

# Project Profile

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## Mobile Community Tree Inventory (MCTI) Software for Palm® PDAs



The Palm Operating System (OS), and the related Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) handheld computer hardware, are providing the urban and community forester, tree wardens and consultants with a variety of new tools, which greatly increase the effectiveness of the professional tree manager. Whether it is record keeping, mapping or inventory work, PDA's and the Palm OS make fieldwork and record keeping much easier to compile, archive and retrieve.

One of the areas that the Palm OS, and the PDA, have been most useful in assisting tree managers is in the completing of tree inventories. Traditionally, these operations have relied on cumbersome paper tally sheets or expensive computerized data recorders. Today, the Palm OS is the preferred computer platform of many data collectors, and there are a variety of hardware options available for field use. Palm, Handspring and Sony are among the most popular PDA's operating on the Palm platform.

### Project Goals

The Mobile Community Tree Inventory (MCTI) has been developed as a desktop and PDA software package that provides a versatile tree inventory collection system for municipal tree managers. This public-domain program package, manual, and associated materials are available for free download and can be used by communities of varying sizes.



The idea behind The Mobile Community Tree Inventory (MCTI) system was to design a tree inventory software application that could be distributed to arborists, tree managers, city foresters and consultants at no cost via the internet, and have it packaged as a stand alone program, requiring the purchase of no additional computer software

The MCTI software has been developed as a desktop and PDA software package that provides a versatile tree inventory collection system for municipal tree managers. This public-domain program package, manual, and associated materials are available for free download and can be used by communities of varying sizes. The MCTI system is comprised of three components, allowing for flexibility by the user. A traditional paper tally sheet, a Windows® desktop application and a Palm® PDA application are included.



## MCTI PDA Data Collection Software Package

The most efficient and cost effective way to collect and analyze tree inventory data is to use the complete MCTI package. The package includes the desktop software and the data collection software designed for the PDA. The PDA data collection software is also free and simple to use. You will need to provide a PDA using the Palm® OS, with at least 2 MB of memory, and a personal computer running the Windows® Operating System.



### Web Download

A website outlining the MCTI software has been posted on the Internet, and additional details about the software is available. The MCTI software system is available at no charge to users from the website.. A user's manual, installation instructions and the software is also available for download.



Navigate your browser to <http://www.umass.edu/urbantree/mcti> to access the MCTI website.

Additional development of a Tree Maintenance and Management component for the MCTI system is underway. This development will include work order tracking, maintenance history archiving and real-time GPS integration, as well as seamless integration of inventory and work history data.

For more information on MCTI, please contact David Bloniarz at [dbloniarz@fs.fed.us](mailto:dbloniarz@fs.fed.us) or visit <http://www.umass.edu/urbantree>

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The USDA Forest Service Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry is a cooperative partnership among the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, the University of Massachusetts, and the seven states of New England and New York. The Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry responds to urban and community forestry needs, facilitates and supports new and existing research, and coordinates the exchange of information among the states in order to contribute to healthy sustainable communities.

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