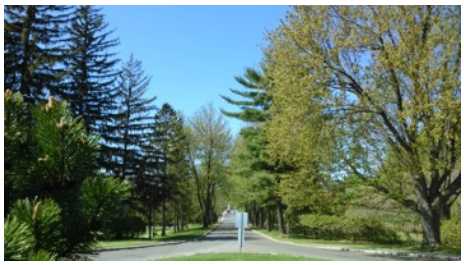
Canada's Urban Forestry Footprint

Measuring the extent and intensity of urban forestry activities



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 activates and visualize their extent across Canadian municipalities. Urban forestry includes a wide range 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 actives 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 additional objective is to map and the differences in the geographic variation of urban forestry This enables to show spatially where these programs are absent or where information gaps exist.

To achieve these objectives, it is necessary to obtain standard, spatially integrated data that can be further analyzed using spatial analysis and other analytical methods. Thus, the project aims to capture, standardize, assess and map urban forests and stewardship activities across Canadian municipalities.

Study Area

- Urban municipalities (dissemination areas) across Canada's provinces and territories
- Urban areas with populations over 3,000; and at least 1 population centre
- 800 municipalities (census subdivisions) across the country, which accounted for 88.5% of the total population of Canada in 2016 were examined

Methods

- Capture and standardize web available information related to urban forestry
- Map findings based on political and decision-making boundaries

Urban forest and stewardship analysis was based on readily available spatial information and data gathered by means of web data mining. Thematic information extraction of urban forestry activities and relevant subjects were done province by province.

The categorical and descriptive information was classified and standardized using a relational database. It was converted into a structural database format that could be used for quantitative analysis and be linked with the spatial municipal layer.

A set of ten categories was established to guide search, group gathered information and further develop indicators of the current state of urban forestry activities.

These ten categories include:
- Forestry and related department
- Urban forestry professionals
- Tree by-laws
- Urban tree policy
- Pest and disease management strategies
- Urban forest management plan
- Tree inventory
- Municipal tree nursery
- Stewardship council
- Urban forest planning and green systems

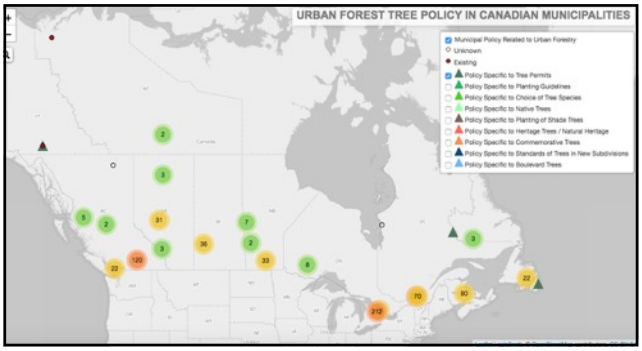
Interactive Maps

Standardized information on urban forestry and related stewardship, policy and management activities is spatially integrated into interactive maps.

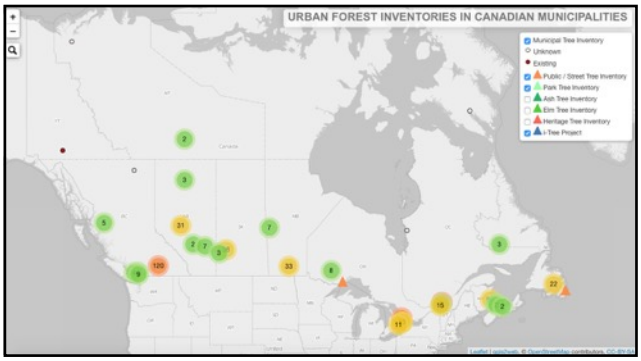
Disclaimer: The maps and data available for access at this website are for research and illustrative purposes only. Any maps and associated data do not represent the full study result. The information collected is based on publicly available websites as of September 2017, and may contain omissions.

Urban Forestry and Tree Protection in Canadian Municipalities

Urban Forest Tree Policy in Canadian Municipalities



Urban Forest Inventories in Canadian Municipalities



For more information, including descriptions of the interactive maps and other urban forestry footprint maps, please visit: http://forests-settled-urban-landscapes.org/UrbanForestryFootprint/