i-Tree: Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis

Linking Costs, Benefits and Management - An Integrated Software Suite

What is *i*-TREE?

i-TREE is a software suite that is designed to integrate three Forest Service urban and community forestry inventory, analysis and forecasting tools: the Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE), Mobile Community Tree Inventory (MCTI), and the Street Tree Resource Analysis Tool for Urban forest Managers (STRATUM). UFORE and STRATUM facilitate urban forest analysis at the ecosystem and street tree levels, respectively, while MCTI provides a platform for street tree inventory and record management.

Who is developing *i*-TREE?

Under a national initiative, the USDA Forest Service is supporting the *i*-TREE software suite through research and technology transfer. Forest Service partners in the initiative include the Northeast Research Station, the Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry, and the Center for Urban Forest Research. Industry co-operators include Davey Resource Group and Bluejay Software.

What will *i*-TREE do?

i-TREE is designed to be a complete software package for urban forest analyses. In addition to facilitating street tree inventory and management tracking, the software suite facilitatesurban forest structure, function and value analyses for both on- and off-street resources. Reports consist of graphs, charts, and tables that will enable managers to legitimize funding, create program enthusiasm and investment, and promote sound decision making and management.

The software suite will include the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to collect data in the field.

Who should use *i*-TREE?

i-TREE is being developed for municipal foresters, non-profit tree advocates, commercial arborists, environmental consultants, planners, and anyone else with a vested interest in their community's urban forest. It will provide affordable, easy-to-implement inventory and analysis tools for those who might not otherwise have the monetary and technical means to inventory and analyze their community trees.

What makes *i*-TREE different?

While several commercial inventory and analysis applications exist, *i*-TREE is intended for communities and novice users who desire a low-cost alternative, before investing in commercial management-oriented tools. *i*-Tree is all-inclusive and adaptable to user needs—a single street tree, a neighborhood, or the entire urban forest can be analyzed. Users can choose between using an existing inventory, or conducting a sample or full inventory by configuring protocols for data collection on a Pocket PC. In addition to reporting environmental benefits produced by trees, property value benefits, structural characteristics, and management costs can be assessed. Management decisions can be made knowing that exhaustive Forest Service research provides the scientific underpinning for results reported.

> *The suite of software products will provide communities to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the costs, benefits and management needs of their urban forest using integrated computer tools.*

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An Integrated Software Suite - Part 2 of 2

How is Minneapolis involved?

This summer, the Forest Service and its coopera-
tors will be testing *i*-TREE software applications
and field methods for data collection in the city of
Minneapolis. The city's legacy of tree planting,
management, and desire for improved stewardship
make it an ideal community to pilot test *i*-TREE
and showcase the results. Teams of Forest Service
and Davey Resource Group professionals will be
working with volunteers from the Tree Trust to
collect data and test the software.

**Where can I go for more
information about *i*-TREE?**

i-TREE updates and more information about
UFORE, MCTI, and STRATUM applications can
be found by visiting the following websites:
http://www.ufore.org, http://www.umass.edu/
urbantree/, and http://cufr.ucdavis.edu.

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