

DRAFT Ecosystems Metrics Position Paper

5-2-12

1. Canopy Cover (aerial, satellite)

This is a basic measurement useful to establish trends and provide a big-picture view of size of the urban forest

2. Urban Forest Assessment (from the ground, i-Tree)

This is a more in depth view of the many benefits the urban forest provides. It has metrics that better represent current condition and help us track change over time

a. Condition of the Urban Forest (ensuring diversity)

- Species
- Size (age)
- Health

b. Benefits of the Urban Forest

Environmental:

- o Carbon sequestration
- o Stormwater management
- o Air/water pollution removal

Social:

- o Public health
- o Fruit trees
- o Crime prevention
- o Traffic calming
- o Community building/livability/access

Economic:

- o Property values
- o Economic vitality
- o Risk:
 - Invasive species
 - Pest susceptibility
 - Maintenance
 - Land use

c. Function of the Urban Forest

- o Connectivity (Stands/corridors/large trees)
- o Understory
- o Evergreen/deciduous