

Dallas State of the Urban Forest Report – February 2015

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 *Dallas State of the 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 1.5 million sites throughout Dallas available for planting trees
- Trees provide annual savings of over \$9 million through energy conservation
- Trees capture 60 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 50% 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 Dallas has 37% of the total tree canopy, North Dallas 17%
- The Trinity Forest accounts for nearly 20% of all tree benefits but covers just 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 proactively manage the Urban Forest in Dallas.



2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TREES & PEOPLE

- **Planted 4927 trees, providing environmental savings and health benefits for North Texas municipalities and residents worth \$580,000 annually during the life of these trees!**
- **Engaged over 2000 volunteers who contributed 8298 hours valued at \$138,761!**
- **Welcomed Interns:** Chanelle Angeny, (Stephen F. Austin University), Joseph Black (Tarrant County Community College), Emily Curci (Stephen F. Austin University), Taylor Guynes (Texas A&M University), Cecil Poole (Southern University), Kelsey Thompson (Carnegie Mellon) and John Tulloh (Notre Dame).
- **Collaborated with these cities in significant tree planting projects:** Abilene, Allen, Arlington, Azle, Cleburne, Coppell, Dallas, Duncanville, Gardendale, Heath, Henderson, Houston, Irving, Keller, Kennedale, Midland, Odessa, Pearland, Richardson, Saginaw, Southlake, Waco, Westlake, White Settlement and Wylie

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- **Made 27 presentations to 873 participants on the value of trees in our cities.**
- **Presented our Annual Conference: *Grey to Green – Creating “Cool” Communities*** at the Dallas Museum of Art with speakers: Mayor Mike Rawlings, Bobby B. Lyle, Dr. Brian Stone (Georgia Institute of Technology), Dr. Robert Haley (Southwestern Medical Center), David Hitchcock (Houston Area Research Center), and Matt Grubisich (Texas Trees Foundation)
- **Led Campus Greening Projects:** Baylor University, Eastfield Community College, University of North Texas Dallas and University of Texas at Dallas.

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

- **Conducted Comprehensive Tree Inventories at: Abilene Christian University and Downtown Dallas.** Using state of the art technology our team assessed trees on the campus 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.
- **Completed *i-Tree Eco Study: Dallas State of the 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, Circle Ten Council Boy Scouts of America, Dallas Museum of Art, Downtown Dallas Inc., Entrepreneurs for North Texas, Earth Day Network, Earth Day Texas, Eugene McDermott Foundation, Exxon Mobil Foundation, HEB, Lambert Landscaping, Lyda Hill Foundation, Locke Lord LLP, North Texas Food Bank, ONCOR, Preservation Tree Care, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC), Southwest Airlines, Southern Methodist University, TD Auto Finance, TXU Energy, Turner Construction, UNFI, VHA and Wells Fargo.
- **We offer special recognition to TD Auto Finance**, winner of the 2014 Texas Trees Foundation TXU Energy Partnership Award, and **TXU Energy**, winner of the Center for Nonprofit Management’s 2014 Corporation of the Year Award (nominated by the Texas Trees Foundation).

*“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