to translate  
4 measures of transpiration into corresponding cooling effect, one of two approaches can  
5 be used. First, the total water loss determined by measures of transpiration can be  
6 multiplied by the latent heat of evaporation to compute the energy loss (units of  $W\ m^{-2}$ )  
7 due to latent heat exchange and corresponding reductions in convection. Second, urban  
8 canopy models that couple the mechanistic understandings of transpiration with the  
9 unique aerodynamic features and full energy balance of the urban system can be used  
10 to quantify shifts in the energy budget and impacts on surface and/or air temperatures.  
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13 In the past decade, there has been a growth in the number of studies examining  
14 transpiration in urban trees using sap flow sensors. As of 2010 there had only been five  
15 studies to conduct tree-level estimates of urban transpiration (see Supplemental Table 1  
16 for references). Using a Web of Science search on March 3, 2020 and the key words  
17 “sap flow”, “sap flux”, “transpiration”, and “urban”, we found a total of 40 studies to date  
18 in urban or suburban locales that examine urban tree transpiration using sap flow  
19 sensors. Of these studies, the most commonly cited motivation for these studies was to  
20 examine the cooling influence of trees (30% of studies) followed by the examination of  
21 water use by urban trees (32.5% of studies). The remaining studies cited a general  
22 understanding of ecosystem services (20% of studies), pollution uptake (7.5% of  
23 studies), storm water mitigation (7.5% of studies) or carbon uptake (2.5% of studies) as  
24 the studies motivation. The most commonly studied forest type was park trees  
25 representing 47.5% of the studies. Forest patches and street trees received similar  
26 attention among the 40 studies (each representing 27.5% of the studies), with a smaller  
27 number of studies conducted on roof top gardens (5% of studies) or at local urban  
28 nurseries (5% of studies). The majority of studies occurred in temperate climates  
29 ( $n=31$ ), followed by subtropical ( $n=7$ ), tropical ( $n=1$ ) and boreal ( $n=1$ ) climates. Studies  
30 in mesic environments comprised 72% of the studies and occurred in Europe ( $n=12$ ),  
31 Asia ( $n=9$ ), United States ( $n=5$ ) and Australia ( $n=1$ ). The studies in arid or semi-arid  
32 environments occurred in the United States ( $n=7$ ), Mexico ( $n=1$ ), and Asia ( $n=4$ ). There  
33 is a lack of studies in Africa and South America. Below we first present empirical lines of  
34 evidence on the cooling influence trees can have on urban climates, and then  
35 synthesize the literature on the influence of urban environments on tree transpiration.  
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#### 206 **Empirical evidence for the cooling influence of trees**

41 Classically, the cooling influence of trees has been characterized by the  
42 comparison of urban temperatures to those in nearby rural ones. Urban temperatures  
43 are most commonly quantified as the surface or ‘skin’ of the urban landscape using  
44 remote sensing products that often have a resolution of  $> 30$  meters. In contrast, air  
45 temperatures are measured by the deployment of metrological instruments that tend to  
46 have less continuous coverage across the landscape. The finer spatial resolution of  
47 ground-based approaches better captures the heterogeneity in local temperatures,  
48 which are more relevant to human thermal comfort, than remote sensing data products.  
49 Air temperature of cities is on average  $\approx 1\text{--}3^{\circ}\text{C}$  hotter than surrounding rural areas during  
50 the daytime, and upwards of  $12^{\circ}\text{C}$  hotter at night, with even larger differences in surface  
51 temperatures (Oke et al. 2017). This UHI effect is driven primarily by differences in the  
52 evaporation of water between urban and rural areas. These differences in evaporation  
53 are due to the decrease in vegetation, as well as the increase in impervious area of  
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3 220 cities that reduce water availability by lowering water infiltration rates and increasing  
4 221 water runoff (Li et al. 2019). Cities in arid climates show stronger correlations between  
5 222 transpiration and the magnitude of the heat island effect compared to cities in tropical  
6 223 regions (Manoli et al. 2019). The UHI is also driven by the increase in anthropogenic  
7 224 sources of waste heat in cities, the increased surface storage of heat in impervious  
8 225 surfaces that have lower albedos (i.e. pavement, concrete, etc.), and re-radiation of  
9 226 heat from these high-heat capacity surfaces. The UHI effect intensifies with the  
10 227 occurrence of heat waves (Li and Bou-Zeid, 2013; Schatz and Kucharik, 2015), which  
11 228 are predicted to increase in magnitude and duration as the climate continues to warm  
12 229 (IPCC, 2012).

13 230 Within city boundaries, the negative correlation between tree canopy extent and  
14 231 urban air or land surface (i.e., ground or pavement) temperatures is often shown  
15 232 empirically on small-scales with studies comparing urban park(s) to a nearby non-green  
16 233 areas(s). These studies are still rare (< 40 studies; Bowler et al. 2010) and tend to have  
17 234 low replication both in space and time, meaning that often a single park is examined,  
18 235 predominantly in temperate regions, and over the course of a single day. On larger-  
19 236 scales (> 30 m resolution), satellite data have been used to examine the relationship  
20 237 between urban surface temperatures and canopy extent, using either metrics of  
21 238 greenness or land use classifications (Wang et al. 2017). In Fig.2, an example of this  
22 239 type of analysis is shown for Arlington, Massachusetts, illustrating the strong negative  
23 240 correlation between canopy extent and urban surface temperatures at a resolution of 30  
24 241 meters. Collectively, these studies demonstrate the significant cooling influence of  
25 242 vegetation in cities showing a reduction in air temperatures by 0.5 - 9°C (Turner-Skoff  
26 243 and Cavender 2019) and upwards of 20°C for surface temperatures (Bowler et al.  
27 244 2010).

28 245 While the UHI effect is well documented (Oke et al. 2017), there are far fewer  
29 246 studies on the heterogeneity of temperatures (either air or surface) within cities at the  
30 247 small spatial scales experienced by humans and that are needed to address public  
31 248 health concerns for climate change adaptation. Furthermore, few studies collect the  
32 249 necessary data to disentangle the effects of shading versus transpiration on local air  
33 250 and surface temperatures (except see Rahman et al. 2019; Tan et al. 2018). The few  
34 251 studies that exist at small spatial scales, however, are informative. Using a mounting  
35 252 sensor system on a bicycle that quantified air temperatures and humidity, Ziter et al.  
36 253 (2019) mapped variations on small spatial scales (10 -100 meters) along regular  
37 254 transects in the city throughout the summer of 2016 in Madison, Wisconsin. While they  
38 255 found a negative relationship between ground level air temperatures and canopy extent,  
39 256 this relationship was non-linear. Substantially greater cooling impacts were observed  
40 257 when canopy cover exceeded 40% for a given area examined which ranged from 10 –  
41 258 100 meters. Furthermore, Ziter et al. (2019) and others (Fig. 2; Wang et al. 2017) have  
42 259 shown that cities are more of a heat “archipelago” than a heat “island,” especially during  
43 260 extreme heat events, meaning intra-urban air temperature variations are often of  
44 261 comparable or greater magnitude than the air temperature differences observed  
45 262 between adjacent urban and rural locales (Ziter et al. 2019).

