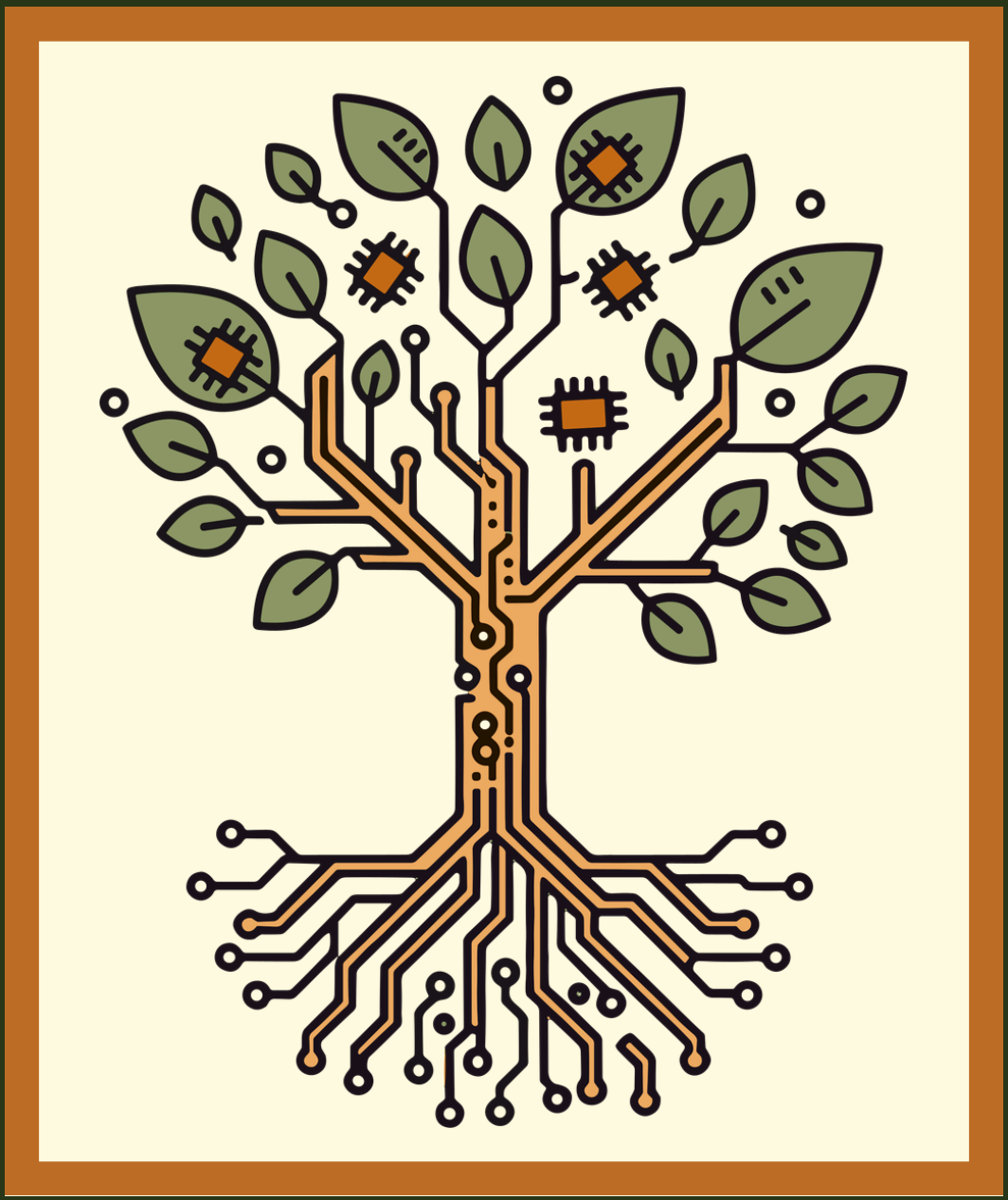
ReforestationVR

NEW MEDIA CAPSTONE
SPRING 2026



SAFA ALI - REAGAN BRODE - KEVIN HUYNH
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UGA Archway Partnership Launches AR Reforestation Tool

A web-based AR application to combat deforestation resulting from Hurricane Helene and the impact on Georgian homeowners

ATHENS, GA, January 31, 2026 – The Archway Partnership, with UGA's Department of Public Service and Outreach (PSO), is launching a web resource for those impacted by the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

After the storm, cities across the Southeast, like Augusta, GA, were destroyed by the strong winds and rain, picking up countless trees throughout the area. Archway saw this and knew UGA had the resources to make a difference.

Combining efforts of those across campus, from Terry College students providing marketing materials, to Warnell and the State Botanical Garden providing informationg on tree ordinances and environmental information.

Our team is creating an AR experience to be housed on the project web page that will allow users to both learn about, and visualize the benefits of reforestation. Combining the other project elements with high-fidelity, relevant, and realistic tree models to truly show what the future can look like in these storm-ridden spaces.

As Safa, our Co-Product Designer, stated, "Augusta lost over 80% of it's vegetation through Hurricane Helene. This tool can make a real difference."

The web-based application is simple and easy to use, just visit the Reforestation resource website and navigate to our page. We encourage people to use the tool and resource database by Archway to make rebuilding easier.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAQ

1. WHAT IS THE ARCHWAY PARTNERSHIP WITH PSO AT UGA?

According to the Archway website, “The Archway Partnership connects Georgia communities with University of Georgia and other higher education resources to address critical locally-identified needs and opportunities.”

2. WHAT IS THE XR TOOL AND ITS’ GOAL?

Our AR tool is meant to benefit those throughout Georgia who lost trees and other fauna from Hurricane Helene to allow those impacted to learn about and visualize what reforestation would look like in their space.

3. HOW IS THE TOOL ACCESSED/USED?

The Augmented-Reality application will be a sub-page on the reforestation resource website being created by UGA’s department of Public Service and Outreach in collaboration with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

FAQ

4. HOW IS AN AR TOOL SUPPOSED TO HELP?

By providing a way for users to realistically visualize expert-selected trees in their real-time environment, we hope to inspire and empower those impacted by the storm's deforestation. Not knowing where to start on a task like rebuilding can be hard to overcome, by showing exactly what trees to pick, we hope to make this a bit easier. Seeing how their space could look will hopefully spark people to go out and make a move towards reforestation.

5. WHERE CAN THE TOOL BE USED?

For the beginning, our team is focused specifically on the Augusta, GA area and the local impact we can make through our work. In the future we would love to see how far this impact can reach and hope to expand the scope of our tool to be used across the state and possibly even the country.