

Texas Trees Foundation, Urban Renewal & NCDC Imaging Design More Focused Tree Planting Model

NCDC Imaging
1235 Lake Plaza Dr., Suite 221
Colorado Springs, Co 80906
Ph: 719-579-9276
Fax: 719-632-5614

**For Immediate Release
October 1, 2008**

Many cities across the nation have had an Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) analysis performed to answer three primary questions: How many trees does our city have? Where are those trees? And what is our available planting space?

That's step one. Step two for these cities has been to go and plant more trees in the available spaces. But what if step two could be more thorough in categorizing those planting spaces based on performance? "Dallas Pilot: Roadmap to Tree Planting Success" through the Texas Trees Foundation, Urban Renewal, NCDC Imaging and other partners will be the first project in which planting sites will now be identified and then prioritized through models using GIS & remote sensing technologies and environmental factors. Janette Monear of the Texas Trees Foundation states that "in the past we have planted trees without considering the big picture on what planting sites are available that will provide the greatest suite of services. Results from this project will provide a strategic framework for tree planting and impact how funding is secured from policy makers."

Using a high resolution land cover data and ancillary GIS layers provided by the city, NCDC will first conduct an Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) analysis. The analysis will provide and illustrate Existing, Possible & Potential tree canopy and planting space for individual parcels, land use (zoning) and as a whole for each of the five, 1-square mile project areas. Portions of this model are based on tools developed by the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station & Southwest Research Station, the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Laboratory and UC-Davis.

Once the baseline data is mapped, each tree planting site will be attributed by selective criteria such as urban heat island data, land use type, watershed priority, soil classification, overhead power lines, parks and transportation corridors. This new model will allow a user to conduct different GIS queries from the interactive database so that better decisions for planting will be made. Monear adds that the model will also help to "connect the dots" for better focus on fundraising potential.

Partners include: City of Dallas, Texas Forest Service, North Central Texas Council of Governments, Urban Renewal, EPA, Houston Advanced Research Center, USDA Forest Service and UC-Davis.

About NCDC Imaging

NCDC Imaging is a Native American owned, non-tribal business. They provide satellite image mapping and change detection services to public utilities, local, state and the federal government. An authorized Digital Globe® reseller, NCDC specializes in image processing and advanced analysis of high-resolution satellite imagery. For more information please visit www.NCDCimaging.com