

The Greater Boston Urban Forestry Inventory: Mapping Tree Canopy Cover through Handheld Applications

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The Greater Boston Urban Forestry Inventory is the culmination of a three year effort designed to map the location, health, species, and extent of Boston's 35,000 street trees through handheld technology. Combined with aerial imagery, the inventory aims to:

1. Create a GIS based tree management system for the Boston Parks Department
2. Calculate the value of Boston's urban forest in terms of environmental benefits including: air pollutants removed, carbon sequestration, and storm water runoff prevention.
3. Examine the extent of Boston's current canopy cover and potential future. Mobile Applications based on ESRI ArcPad played a definitive role in both data collection and the eventual upkeep of this participatory GIS project.