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47 264 **Bio-physical drivers of urban transpiration rates**

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3 265 Under average climatic conditions, the drivers that influence transpiration are  
4 similar to those that influence photosynthesis due to the strong coupling between these  
5 two plant processes. At the leaf level, transpiration rates are controlled by stomatal  
6 conductance, or gas exchange between leaves and the surrounding air. Plants regulate  
7 their stomatal conductance in response to light levels, atmospheric demand for water  
8 (i.e., vapor pressure deficit), water and nutrient availability, wind, and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
9 concentrations (Drake et al. 2018; McCarthy et al. 2011; Teskey et al. 2014).  
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12 The biophysical factors that affect rates of transpiration vary between rural and  
13 urban environments, as well as across the urban landscape. For example, the  
14 combination of higher ambient CO<sub>2</sub> (street level typically > 500 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>; Brondfield et  
15 al. 2012), greater nutrient availability (via atmospheric deposition and/or fertilizer  
16 application; Decina et al. 2017, Rao et al. 2013), greater water availability (via  
17 intentional irrigation or unintentional leaking water pipes; Randrup et al. 2001; Stål  
18 1998), warmer air temperatures (Zipper et al. 2017), longer growing seasons, and  
19 higher light availability (due to reduced competition) can together make urban areas an  
20 “oasis” for trees (Melaas et al. 2016). Conversely, urban areas can also contain  
21 stressful environments that reduce rates of growth and transpiration and hence the  
22 cooling effects of urban trees. Higher light availability, air temperatures that exceed  
23 optimal range for photosynthesis, exposure to invasive pests, limited water availability  
24 (soil desiccation and/or lack of irrigation) and rooting depth restrictions can act to reduce  
25 tree growth and transpiration rates (Wang et al. 2017; Roman and Scatena 2011;  
26 Rahman et al. 2011). Furthermore, larger trees can encounter unique risk due to their  
27 size including excessive pruning, limited root space, and direct removal due to hazard  
28 risk (Roman and Scatena 2011; Stål 1998).  
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31 As a result of the “urban oasis” some urban trees grow faster and store more  
32 carbon (C) than nearby rural forests (Smith et al. 2019; McCarthy et al. 2011; Trlica et  
33 al. 2020). Smith et al. (2019) observed that growth rates of street trees in Boston,  
34 Massachusetts, were nearly four times higher than their rural counterparts. Higher  
35 growth rates in urban forests can affect rates of transpiration, but this is modulated by  
36 the tree’s WUE. While there is a positive correlation between growth and transpiration  
37 rates of urban trees, it is weaker than expected with significant variation due to  
38 differences among species and/or cultivars and conditions of different planting locations  
39 (McCarthy et al. 2011; Stratópoulos et al. 2018, Lahr et al. 2018). For example, while  
40 many tree species examined by McCarthy et al. (2011) had corresponding increases in  
41 growth rates and water use, some species either had high growth rates but low water  
42 use, or low growth rates with high water use, illustrating the importance of  
43 understanding species level differences in strategies deployed to maintain WUE by  
44 trees (McCarthy et al. 2011).  
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47 Conversely, higher urban air temperatures and sun exposure can stress trees  
48 with negative impacts on their growth and transpiration rates. Reinmann and Hutyra  
49 (2017) found that while non-irrigated temperate urban forest edges had an enhanced  
50 rate of forest growth compared to urban forest interiors (89% increase within 10 meters  
51 of forest edge), the magnitude of this edge growth enhancement declined strongly with  
52 heat stress. Heat stress alone explained over 30% of the inter-annual variability in forest  
53 growth rate over a two-decade period.  
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3 310 In addition to higher heat loads, urban environments experience additional  
4 311 stressors that impact plant functions including higher soil salinity from the addition of  
5 312 road salts, acidic soil conditions, and heavy metal toxicity (Pickett and Cadenasso  
6 313 2009). The maximal growth of urban trees can be limited by the soil space available for  
7 314 them to grow, especially trees in densely developed areas (Quigley 2004). These  
8 315 stressors can be particularly harsh for young trees without well-developed root systems  
9 316 and resource reserves. Young urban trees have high mortality with an average lifespan  
10 317 of a street tree being 13-20 years, compared to > 100 years in many rural forest trees  
11 318 (Roman and Scatena 2011). This high mortality rate of young urban trees is not well  
12 319 understood, but is likely a consequence of urban stressors described above as well as a  
13 320 variety of urban activities that directly damage trees. Despite recent initiatives to  
14 321 increase canopy cover in cities across the United States, 44 states have had a net loss  
15 322 in tree cover in urban areas between 2009 and 2014 (Nowak and Greenfield 2018).  
16 323 While the exact reasons for these declines in canopy cover are still under investigation,  
17 324 studies suggest that this loss is due to direct removal of trees with changes in land use  
18 325 and the numerous stressors described above that lead to mortality of young and old  
19 326 trees in urban environments (Nowak and Greenfield 2018; Smith et al. 2019; Nowak  
20 327 and Greenfield 2012; Ossola and Hopton 2018).  
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23 330 **Hydraulic strategies of urban trees**

24 331 In cities, human amendments of nutrients, water, and other unique urban  
25 332 conditions allow for a wide-variety of native and non-native tree species to exist with a  
26 333 diverse array of hydraulic strategies. This pattern is especially true in cities that have  
27 334 warmer climates (Jenerette et al. 2016). In many cases, urban tree species experience  
28 335 environmental conditions for which there is no analog in their native range or in rural  
29 336 environments. This difference between urban and rural ecosystems makes it difficult to  
30 337 estimate rates of transpiration in urban trees without direct studies of trees in urban  
31 338 environments (Litvak et al. 2017; McCarthy and Pataki 2010). For example, tree species  
32 339 from arid climates typically have higher WUE, maintained by lower overall rates of  
33 340 transpiration than temperate or riparian species; however, in well-irrigated urban  
34 341 landscapes for the same set of species, the opposite has been observed (Goedhart and  
35 342 Pataki 2012).

36 343 Despite the unique conditions that urban trees experience, we are aware of only  
37 344 one study that examined how biophysical factors influence transpiration rates of  
38 345 different urban tree species compared to rural conditions. In Los Angeles, California,  
39 346 McCarthy and Pataki (2010) compared rates of transpiration for the native tree species  
40 347 American Sycamore (*Platanus racemose*) and non-native Canary Pine (*Pinus*  
41 348 *canariensis*), each growing in various urban environments and in nearby rural locales.  
42 349 They found considerable site-to-site and seasonal variability in transpiration rates, with  
43 350 urban street trees having the highest rates of transpiration, in particular the riparian  
44 351 species, *P. racemose*. The difference in transpiration rates by planting location was  
45 352 driven by water stress in the case of *P. canariensis* and by both water and nutrient  
46 353 availability in the case of the riparian tree species *P. racemose*.

