City of San Antonio, Texas

Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis in San Antonio

City Council A Session

Roderick J. Sanchez, Director
Development Services Department

January 19, 2017

Background

- DSD has coordinated and implemented policies and ordinances aimed at ensuring a well maintained tree canopy

- A comprehensive tree inventory is necessary to monitor the tree canopy

Background

- Previous analysis of tree canopy utilized technology that provided aerial imagery from the ‘top down’ only

- The Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis (UFIA) provides more detailed data on the actual species, sizes and condition of the trees

Process

- UFIA is conducted by Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
  - TFS collects measurements through a tree survey to determine the tree inventory of the urban forest
  - USFS compiles data and helps with analysis

Analysis

- Will report on:
  - Tree species, size and distribution
  - Tree damage, potential risk of insects/diseases
  - Tree impacts on storm runoff
  - Air pollution removal
  - Quantify and provide values of the benefits and services that urban trees provide

Analysis

- Continuous tree inventory system, not a “snap-shot in time”
  - Guide preservation and planting needs
  - Help in planning and budgeting for affected city departments

Outcome

- After the initial inventory is complete, 10% of plots will be sampled each subsequent year
  - Inventory is updated annually
  - Measure change over time
- Citizens and staff will be able to download data and summary tables, access reports, or run custom queries

Fiscal Impact

Funding in the amount of $150,000, will be allocated through the Tree Mitigation Fund and Tree Canopy Investment Fund

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the implementation of the Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis.

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Austin Urban Tree Canopy

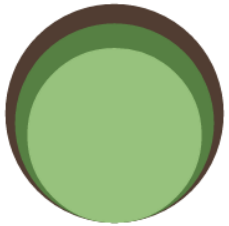
Austin Results:

Canopy Cover	**36.2%**
	70,664 acres
Ecosystem Services Value	$219 million
Canopy-at-risk	18,310 acres
Canopy-to-grow	26,633 acres

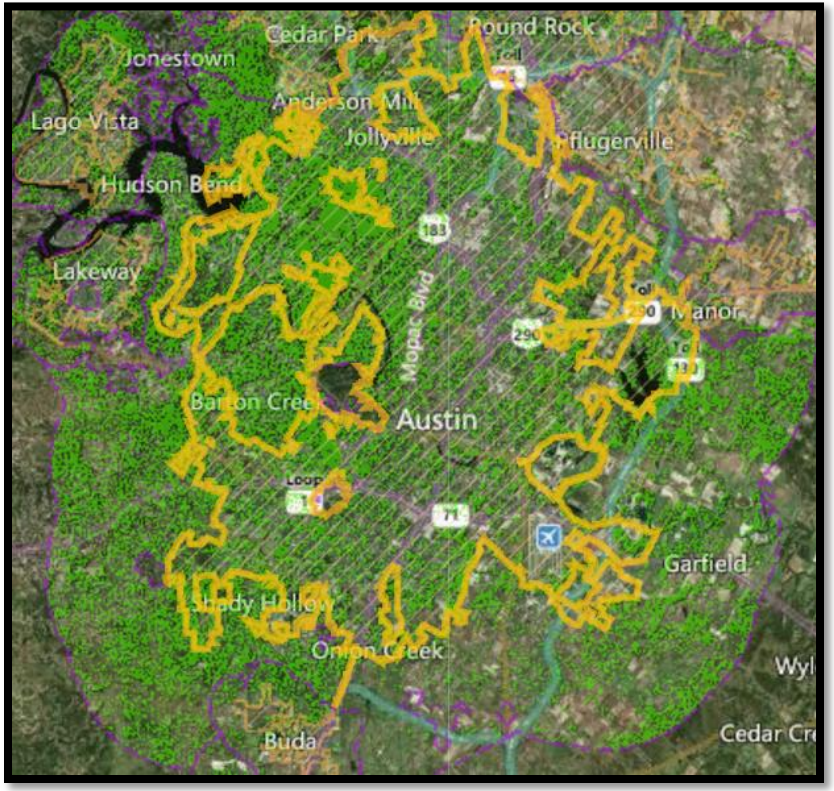
Target

Average

UTC



Relative Canopy %



Outcome

- City of San Antonio data will also be available on the easy-to-use “My City’s Tree” application.
  - New web application that is the national model for presenting Urban FIA data spatially and can be accessed at www.texasforestinfo.com.
- Austin was the first city in the nation to implement the UFIA.