

## Assessment of Urban Forestry in Syracuse - THE TREES

Indicators of a Sustainable Urban Forest <b>THE TREES</b>	Overall Objective or Industry Standard	Performance Levels			Syracuse Today
		Low	Moderate	Good	
<b>Urban Tree Canopy</b>	Achieve the desired tree canopy cover according to goals set for the entire city and neighborhoods.  Alternatively, achieve 75% of the total canopy possible for the entire city and in each neighborhood.	Canopy is decreasing.  - and/or -  No canopy goals have been set.	Canopy is not dropping, but not on a trajectory to achieve the established goal.	Canopy goal is achieved, or well on the way to achievement.	Syracuse canopy cover as of 2009, is 27%. Relative canopy is 48%. This has been steady over the last few decades. No canopy goal has been set.
<b>Location of Canopy (Equitable Distribution)</b>	Achieve low variation between tree canopy and equity factors citywide by neighborhood. Ensure that the benefits of tree canopy are available to all, especially for those most affected by these benefits.	Tree planting and public outreach and education is not determined by tree canopy cover or benefits.	Tree planting and public outreach and education is focused on neighborhoods with low tree canopy.	Tree planting and public outreach and education is focused in neighborhoods with low tree canopy and a high need for tree benefits.	Canopy is not equitable across all neighborhoods, though the city is aggressively planting in areas of low canopy.
<b>Age of Trees (Size and Age Distribution)</b>	Establish a diverse-aged population of <b>public</b> trees across the entire city and for each neighborhood. Ideal standard: 0-8" DBH: 40% 9-17" DBH: 30% 18-24" DBH: 20% Over 24" DBH: 10%	Age distribution is not proportionately distributed across size classes at the city level.	Age distribution is evenly distributed at city level, though unevenly distributed at the neighborhood level.	Age distribution is generally aligned with the ideal standard diameter classes at the neighborhood level.	Age ranges of public trees closely follows the recommended levels - both at city level and by most neighborhoods. Three neighborhoods (Lincoln Hill, Washington Square and South Valley) deviate from recommended levels.  Public/private trees combined do not follow the recommended levels as closely.
<b>Condition of Publicly Owned Trees</b> ( <i>trees managed intensively</i> )	Possess a detailed understanding of tree condition and potential risk of all intensively-managed, publicly-owned trees. This information is used to direct maintenance actions.	No current information is available on tree condition or risk.	Information from a partial or sample or inventory is used to assess tree condition and risk.	Information from a current, GIS-based, 100% complete public tree inventory is used to indicate tree condition and risk.	The City regularly tracks and updates the tree inventory with condition data.
<b>Condition of Publicly-Owned Natural Areas</b> ( <i>trees managed extensively</i> )	Possess a detailed understanding of the ecological structure and function of all publicly-owned natural areas (such as woodlands, ravines, stream corridors, etc.), as well as usage patterns.	No current information is available on tree condition or risk.	Publicly-owned natural areas are identified in a sample-based "natural areas survey" or similar data.	Information from a current, GIS-based, 100% complete natural areas survey is utilized to document ecological structure and function, as well as usage patterns.	Minimal data is available on naturalized areas specifically. Further investigation may reveal otherwise. TBD.
<b>Trees on Private Property</b>	Possess a solid understanding of the extent, location and general condition of trees on private lands.	No data is available on private trees.	Current tree canopy assessment reflects basic information (location) of both public and private canopy combined.	Detailed information available on private trees. Ex. bottom-up sample-based assessment of trees.	Sample inventory of combined public/private trees was completed in 2014.
<b>Diversity</b>	Establish a genetically diverse population of publicly-owned trees across the entire city and for each neighborhood. Tree populations should be comprised of no more than 30% of any family, 20% of any genus, or 10% of any species.	Fewer than five species dominate the entire tree population citywide.	No species represents more than 20% of the entire tree population citywide.	No species represents more than 10% of the entire tree population citywide.	City-wide, only European Buckthorn (21%, also considered invasive) and Sugar maple (10%) meet or exceed recommended species diversity levels. The maple and buckthorn genera also exceed the 20% recommended diversity levels.  Just looking at public trees, only the Norway maple (14%, also now considered invasive), exceeds the recommended species diversity levels. The maple genus is the only one to exceed the 20% recommended diversity level.
<b>Suitability</b>	Establish a tree population suited to the urban environment and adapted to the overall region. Suitable species are gaged by exposure to imminent threats, considering the "Right Tree for the Right Place" concept and invasive species.	Less than 50% of trees are considered suitable for the site.	50% to 75% of trees are considered suitable for the site.	More than 75% of trees are considered suitable for the site.	TBD