47 354 We compared rates of sap flow for sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) trees growing  
48 355 in the city of Boston, Massachusetts to a rural forest in Woodstock, New Hampshire  
49 356 (Hubbard Brook, a distance of ~125 miles from Boston; Fig. 3). The urban tree (n= 1  
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356 tree) grew in a well-lit and well-irrigated backyard, while the rural trees (n= 10 trees)  
357 were canopy trees in an intact forest stand. In the city of Boston the majority of trees are  
358 grown in the open with high light conditions, ~85% of the cities' canopy area located  
359 within 10 m of a forest edge (Trlica et al. 2020). The urban sap flow data are only  
360 illustrative as a single tree was measured every 15 minutes for a full growing season,  
361 but the data show clear correlations between sap flow and atmospheric drivers. The  
362 urban tree had a stronger relationship between sap flow rates and both air temperatures  
363 or atmospheric aridity (shown by the metric vapor pressure deficit or VPD;  $R^2 = 0.25$ ,  
364  $p < 0.0001$  for temperature;  $R^2 = 0.63$ ,  $p < 0.0001$  for VPD) compared to the rural trees ( $R^2$   
365 = 0.02,  $p = 0.02$  for temperature;  $R^2 = 0.04$ ,  $p < 0.001$  for VPD). The corresponding  
366 radiation data showed that the weak relationships at the rural site between sap flow and  
367 atmospheric conditions (either temperature or VPD) were not explained by differences  
368 in cloud coverage between the two sites. We hypothesize that the differences in trends  
369 between sap flow and atmospheric conditions between urban and rural environments  
370 are likely driven by the lower water availability, nutrient resources, and lower air  
371 temperatures observed at the rural site (Harrison et al. *In press*) compared to the urban  
372 site (Jones et al. *In press*). Collectively, our case study and the one by McCarthy and  
373 Pataki (2010) raise doubt as to the validity of assumption that at a given atmospheric  
374 aridity (i.e., VPD), temperature, and solar radiation, urban trees have similar  
375 transpiration rates as rural trees. Rather, the unique conditions and responses of  
376 different tree species to urban environments can result in large differences in  
377 anticipated transpiration rates.

378 Hydraulic strategies deployed by different tree species or genotypes (Lahr et al.  
379 2018) influence rates of transpiration, WUE, and responses to environmental conditions  
380 (Bush et al. 2008; McCarthy et al. 2011; Rahman et al. 2019). In particular, the woody  
381 architecture of sapwood influences a tree's hydraulic strategies. The size and location of  
382 of water-carrying vessels within the sapwood varies by species. The architecture of  
383 sapwood in most angiosperms can be categorized as either ring-porous, where  
384 sapwood has a bimodal distribution of small and large vessels that carry water, or  
385 diffuse-porous, where sapwood has a uniform distribution of vessels that carry water.  
386 Rahman et al. (2019) found through a common garden experiment of two commonly  
387 planted urban tree species, rates of transpiration were higher in the diffuse-porous  
388 species Linden (*Tilia*) than in the more water use efficient and ring-porous species Black  
389 Locust (*Robinia*). Similarly, in the arid cities of Los Angeles, California and Salt Lake  
390 City, Utah, it was found that for well-irrigated urban trees, the response of transpiration  
391 rates to changes in the aridity of the atmosphere (vapor pressure deficit ranged from 0-5  
392 kPa) varied based on the type of hydraulic architecture of the sapwood (Bush et al.  
393 2008; Litvak et al. 2012). For example, transpiration rates of diffuse-porous species  
394 varied linearly with increases in atmospheric aridity, as theory would expect under well-  
395 irrigated conditions. In contrast, tree species with ring-porous sapwood had a non-linear  
396 response of transpiration rates to increases in atmospheric aridity. This pattern,  
397 however, is in contrast to observations of ring- versus diffuse- porous species studied in  
398 rural forests under drought conditions (Roman et al. 2015), illustrating the need for  
399 similar studies in urban environments.

#### 400 **Responses of transpiration rates to heat waves**

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3 402 Tree responses to heat waves are poorly studied especially in cities, but can  
4 403 have significant impacts on urban climatic conditions (Fig. 4). Trees can acclimate to  
5 404 gradual increases in air temperature with increases in the optimal temperature of  
6 405 photosynthesis and WUE. It is unknown whether this acclimation can occur on time  
7 406 scales of days that are associated with heat waves. Evidence suggests that in some  
8 407 cases observations of how trees acclimate to normal seasonal temperature changes  
9 408 can be used to predict their responses to climate change (Aspinwall et al. 2016). Other  
10 409 models assume that photosynthesis and transpiration decline or stop at extreme  
11 410 temperatures experienced during heat waves (Teskey et al. 2014) and anticipated with  
12 411 climate change (IPCC, 2012). Studies in rural forests show that rates of transpiration  
13 412 are greater on extreme heat than average days (Kauwe et al. 2018; Harrison et al. *In  
14 413 press*), but the response in urban areas is unknown. Observational data in Los Angeles,  
15 414 California suggests that vegetation may continue to transpire during heat waves, as  
16 415 indicated by a stronger relationship between vegetation extent (as determined by  
17 416 satellite data) and surface air temperatures during heat waves (Shiflett et al. 2017). If  
18 417 transpiration declines or stops in response to extreme temperatures this can act to  
19 418 amplify temperatures during heat waves (Fig. 4).

20 419 The first empirical experiment to induce a simulated extreme heat wave on field  
21 420 grown and relatively large trees (43°C for four consecutive days on Eucalyptus trees in  
22 421 Australia) found that rates of transpiration by trees were maintained during heat wave  
23 422 conditions (Drake et al. 2018). The trees, which were not irrigated, were able to obtain  
24 423 sufficient water from the soil profile during the heat wave to sustain transpiration.  
25 424 However, there was a strong decoupling between transpiration and photosynthesis  
26 425 during the heat wave that was not observed with chronic warming alone. Instead of  
27 426 keeping stomata open to maintain photosynthesis as theory predicts, the trees instead  
28 427 kept their stomata open to 'sweat', or to cool their internal leaf temperatures. A recent  
29 428 analysis of eddy covariance studies in Australia (OzFlux) found evidence for this  
30 429 phenomenon as well, however, similar analysis in temperate forests of the United  
31 430 States (FLUXNET) found mixed responses (Kauwe et al. 2018). In urban sites, high  
32 431 rates of transpiration are sustained, by some tree species, at elevated temperatures that  
33 432 represent local air temperature extremes, but only when water resources are available  
34 433 by active irrigation (Fig. 3; Pataki et al. 2011b). It remains to be examined if sustained  
35 434 transpiration rates, or the decoupling of transpiration and photosynthesis, is widespread,  
36 435 species-specific, or sensitive to temperature thresholds rather than locally defined heat  
37 436 extremes. The answer to this key knowledge gap has significant impacts on predictions  
38 437 of urban climatic conditions and carbon storage with climate change.

