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David J. Nowak is a Project Leader with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station in Syracuse, New York. Dr. Nowak received a B.S. and M.S. from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. His research investigates urban forest structure, health, and change, and its effect on air quality and greenhouse gases. He also leads teams in developing software tools to quantify ecosystem services from urban vegetation (e.g., UFORE and i-Tree programs).

Dr. Nowak has authored over 200 publications and is a recipient of:

- National Arbor Day Foundation's highest honor - the J. Sterling Morton Award, which recognizes lifelong commitment to tree planting and conservation at a national or international level;
- R.W. Harris Author's Citation from the International Society of Arboriculture, which is granted to authors of outstanding publications for sustained excellence in the publication of timely information pertaining to the field of Arboriculture;
- American Forests' Urban Forest Medal recognizing outstanding national contributions in urban forest research;
- Distinguished Science Award of the Northeastern Research Station;
- Forest Service Chief's Honor Award for Engaging Urban America;
- New York State Arborists-ISA Chapter Research Award.

Dr. Nowak was also contributing member of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.