



The Southern Center for Urban Forestry Research & Information

Current Research and Technology Transfer Projects

I. Current Research

The Center is currently engaged in research that focuses on:

- Estimating The Economic Benefit Of Landscape Pattern: This was a Cooperative Research Agreement with the UGA Institute of Ecology (Nelson, et. al.) that determined the affect of forested landscapes that are in proximity to residential property. This research is currently being prepared for journal publication.
- Residential Property Value & Tree Canopy: Through a Cooperative Research Agreement with the University of Georgia, Dr. Mike Bowker, is completing this Athens-Clarke County (GA) study initially reported at the National Urban Forest Conference in San Antonio. A related study in Barrow County (GA) is also near completion.
- Residential Property Value & Open Space: This research will begin in late summer and will focus on the affect that open space (and tree canopy) protected through perpetual easements has on surrounding residential property in conservation design subdivisions. Dr. Bowker is co-principal investigator in a Cooperative Research Agreement with UGA School of Forest Resources.
- Attitudes of Hispanic Residents in Urban, Suburban and Interface Communities Toward Urban Forestry, Environment, and Recreation: Dr. Cassandra Johnson has initiated this Cooperative Research Agreement with the Department of Sociology at UGA.

II. Cooperative Work with the Center for Urban Forest Research (CUFR)

As part of a national effort beginning this year, the Center is working cooperatively with Scott Maco in Davis to inventory and analyze two cities in the Southern Region for the STRATUM cost/benefit system. Charleston (SC) will be used to represent the coastal climate zone, and Charlotte (NC) has been selected to represent the Piedmont (lower south) climate zone. Growth, leaf area, and cost data will be collected from each of these cities (by species). The cost/benefit (regression) data can be used by STRATUM to model any inventory in that climate zone. Detailed, published 'Tree Guides' will be prepared for each of the sample cities. Minneapolis (MN) has been selected to represent the upper Midwest. Pending results from this year's work, I would hope to expand the list of southern cities next year.

III. Urban Forestry South Website

Development of a "new" web site began about two years ago. The primary objective is to revise and rebuild the current Urban Forestry South website into a more

accessible, and relevant (useful and up-to-date) Internet site that helps users find information and services related to urban & community forestry. A second, unstated objective is to make the site easier to maintain (administratively).

Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF) is the developer of the site under the direction of a 10 person Site Development Committee; this effort is lead by Bryan Jordin and Matt Howell of SREF. An intense one-day beta test was held recently in Athens. Nancy Stremple, Susan Reisch, and Dudley Hartel are working on the reporting module for Coordinators, which is scheduled for July 15th testing. August 15th has been set for the initial, limited public access. This should coincide with the installation of new hardware and software to support Urban Forestry South and several other cutting edge web sites that SREF is developing. Presentations and training will begin in July as part of a marketing effort that will continue through 2005.

The Center and this website are cooperating in a national effort to locate and catalog (for Internet retrieval) U&CF technology transfer products. This is a cooperative effort headed by the National Urban Forestry Technology Transfer Team, TreeLink, and The University of Minnesota Urban Forestry Library.

IV. Other Cooperative Research Agreements

Other Cooperative Research Agreements in progress include:

- Clemson University *Southern Technology Transfer Database*
- University of Illinois, Human-Environment Research Laboratory *Study on Trees and Crime*.
- University of Georgia *Annotated Bibliography of U&CF Cost/Benefit Studies*.
- University of Georgia *Southern Research Station (SRS) Cross-Cutting Themes* is looking at SRS research that is applicable to U&CF in the south.

V. Other

The Center (Ingrid Sather) took the lead in revising and republishing the Benefits of Urban Trees brochure. The PDF file of this publication will be available for downloading.

The Center (Ingrid Sather and Dudley Hartel) worked cooperatively with the Center for Urban Forest Research (CUFR) in Davis to produce a new publication entitled "The Large Tree Argument". Based on CUFR research, the publication compares benefits and costs of small-stature and large-stature trees.

VI. Administrative

The Technology Transfer Coordinator position should be advertised soon. The intent is to return to 2 fulltime support staff. Within the last year, the Center consolidated office space at the Athens Forestry Science Laboratory on the UGA Campus. In addition to offices for our two lead researchers (Drs. Bowker and Johnson), we have adjoining offices for the Center Coordinator and TT Specialist and a small library and conference room.

The Southern Center for Urban Forestry Research & Information is part of the *Recreation, Wilderness, Urban Forest & Demographic Trends Research* unit in Athens (RWU-4901). Dr. Ken Cordell is Project leader. Ed Macie and Ken Cordell are co-directors of the Center.