#### 438 439 **Access to water resources**

440 A key control on urban rates of transpiration and growth rates is access to water,  
441 which varies substantially between cities and within city boundaries due to differences in  
442 planting locations, infrastructure, and management decisions (Fig. 1). Across a large  
443 evapotranspiration gradient in the United States ranging from 400 to 1000 mm yr<sup>-1</sup>,  
444 climate was found to strongly differentiate forest structure (height and size distribution of  
445 vegetation) and forest areal extent in urban areas—more so than socio-economic  
446 factors—with forest cover doubling along the evapotranspiration gradient (Ossola and  
447 Hopton 2018). Water stress can interact with other urban stressors to exacerbate their

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3 448 negative effects. For example, Meineke and Frank (2016) found that for the common  
4 449 street tree species, *Quercus phellos* (willow oak), that the combination of water stress  
5 450 and warming made this species more susceptible to herbivory damage from an insect  
6 451 pest.  
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8 452 The sources of water used by urban trees remains highly uncertain, making it  
9 453 difficult for cities to manage municipal water resources and to predict transpiration rates  
10 454 and their associated cooling effects (Litvak et al. 2017). Stable isotope analyses are  
11 455 often used to determine water resources accessed by trees; however, these analyses  
12 456 have rarely been conducted in urban environments. Bijoor et al. (2011) used oxygen  
13 457 and hydrogen isotopes to determine the sources of water used by urban trees in Los  
14 458 Angeles, California. They found that the majority of urban trees in this arid city had very  
15 459 shallow root systems (< 30 cm) and were dependent on water found in the top soil.  
16 460 However, despite frequent irrigation maintaining high soil moisture availability in surface  
17 461 soils, some trees obtained significant amounts of water from deeper groundwater  
18 462 sources. In some cases, there were also unexplained sources of water thought to be  
19 463 from runoff, storm drains, and/or leaking infrastructure.  
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21 464 In arid cities, where forests do not naturally occur, the survival of trees and  
22 465 cooling influence they provide are dependent upon irrigation (Pataki et al. 2011a;  
23 466 2011b; Wheeler et al. 2019). The irrigation of urban vegetation can use more than 50%  
24 467 of municipal residential water consumption in many arid cities throughout the United  
25 468 States (Litvak et al. 2017). Consequently, municipalities face tradeoffs between the  
26 469 ecosystem services provided by trees, such as cooling via transpiration and C storage,  
27 470 and ecosystem disservices, such as the costs of irrigation and maintenance. McCarthy  
28 471 et al. (2011) showed that urban forest planners can maximize growth of trees while  
29 472 conserving water by selecting tree species with both high WUE and high growth rates.  
30 473 More studies are needed, however, to understand the differences in WUE among tree  
31 474 species and across urban forms and climates to inform urban planners and to model  
32 475 estimates of transpiration in urban environments (Litvak et al. 2017).  
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### 36 476 **From tree transpiration to temperature reductions**

37 477 Weather, climate, and earth system models focused on urban areas are an  
38 478 essential tool for translating observed drivers of evapotranspiration into the implications  
39 479 it has on urban climatic conditions (Chen et al. 2011; Li et al. 2016a, b). These urban  
40 480 weather, climate, and earth system models often employ the so-called urban canopy  
41 481 models to simulate the impacts of the built environment, urban vegetation, and  
42 482 anthropogenic energy consumption on the surface energy budget under changing  
43 483 atmospheric conditions, management decisions, and policy implementations (Grimmond  
44 484 et al 2010; 2011; Best and Grimmond 2015). Using these urban canopy models, studies  
45 485 have demonstrated the important role vegetation can have on urban climatic conditions.  
46 486 For example, observational data and modeling results show that increases in canopy  
47 487 cover result in a reduction in the sensible heat flux and an increase in the latent heat  
48 488 flux. The ratio of sensible to latent heat flux is known as the Bowen ratio and a higher  
49 489 Bowen ratio indicates a stronger heating of the atmosphere (Loridan and Grimmond  
50 490 2012; Best and Grimmond 2016; Fig. 5). These cooling effects of canopies are amplified  
51 491 by increases in irrigation and other anthropogenic sources of water (Best and  
52 492 Grimmond 2016; Fig.5).  
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3 494 Here we demonstrate this effect and the ability of models to translate empirical  
4 495 findings into climate implications in Fig. 5 where we have simulated the urban surface  
5 496 energy budget for a neighborhood in Boston, MA during a summer heat wave in 2018.  
6 497 We show the Bowen ratios and surface temperatures for six different scenarios,  
7 498 including a factorial design that includes variable assumptions about vegetation  
8 499 coverage (10, 25 or 50% coverage) and water availability (irrigation versus no  
9 500 irrigation). As vegetation coverage increases so does the latent heat flux as indicated by  
10 501 a decline in the Bowen ratio. This corresponds to a 1.5°C decrease in surface  
11 502 temperatures between the high (50%) and low (10%) canopy scenarios that were not  
12 503 irrigated. When vegetation was irrigated, there was an additional 0.6°C of cooling or  
13 504 2.1°C decrease in surface temperatures. Differences in surface temperatures were  
14 505 driven by a ~35% increase in latent heat fluxes. These results are broadly consistent  
15 506 with previous modeling studies (Lordan and Grimmond 2012; Best and Grimmond  
16 507 2016), which together illustrate the cooling benefits provided by the combination of  
17 508 increased canopy cover and water availability.  
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## 22 Future research directions

23 511 Our synthesis of the literature highlights several key areas of future research  
24 512 directions on urban tree transpiration and how it influences urban climates. First, there  
25 513 is a need for more studies on urban transpiration rates across the different types of  
26 514 urban areas (such as some of those shown in Fig. 1) as they relate to variability in water  
27 515 resources. Urban trees experience unique conditions compared to their rural  
28 516 counterparts that hinder our abilities to extrapolate rural forest function to urban areas.  
29 517 Second, future studies should explore how transpiration rates vary among different  
30 518 urban planting locations for different plant hydraulic strategies. Our current climate  
31 519 models do not resolve critical eco-physiological attributes or capture human  
32 520 amendments in the urban environment. Lastly, there are few studies examining the  
33 521 interaction and feedbacks between urban transpiration rates and the built environment  
34 522 during heat wave conditions when the cooling effect of trees is needed the most. As  
35 523 illustrated in Fig. 4, the response of urban tree transpiration to heat wave conditions can  
36 524 either help to reduce temperatures during heat waves or can act to exacerbate already  
37 525 dangerously hot conditions. Existing literature suggests that the type of feedback that  
38 526 occurs during heat waves between trees and the built environment will depend upon  
39 527 how plant hydraulic strategies respond to heat waves and the type of water resources  
40 528 available.

