

Urban Forest Inventory & Analysis (UFIA) and its Relationship with i-Tree

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ABSTRACT

Urban FIA Implementation: Five years of collaboration, partnerships, and progress.

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program of the USDA Forest Service reports on the status and trends in forest land health, growth, area, location, and ownership. The 2014 Farm Bill instructs FIA to “Implement an annualized inventory of trees in urban settings, including the status and trends of trees and forests, and assessments of their ecosystem services, values, health, and risk to pests and diseases.” FIA met this mandate by collaborating with the Northern Research Station’s i-Tree unit to expand FIA’s monitoring efforts to include all trees and ground cover within Census-defined urban areas. Program implementation started in Baltimore, MD, and Austin, TX, during the 2014 field season and expanded into 35 cities in 24 States; 15 of which have both their proposed cities and all urban areas active as of the 2018 field season. In this session, we will provide a program update including FIA’s relationship with i-Tree, sample design, data quality analysis, and data delivery including the My City’s Trees application. We will also share how our cooperators are adding value to the base program.

BIOGRAPHY

Mark has a B.S. in Natural Resources Management from SUNY ESF and has been with the USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program for 27 years, working throughout most of the Midwest and is currently the national lead coordinating the development and implementation of the Urban FIA program with a large team including federal, state, local, and university cooperators across the country.

Tonya Lister is a research forester and has been working with the USDA Forest Service in the Northern Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit since 2000. She formerly worked as the state analyst for both Delaware and Maryland, and now focuses on Maryland. Tonya is involved in the implementation of FIA’s urban forest inventory program and is helping lead national urban forest reporting efforts. Her areas of interest include urban forest analysis, GIS, land use change, and forest fragmentation.