

The State of the Dallas Urban Forest Report

During the summer of 2014, the Texas Trees Foundation (TTF) completed an i-Tree Eco* Assessment for the City of Dallas. With generous assistance from six college interns and the City of Dallas Urban Forester, Foundation staff assessed 621 randomly selected plots. Data was analyzed, interpreted and combined with information from two additional studies completed by the Texas Trees Foundation: The Dallas Roadmap to Planning and Planting Trees (2010), the Open Lands Study (2014). With support from the Dallas Urban Heat Island Study (2004) the comprehensive *The State of the Dallas Urban Forest Report* was produced.



HIGHLIGHTS

- There are 14.7 million trees within the City limits (340.5 square miles) valued at \$9 billion
- There are nearly 1.8 million potential tree planting sites throughout Dallas
- Trees provide annual savings of over \$9 million through energy conservation
- Trees capture 59 million cubic feet of stormwater runoff and save \$4 million in repairs annually
- Trees clean the air by storing two million tons of carbon valued at \$137 million annually
- Over 35% of the land in our city is covered with buildings, cement or roads
- The city's average tree canopy is 28.7% while the USDA Forest Service recommends 40%
- South of I-30 represents 37% of the total tree canopy while North of I-30 has 17%
- The Trinity Forest accounts for nearly 20% of all tree benefits and covers 1/6 of the total area

NEXT STEPS

With a goal of adding 3 million trees to the Urban Forest by 2022 through our “Tree North Texas” program, the Foundation is committed to moving its vision forward with partnerships in Dallas focused on:

- **Greening Medical Mile:** Improving the healing atmosphere of our health-care community in the Medical District
- **Dallas ISD Cool Schools:** Bringing green, healthy playgrounds to elementary schools throughout the community
- **Planting Downtown Dallas:** Cooling the heart of the city, shading streets and cleaning the air
- **Neighborhood Groves:** Partnering within City Council districts to beautify public spaces

Trees provide many benefits in urban areas. Trees clean the air we breathe and the water we drink. Trees capture runoff (keeping water out of storm drains and available for irrigation). Trees store carbon to keep it from entering the atmosphere. Trees reduce stress and lower symptoms of ADHD in young people and add to the quality of life.

Trees shade our cars, homes and schools, lowering energy costs. Trees are our “green” civil servants!

*The i-Tree program is a software application developed by the USDA Forest Service and offers information that planners, developers, and residents can use to pro-actively manage the Urban Forest in Dallas.

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TREES & PEOPLE

- **Provided 20,149 trees, providing environmental savings and health benefits for North Texas municipalities and residents worth \$2.4 million annually during the life of these trees**
- **Engaged over 1,600 volunteers who contributed 5,520 hours valued at \$129,467.45**
- **Welcomed Intern:** Sam Mitchell (Texas A&M University)
- **Collaborated with these cities in significant tree planting projects:** Abilene, Arlington, Austin, Bedford, Bridgeport, Coppell, Corpus Christie, Dallas, Decatur, Denton, Denison, Houston, Irving, Kennedale, Lake Worth, Longview, Midland, Richardson, Richland Hills, Roanoke, Rowlett, Saginaw, San Angelo, Tyler, Waco, West Lake, and Wylie

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- **Made 23 presentations to 740 participants on the value of trees in our cities**
- **Outreach & educational events at Texas Earth Day, the Dallas Zoo, and the Perot Museum of Natural Science**

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

- **Conducted Comprehensive Tree Inventories at: Southwest Medical District and Downtown Dallas.** Using state of the art technology our team assessed trees on public property in and around the Medical District and in downtown core to determine their value, maintenance needs and budget requirements. We also helped the organizations understand how to monetize the benefits of carbon sequestration, energy savings, stormwater mitigation and other important factors.
- **Launched the Dallas State of the Urban Forest Report.** Hosted a breakfast for over 100 people to launch the Dallas State of Urban Forest Report. The assessment, covering 340 square miles, evaluated the condition and types of trees that comprise our City's tree canopy. This will enable the City of Dallas and all stakeholders to better manage this important asset and more effectively plan for its future. Planting with intent and purpose maximizes benefits our "green infrastructure" provides year-round for the community.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- **Support from these organizations proved invaluable to our efforts to achieve our mission. We gratefully acknowledge their participation:** Alliance for Community Trees, Atmos, College Football Playoffs, Downtown Dallas Inc., Earth Day Texas, Eugene McDermott Foundation, Exxon, KERA, Lyda Hill Foundation, Locke Lord LLP, ONCOR, Papa Johns, Preservation Tree Care, Southern Methodist University, State Farm, Texas A&M Forest Service, TD Auto Finance, TXU Energy, Turner Construction, VHA, Wells Fargo, and White Rock Valley HOA.
- **We offer special recognition to ONCOR,** winner of the 2015 Texas Trees Foundation Partnership Award.

*"Economic development in the absence of environmental integrity is not sustainable.
We must work together to create sustainable and resilient communities."*

Janette Monear, President & CEO