41 529 Our current understanding of the mechanisms driving the observed negative and  
42 530 non-linear relationships between the extent of canopy and urban temperatures (air or  
43 531 surface) requires further investigation. Ziter et al. (2019) postulated that this relationship  
44 532 could be a consequence of the higher LAI with higher levels of canopy cover resulting in  
45 533 greater shading, especially of impervious surfaces that have higher heat capacity.  
46 534 Alternatively, Ziter et al. (2019) suggest that the high canopy cover may be associated  
47 535 with land use types that provide synergistic cooling benefits. For example, higher  
48 536 canopy cover could be more often associated with large green spaces or parks that  
49 537 have a grass layer below the canopy, or areas with higher water and nutrient availability  
50 538 that favor tree species with higher growth rates, transpiration, and/or leaf area. Rahman  
51 539 et al. (2020) suggested that the underlying surface characteristics (e.g. lawn vs  
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3 540 pavement) determine potential evapotranspirational cooling more than LAI. Further  
4 541 research is needed to test these alternative hypotheses explicitly.  
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6 542 Our improved understanding of urban tree ecophysiology needs to go hand in  
7 543 hand with efforts to better represent trees in urban canopy models. Current modeling  
8 544 approaches, while insightful, do not capture some of the key urban vegetation  
9 545 characteristics our synthesis identifies as key drivers of transpiration. For example,  
10 546 given the demonstrated higher transpiration capacity of trees in urban environments,  
11 547 models that use a grass-type parameterization of transpiration are likely dramatically  
12 548 underestimating the cooling from transpiration provided by urban vegetation.  
13 549 Furthermore, the 'big leaf' approach of modeling the activity of vegetation in the urban  
14 550 environment does not account for differences in functional response of trees with  
15 551 different hydraulic strategies that could lead to under- or over- estimates of  
16 552 transpiration, especially during heat waves (Fig. 4). Lastly, many urban canopy models  
17 553 still do not represent interactions between urban vegetation and the built environment,  
18 554 meaning that the urban vegetation is treated as a separate entity. Although the effects  
19 555 on surface temperature and humidity are captured through simple area-averaging  
20 556 procedures, this approach prohibits the use of models to better inform our  
21 557 understanding of interactions between urban canopies and the built environment. There  
22 558 are ongoing efforts to address these deficiencies (Lemonsu et al. 2012), but the  
23 559 consideration of urban trees in urban canopy models remains limited and is an area in  
24 560 critical need of further model development and validation (Ryu et al. 2016).  
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27 561 Expanding urban vegetation, or greenspace, in cities is one of a suite of effective  
28 562 solutions for reducing the negative impacts of the UHI effect and extreme heat events in  
29 563 cities (Lamb et al. 2019). A more complete understanding of the limitations of tree eco-  
30 564 physiology in the urban environment can help identify when alternative cooling  
31 565 strategies, such as cool roofs or pavements (surfaces with high albedo), are better  
32 566 suited than tree canopy to combat excess urban heat. Some studies have shown that  
33 567 the combined use of green infrastructure and cool roofs help maximize cooling effects,  
34 568 and the most optimal strategy to do so varies spatially within and across cities (Li et al.  
35 569 2014). Further research is needed on the type of configurations of green infrastructure  
36 570 and geo-engineering solutions that provide optimal cooling. Any given type of nature-  
37 571 based solution may not be equally effective for all cities. Critically evaluating alternative  
38 572 strategies are especially important given the mismatch between the timelines of  
39 573 planetary warming and the time needed for a tree to grow to sufficient size to provide  
40 574 cooling through shade and evapotranspiration. For this reason, cities seeking to  
41 575 increase canopy cover and associated ecosystem services that canopy provide will  
42 576 need to consider not just planting small trees, but also conserving large trees (Trlica et  
43 577 al. 2020) that often are removed during (re)development projects (Morgenroth et al.  
44 578 2017). Because, as the proverb goes, the best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago.  
45 579 The second best time is now.  
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48 580  
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**Figure Legends:**

**Figure 1.** Conceptual diagram of the surface energy budget and water resources found across different urban areas, including (a) a densely built urban form, (b) a residential neighborhood, and (c) an urban forest patch. The surface energy budget is a result of energy exchanges ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) due to incoming radiation, convection, and conduction between components of the land surface and the atmosphere. The net radiation fluxes ( $Q^*$ ) are composed of the sensible heat flux ( $Q_H$ ), the latent heat flux ( $Q_E$ ), changes in the storage of heat at the surface ( $\Delta Q_S$ ). Additionally, there is heat energy produced from anthropogenic sources ( $Q_F$ ) such as vehicles and building heating/cooling systems. The sensible heat flux ( $Q_H$ ) is driven by temperature differences between the surface and the atmosphere. The latent heat flux ( $Q_E$ ) is driven by the energy used to evaporate water from surfaces, especially those of tree canopies due to tree transpiration. The storage of heat ( $\Delta Q_S$ ) varies across different urban surfaces. In each panel the major energy fluxes are shown with the size of the arrows demonstrating the variability in the magnitude of the different energy fluxes. The direction of the arrows represents positive fluxes. The size of the  $Q_E$  flux is strongly influenced by the availability of water in each urban locale and density of canopies. (Panel a) Street trees experience harsher environmental conditions, with potential for high heat loads and increased atmospheric aridity. In absence of irrigation, street trees have restricted water availability due to the small soil pits size and the restricted capacity to intercept storm water, however, in some cases urban trees can access leaky infrastructure (Randrup et al. 2001). (Panel b) In residential areas trees are often actively irrigated in addition to intercepting storm water runoff. (Panel c) Trees in forest fragments and sometimes non-irrigated parks, are dependent upon the interception of rainfall and soil moisture retention, and in some cases, they can access groundwater supplies or leaky infrastructure. Figure artistic credit: Sarah Garvey.

**Figure 2.** Example of the relationships between land cover classes (a), and land surface (or 'skin') temperature (b) for Arlington, Massachusetts, United States. In panel c the relationship between land surface temperature and total canopy cover is shown for the Menotomy Rocks Park in Arlington, Massachusetts which is the area indicated in panels a & b by a black rectangle. Canopy cover is aggregated in 1% bins with the dot size representing the number of pixels within that bin. The color of the points corresponds to the different land cover classes. Surface temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{Celsius}$ ) and canopy cover data (30m resolution) were obtained from Wang et al. (2017). Land cover classifications combine MassGIS Land Use data and manual classification with aerial photography (30 m resolution).

