

Geoffrey Donovan

25 years of research experience identifying and quantifying the benefits of nature.



Real-world impacts

- Dr. Donovan's health work has been groundbreaking. He was the first to show that pregnant women with more trees around their homes are less likely to have underweight babies, and he was also the first to show that exposure to diverse trees and plants may protect children against immune diseases such as asthma and childhood leukemia.
- His work using tree moss to map air pollution discovered previously unknown industrial sources of atmospheric heavy-metal pollution that posed an immediate threat to public health. His findings led the state of Oregon to revamp the way it manages air pollution.
- In 2013, he used the spread of the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) as a natural experiment to study the relationship between trees and human health, and discovered that after EAB spread to a county, human mortality rates increased. This research was a prime motivator for state leaders in Minnesota, who formed the Minnesota Community Forestry Partnership and lobbied for a bill in the state legislature that successfully appropriated \$13 million in both 2017 and 2018.

PhD. Forest Economics.
Colorado State University

BS. Biochemistry. Sheffield
University, UK.

Awards

2020: Fulbright Scholar Program (New Zealand)

2019: OECD Fellowship
(New Zealand)

2017: Finalist for [Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal](#)

2006: Nominated for Presidential Early Career Scientist Award

Selected media

- [When trees die, people die](#). The Atlantic. January 22, 2013.
- [Toxic Moss in Portland, Ore., shakes cities green ideals](#). New York Times. March 2, 2016.
- [The importance of urban forests: why money really does grow on trees](#). The Guardian. Oct. 2016.
- [How planting trees in cities can save thousands of lives](#). Washington Post. November 2, 2016.
- [All the trees will die, then so will you](#). Wired. May 9, 2017.
- [Trees for Health](#). Radio New Zealand. Broadcast on Dec. 2018.
- [The surprising science of fighting crime with... Trees](#). Mother Jones. May/June 2019.

Georgie the puggle



Meet my staff!

Reggie the tortoise



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