



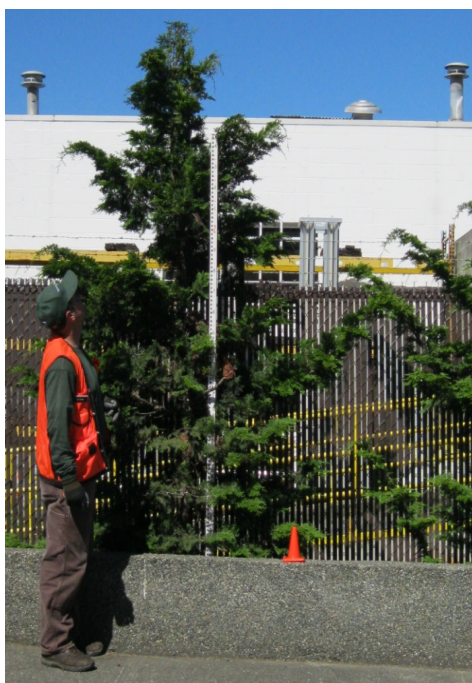
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USDA Forest
Service
Pacific Northwest
Research
Station



Forest Ecosystem Services and Values



Study Goals

- Understand the function and structure of regional forests, as well as to estimate monetary values for ecosystem services provided regional trees;
- Apply the i-Tree Eco tool on three scales in King County: the City of Seattle, King County parklands, and an urban to wildland gradient along the Green-Duwamish River;
- Improve forest assessment tools for use in King County and other Pacific Northwest communities.

Study Approach

Plot-based data collection began in Seattle in 2010 and additional research will occur in King County Parks and the Green-Duwamish corridor during 2011.

Data will be analyzed using the I-Tree Eco tool and the UFORE model.

What is the issue?

Few jurisdictions in King County have had adequate forest inventories or assessments. The first need for a long term management effort that conserves and enhances forest health is to know baseline conditions. Using multiple tools and procedures, project collaborators (including government, NGOs, and universities) will test and refine various approaches for rapid assessment, and use such information to calculate and communicate the ecosystem services that are provided by an urban forest system.

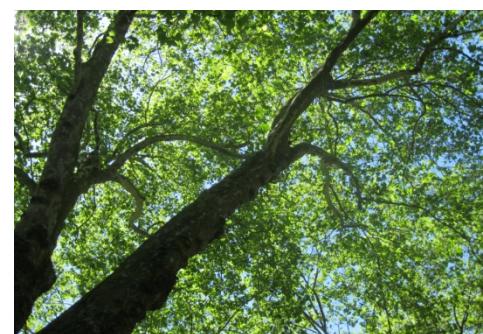
Why is this research important?

Assessment helps demonstrate the public value that any parcel or site offers. In these economic times limited resources are available for parks and environmental management. This project will provide a comprehensive understanding of the forest benefits within Seattle and King County Washington, and provide tools that other local governments can use for forest assessment.

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Research Sponsors



May 2011