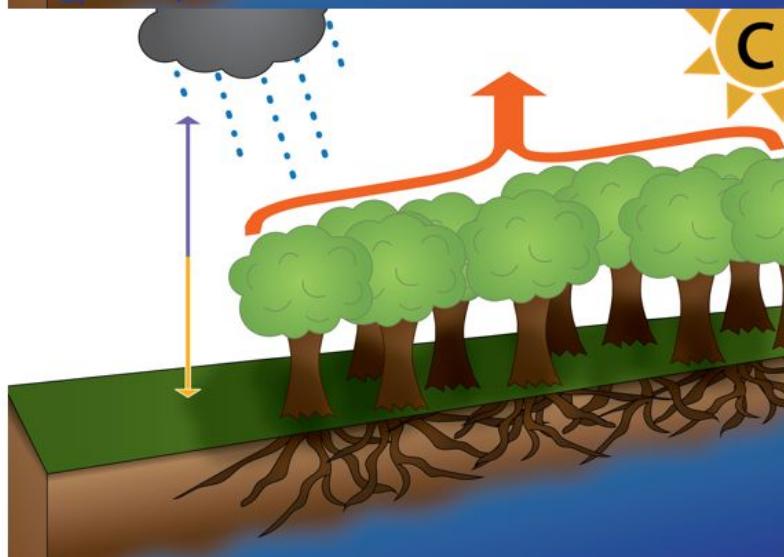
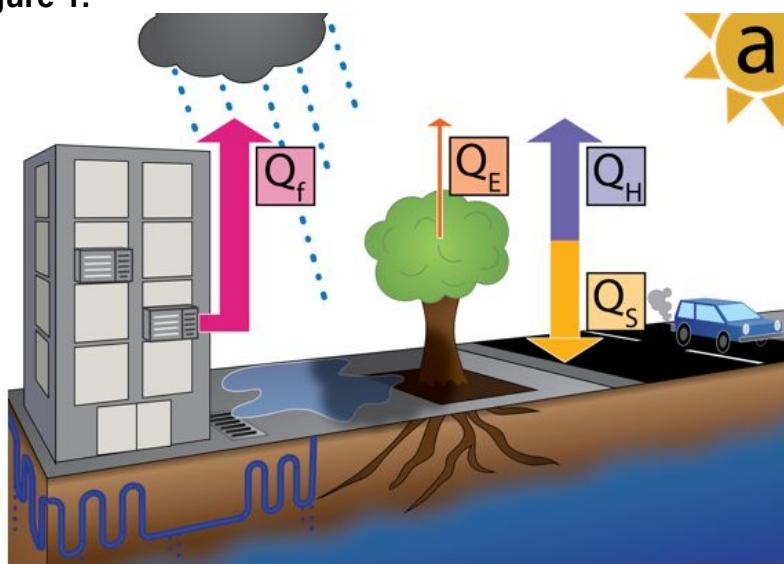
**Figure 3.** Panels a and b show a case study on the relationship between daytime average sap flow, a proxy for transpiration, and average daytime air temperatures and mean vapor pressure deficit (VPD, a metric of atmospheric aridity) for a sample of sugar maple trees (*Acer saccharum*) growing in either a rural (panel a) or urban (panel b) environment. In the rural site, this relationship is shown as the average of ten trees growing in a rural forest at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (HBEF) located in North Woodstock, New Hampshire (~100 miles outside of Boston) in the 2010 growing

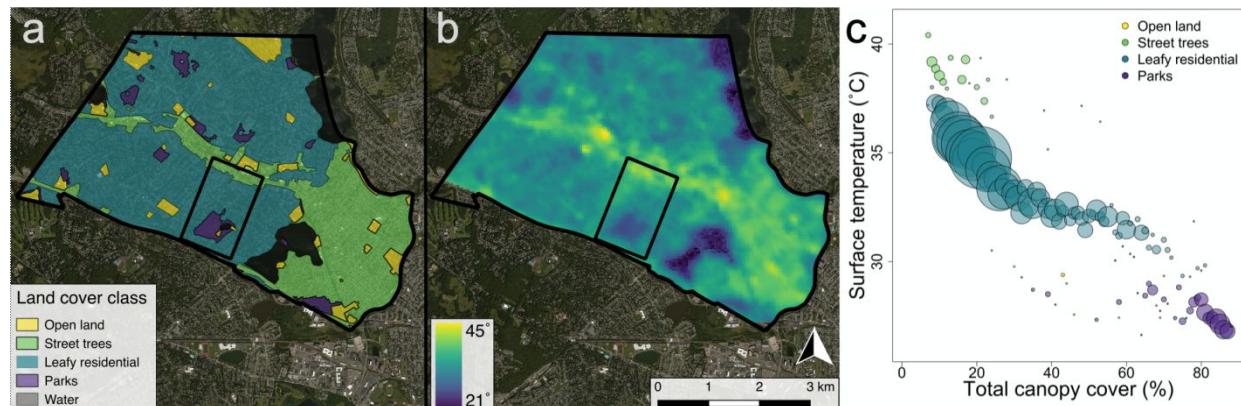
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3 896 season ( $R^2 = 0.02$ ,  $p=0.02$  for temperature;  $R^2 = 0.04$ ,  $p<0.001$  for VPD; Harrison et al.  
4 897 *In Press*). In the urban site this relationship is shown for a Sugar Maple tree growing in  
5 898 a well-irrigated, well-lit urban backyard located in Boston, Massachusetts in the 2018  
6 899 growing season ( $R^2 = 0.25$ ,  $p<0.0001$  for temperature;  $R^2 = 0.63$ ,  $p<0.0001$  for VPD). At  
7 900 the rural site sap flow data were collected using 20mm thermal dissipation probes  
8 901 (Harrison et al. *In Press*) while at the urban site data were collected using the  
9 902 compensation heat pulse method with 20mm sensors (Jones et al. *In Press*). The  
10 903 differences in the probe methodology between sites, however, does not significantly  
11 904 influence rates for the observed range (Forster 2017). In each panel, points represent  
12 905 daytime values, defined as the hours of 06:00 to 21:00 for the peak growing season  
13 906 (June 1 to September 1), and colors represent the median of hourly daytime solar  
14 907 radiation. The size of the points represents the corresponding median hourly daytime  
15 908 VPD. The blue line shows the linear regression through all data points. In panels a and  
16 909 b, the red dashed line is the mean of the daily max air temperature observed in July for  
17 910 each site (2001-2007). Air temperature, VPD, and solar radiation was obtained for the  
18 911 rural site from nearby HBEF headquarters (USDA Forest Service, 2019) and for the  
19 912 urban site from nearby weather underground station #KMABOSTO269.  
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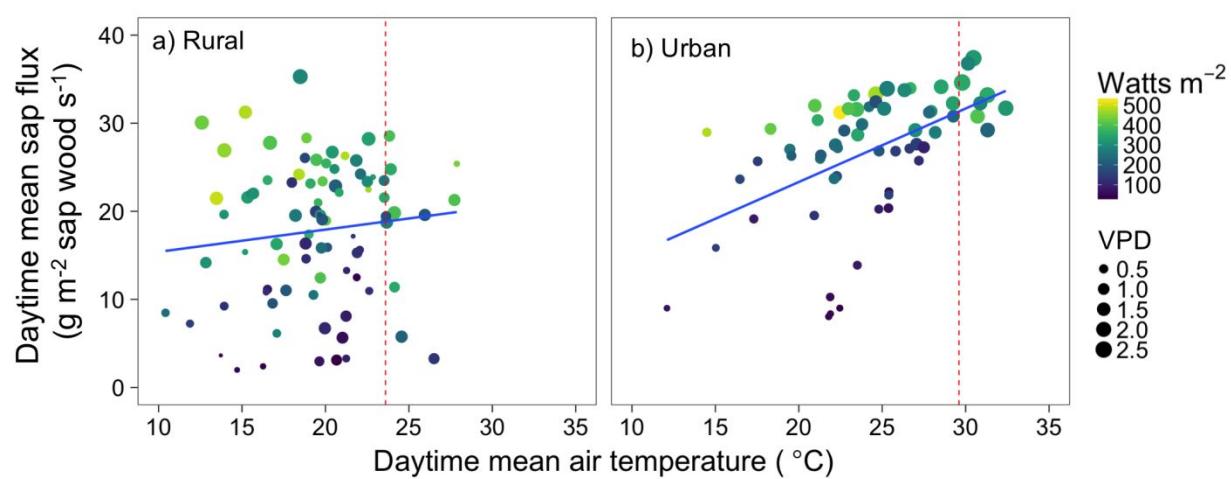
**Figure 4.** Conceptual diagram illustrating the negative and positive feedbacks on land-atmosphere interactions that either diminish or amplify the intensity of heat waves. The backbone of coupled plant-climate models is the assumption that carbon capture via photosynthesis and water uptake (i.e., transpiration) by trees declines or stops during heat waves. Panel a illustrates the steps in a negative feedback loop that acts to diminish the intensity of heat waves. As air temperatures increase during a heat wave event, if trees maintain water uptake and loss via transpiration, then latent heat fluxes will remain high. The latent heat of evaporation removes heat from the atmosphere resulting in lower air temperatures. A reduction in air temperatures during a heat wave can result in reduction in building cooling needs and the associated waste energy emitted from cooling services. Conversely, panel b illustrates the steps in a positive feedback loop that acts to amplify the intensity of heat waves. As air temperatures rise during a heat wave, with all things otherwise held constant, if trees respond to these rising air temperatures by closing their stomates and stopping to transpire water, then this would result in lower latent heat fluxes from the evaporation of water and greater dominance by positive sensible heat fluxes that act to increase air temperatures. These positive feedbacks amplify urban heat, increasing building cooling demand, electricity use, and  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions.

