

Website Outline: Tree Inventories

1. Homepage (include image of tree inventory)

- **Header:** Overview
 - Logo
 - Image of a tree inventory

A tree inventory is a detailed record that provides relevant information of all trees in a specific area such as, a right of way, a public park or on private property.

Tree inventories track four key details: 1) the tree's size (including its height and diameter at breast height), 2) its location, 3) its species, and 4) its health status. This data helps us understand each tree's needs and ensure it receives the proper care to thrive and provide the most benefits in an urban environment.

A tree inventory is a crucial tool for [urban forest management](#). A tree inventory informs decision makers if their urban forest is composed of diverse species so it is less susceptible to the next pest or pathogen. Tree inventories provide a real time status update of individual trees located in a particular area - this could be a neighborhood or the entire urban forest.

Additionally, tree inventories inform us if the overall forest is diverse in age so that not all of the trees are reaching maturity at the same time. They also reduce "hot pockets" - areas where trees are missing and could be planted to increase shade and reduce temperatures, and which trees need pruning or removal to avoid risk. Tree inventories provide foundational information for decision makers so they know where to focus critical resources to improve the health of the urban forest and quality of life for the community.

5. Who can do a Tree Inventory?

One of the most critical components of conducting a tree inventory is [hiring a qualified individual](#). Our Request for Proposals template and specifications provide guidance and recommendations for hiring in a municipal setting based on best industry practices. A tree inventory is only as useful as the accuracy of the information it provides. Qualified individuals are necessary to ensure accuracy.

You may also find nearby certified arborists through the [Illinois Arborists Association](#).

Certified Arborists are tree experts who have received considerable training through the [International Society of Arboriculture](#). After a tree inventory is conducted, an [urban forest management plan](#) can be created, which can prioritize action items and management strategies based on your inventory.

Request for Proposals Tools

- **Base Bid Template**
 - **Inventory Specifications**
 - **Proposal Scoring Sheet**
 - **Examples from other communities**
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FAQ: Tree inventory questions.

Why do I need a qualified individual?

- An inventory is only as meaningful as its data. Plus, inventories can contain important health information about your trees that can impact community safety and health. Having an expert conduct your inventory will help ensure that the data is relevant and accurate.

How much do Tree Inventories cost?

The cost of your inventory is determined by several factors and parameters in your scope in your Request for Proposals. Usually, the more data variables you want collected for each tree, the more expensive your inventory will be. For example, if you want the arborist to document sidewalk damage as a part of your inventory, that may cost more. Remember to only include data that you will actually use.

How often should I update my tree inventory?

A total tree inventory can be updated every 5-10 years. However, community workers should work to maintain an updated inventory when work is performed, planting, pruning or tree removals. It is important to have inventory updates as a part of your programmatic procedures in your community.

Who should be able to see my tree inventory?

Your community can determine what data to share with the public. For example, The Village of Western Springs has a public facing [tree inventory](#) that provides relevant information to community members so that they can better understand their urban forest. Some communities may benefit from having their species information available, empowering community members to take ownership over their urban forest.