# Canada's Urban Forestry Footprint

## *Measuring the Extent and Intensity of Urban Forestry Activities*

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## Background

Despite the public demand for more treed communities, and the fact that urban forestry has grown in Canada over 50 years ago, still there is no urban forestry program at the national or provincial levels to serve as an umbrella for strategically linking and directing urban forestry efforts (Kenney, 2003; Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, 2006). As a result, it is still hard to grasp the full extent of urban forestry activities and visualize their extent across Canadian municipalities. Urban forestry includes a wide rande of elements, from policies, regulations and by-laws to diverse management and stewardship activities. It can also include spatial and green systems design, and various conservation efforts. These activities are often perceived in isolation and often not linked to urban forestry.

## Objectives

- The overall objective of this project is to capture the distribution of urban forest activities.
- An addition objective is to map the differences in geographic variation of urban forestry which will show spatially where these programs are absent or where information gaps are present.

**Thus the project aims to capture, standardize, assess, and map urban forests and stewardship activities across Canadian municipalities.**

## Study Area

- Urban municipalities across Canada's provinces and territories.
- Urban areas with populations over 3,000 and at least one population centre.
- 800 municipalities were examined across the country, which accounted for 88.5% of the total population of Canada in 2016.

- Data collection was done by Yuki Yung, a Master of Forest Conservation (MFC) student at the University of Toronto.
- This project was funded by Mitacs and Tree Canada.

## Methods

Urban forest and stewardship analysis was based on readily available spatial information and data gathered through web data mining. The method enabled capturing and standardizing web-available information related to information related to urban forestry and mapping findings based on municipal and decision-making boundaries.

The categorical and descriptive information was classified and standardized using a relational database. It was converted into a structural database format that was used for quantitative analysis. Thematic information extraction of urban forestry activities and relevant subjects can be summarized for Canada or provinces.

**A set of seven indicators were established to summarize the current state of urban forestry activities. These mapped indicators include:**

1. Urban Forestry Departments
2. Professionals
3. Plans and Management Programs
4. Urban Tree Policies
5. Tree By-Laws
6. Tree Inventories
7. Pest and Disease Control

## Interactive Maps

Standardized information on urban forestry and related stewardship , policy, and management activities is spatially integrated into interactive maps. For more information, including descriptions of the interactive maps and other urban forestry footprint maps, please visit the **Settled Landscapes Website**.

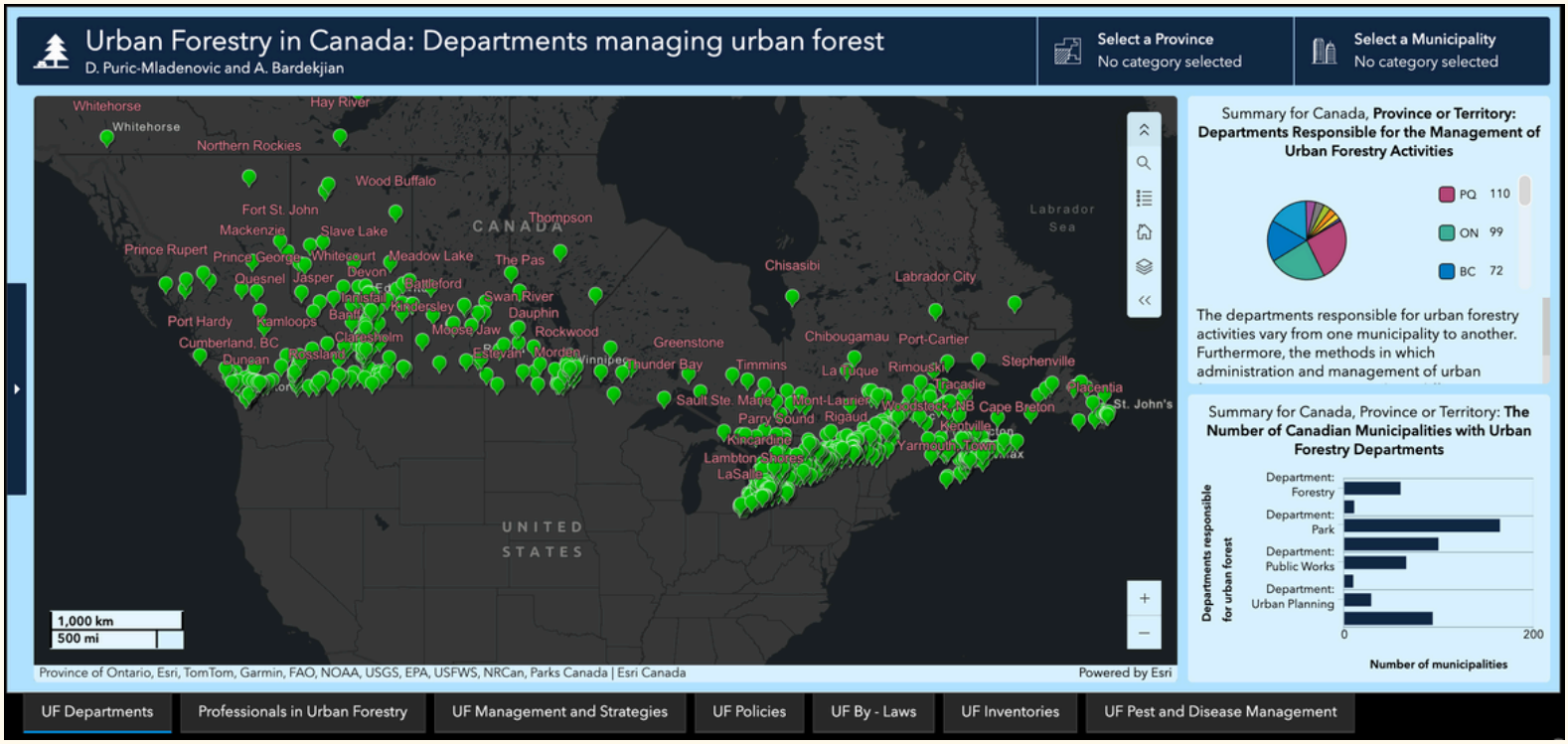


**Figure 1. The User Interface of the Interactive Map**

Citation:

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