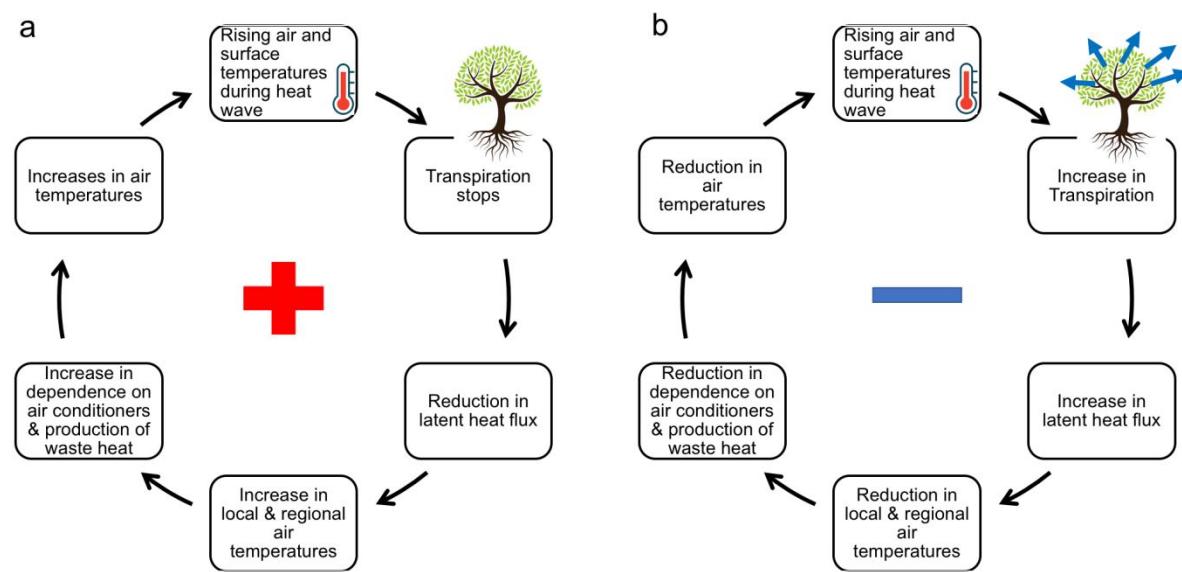
**Figure 5.** Model simulation results for a summer heat wave with different levels of canopy extent and irrigation. We used the WRF model to test the influence of irrigation and canopy coverage on surface temperatures and the Bowen ratio (sensible/latent heat flux) during a summer heat wave in Boston, Massachusetts. The Bowen ratio indicates the extent to which the atmosphere is warming (due to higher sensible heat fluxes) versus cooling (due to higher latent heat flux). Model parameterization is specified in supplemental methods.

