

Max Piana

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Max Piana is a doctoral student in Ecology and Evolution, where his research focuses on the functional connectivity, dispersal dynamics, and natural regeneration of urban forests and plant communities. Broadly, Max is interested urban restoration ecology and the integration of science, design, and land management. Prior to attending Rutgers, he worked as an environmental researcher at the international architecture firm KieranTimeberlake and was a guest editor for Scenario Journal, an open access publication dedicated to transdisciplinary perspectives on ecological urbanism. Max has a M.E.M from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where his work and research centered on urban community forestry.

This summer, as a USDA Forest Service Northern Research Center for Resilient Landscapes Fellow, Max is assisting the New York field station establish a long-term urban afforestation experiment on the Freshkills Landfill in Staten Island. Located within a NYC Million Trees planting site, this study will examine the potential for selected genotypes of early successional tree species to accelerate canopy closure and advance urban afforestation practices on disturbed sites. Additionally Max will work with both the New York and Philadelphia field stations to integrate urban forest seed dispersal and recruitment experiments in existing and future restoration sites.