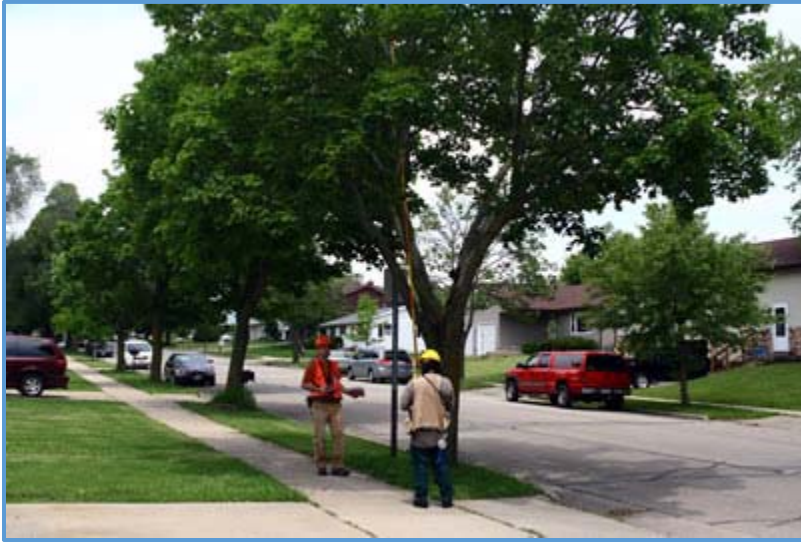




U.S. FOREST SERVICE Caring for the land and serving people

Urban Forest Inventory Partnership: U.S. Forest Service & your City



Your city and the USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program have begun an urban inventory of trees, green space, and ground cover on public and private land for the greater metropolitan area.

"More than 80 percent of the Nation's population lives in urban areas, where urban forests are helping clean the air, reduce energy costs, and give people a vital connection to nature,"

said Tony Ferguson, Acting Director of the Northern Research Station and the Forest Products Laboratory. "The Forest Service's Urban FIA Program is expanding to deliver knowledge that everyone engaged in urban natural resources can use to make forests healthy and sustainable."

The Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, often called "The Nation's Forest Census," has been monitoring the current status and past trends of the nation's rural forests for nearly 80 years. The FIA program has established itself as the only comprehensive, field-based and annually updated inventory of all forest ownerships for each of the 50 states in terms of measuring forest land. Recognizing the value of trees in cities, the FIA program is expanding the census to include the nation's urban metropolitan areas. Forest Service research has documented that urban trees benefit communities and people in a variety of ways, including benefiting human health by removing air pollution, providing shade that helps reduce energy consumption, and providing areas for recreation.

Just as FIA analysts have provided states with statistics on trees for decades, the program will now provide annual statistical updates for cities, with annual updates and more comprehensive analytical reports published online every 5 years.

Forest Inventory and Analysis plots will be inventoried throughout your city, with each plot measuring 98 feet in diameter. Inventory plots are selected randomly without regard to ownership in an effort to ensure that the inventory is free from bias and reflects the true condition of a city's urban forest resources.

Each summer, USDA Forest Service personnel will begin contacting selected landowners in the greater metropolitan area by mail, email, phone, or in person to ask permission to monitor trees and ground vegetation on their property. Participating in the Urban FIA program is voluntary. If permitted access to property, Forest Service representatives (all of whom will be carrying identification cards) will be on site from between half an hour to 10 hours depending on the



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amount and condition of vegetation within the sample area. A variety of forest health factors will be monitored in the urban inventory, including:

- Tree species – What trees species exist and what are most abundant?
- Tree numbers and tree size – Is the urban area losing or gaining trees, and how quickly are trees growing?
- Tree survival and mortality – How well are trees surviving in the urban area?
- Tree crown condition – What is the overall health of a tree, how well is it growing, and how is it affecting plants growing underneath?
- Tree Damage – Identifying damage will contribute to effective management plans.
- Invasive plants – What species exist, and what is their abundance, distribution and effects on urban areas?
- Ground Cover – Are there other plants, permeable (gravel, bare soil) or impermeable surfaces (asphalt, cement)?

The Urban FIA program will be operational in 25 cities in 2017. More information on the Forest Service’s Urban FIA Program is available at: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/fia/urban/>

Information on the Forest’s i-Tree program can be found at: <http://www.itreetools.org/>

Information on the FIA Program can be found at: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/>

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The mission of the Forest Service's Northern Research Station is to improve people’s lives and help sustain the natural resources in the Northeast and Midwest through leading-edge science and effective information delivery.

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation’s clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/.

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