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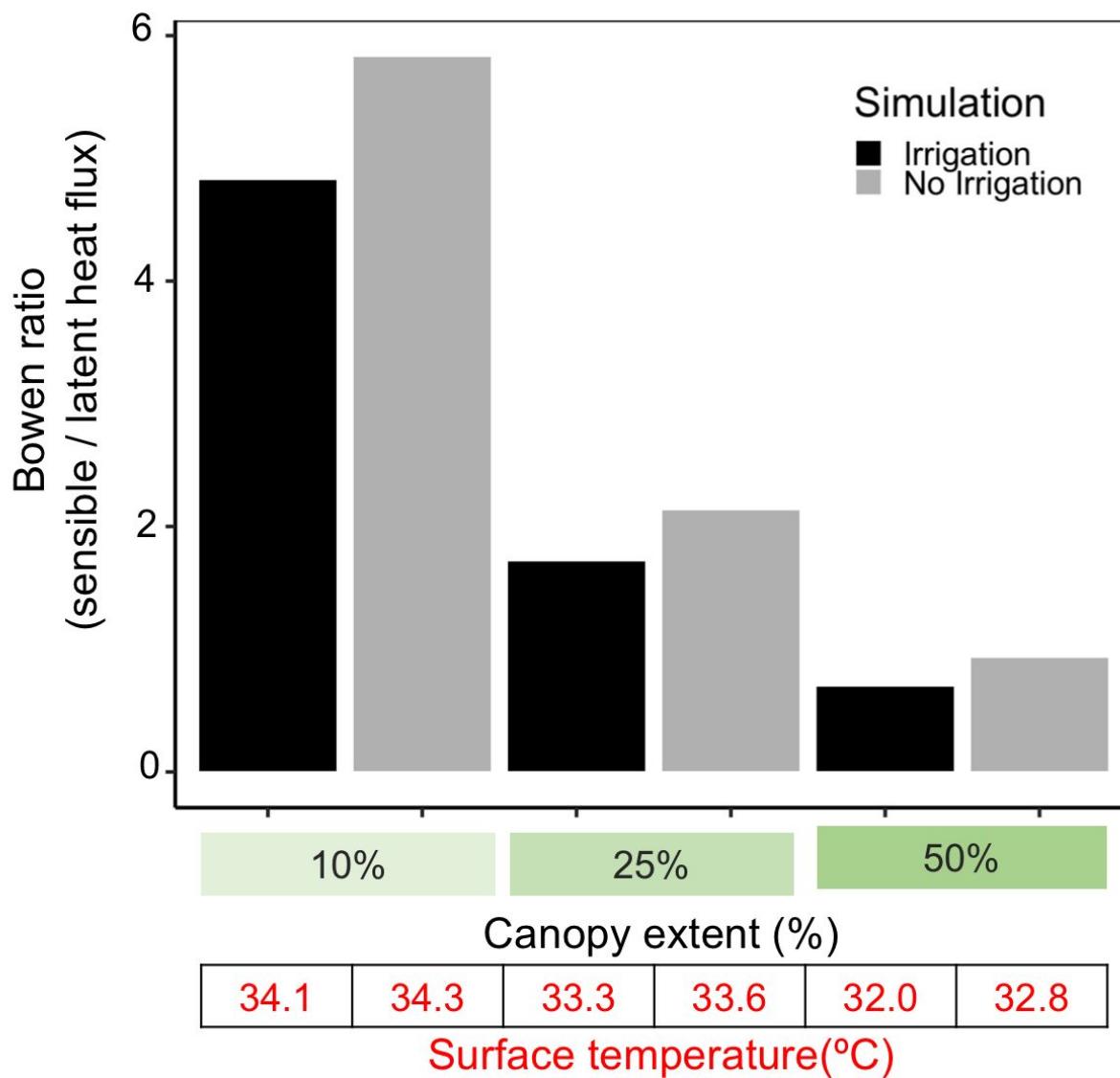
**Figure 1.**943  
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**Figure 3.**

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60**Figure 5.**

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### Supplemental Methods

In this study, the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model version 4.0 is used to simulate a heat wave event (August 26-29) in 2018 over Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The simulation runs from 23 August 00 UTC to 3 September 00 UTC. We use three nested domains with spatial resolutions of 9, 3 and 1 km, which have  $149 \times 149$ ,  $150 \times 150$  and  $150 \times 150$  grid points, respectively. The 9-km domain covers most of the northeastern United States, while the 1-km domain covers the Boston metropolitan area as well as a large area of its rural surroundings. All model domains have 55 vertical levels, and the model top is set as 100 hPa. The North American Regional Reanalysis (NARR) data which have a spatial resolution of about 32 km and a temporal resolution of 3 hours are used as the initial and boundary conditions. The static input data (e.g., topography, soil and land use maps) and physical parameterizations for the WRF simulations closely follow the study by Wang and Li (2019). Specifically, we use the 2001 land cover dataset from Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS), which has 21 land cover categories and has a resolution of 500 m (Friedl *et al.*, 2002). The physical parameterization schemes used in all model domains include the Dudhia scheme for shortwave radiation (Dudhia, 1988), the rapid radiative transfer model (RRTM) scheme for longwave radiation (Mlawer *et al.*, 1997), the single-moment 6-Class (WSM6) microphysics scheme (Hong and Lim, 2006), the Mellor-Yamada Janjic (MYJ) boundary layer scheme (Mellor and Yamada, 1974), and the Noah land surface model (Chen and Dudhia, 2001) coupled with the single-layer urban canopy model (Kusaka *et al.*, 2001; Kusaka and Kimura, 2004). Using the same WRF settings described above, the simulated urban surface energy budget and the radiative surface temperature (or surface temperature) at a target point ( $42^{\circ}20'39''$  N,  $71^{\circ}06'29''$  W) which corresponded to the location of urban sap flow study presented in Fig. 3. For this location we reported results for six different scenarios, including a factorial design that had variable assumptions about vegetation coverage (10, 25 or 50% coverage) and water availability (irrigation versus no irrigation). In the scenarios when focusing on vegetation coverage we manually change the vegetation fraction to 10, 25 or 50%, respectively. To represent an irrigation scenario, we maintain the soil moisture at its saturation value ( $0.51 \text{ m}^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ ) throughout the simulation period.

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6	L. Chen, Z.	2011	Journal of	Biophysical	402: 388-41	park	temperate	China	Loadong P		
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10	S. Gotsch,	2018	Urban Eco	Evaluating	21:183-195	park	temperate	USA	Lancaster,		
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16	E. Litvak, H	2012	Tree Physi	Transpiratic	34: 1384-1	street tree;	temperate	USA	Los Angele		
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19	V. Marchior	2019	Journal of	Water balai	575: 343-3	forest patch	temperate	Australia	Melbourne		
20	H. McCarthy	2011	Ecological	Plant water	21(8): 311	5 park	temperate	USA	Los Angele		
21	H. McCarthy	2010	Urban Eco	Drivers of	v13: 393-41	street tree;	temperate	USA	Los Angele		
22	D. Pataki, F	2011	Ecological	Transpiratic	21(3): 661-	street tree;	temperate	USA	Los Angele		
23	E. Peters a	2012	Journal of	(Continuous	117: G030	forest patch	temperate	USA	Minneapolis		
24	E. Peters, J.	2010	Journal of	(Biological	a115: G040	forest patch	temperate	USA	Minneapolis		
25	E. Peters, F	2011	Journal of	(Seasonal	c116: G010	forest patch	temperate	USA	Minneapolis		
26	M. Rahmar	2017	Building an	Within canc	114: 118-1	street tree	temperate	Germany	Munich		
27	M. Rahmar	2019	Urban Eco	Comparing	22: 683-69	street tree	temperate	Germany	Munich		
28	M.A. Rahm	2014	Urban Fore	Effect of url	13: 325-33	park	temperate	UK	Manchester		
29	M.A. Rahm	2017	Agricultural	Microclimat	232: 443-4	street tree	temperate	Germany	Munich		
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31	A. Riikonen	2016	Urban Eco	Environmer	19: 1693-1	street tree	boreal	Finland	Helsinki		
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33	L. Stratopoli	2018	Urban Fore	Effect of na	30: 37-45	nursery	temperate	Germany	Munich		
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35	R.A. Tirpak	2018	Ecohydrolo	Evaluation	11(8): 10.1	park	temperate	USA	Knoxville, T		
36	P. Tor-nger	2018	Urban Fore	Effects of v	36: 76-83	roof garden	subtropical	Thailand	Bangkok, T		
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38	H. Wang, V	2012	Environment	Ozone up	162: 275-2	park	temperate	Beijing	Beijing Tea		
39	H. Wang, X	2012	Journal of	Transpirait	24(7): 127	park	temperate	Beijing	Beijing Tea		
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