



THE TOWNSHIP TREEBUNE

In the March e-newsletter the Ferguson Township Tree Commission provided a summary of the public tree inventory conducted in 2022. As noted in that article, the reason for the tree inventory is to accurately account for the Township's publicly maintained trees because they represent an ecosystem service investment benefiting current and future residents. Managing this investment requires periodic census surveying of each tree to ensure tree health and public safety.

In addition to the inventory, a [Tree Canopy Assessment](#) was also conducted under the guidance of the Township's Public Works Director, David Modricker, PE with input from Township Arborist Larry Maginnis and Tree Commission Chairperson Dr. Marc McDill. The purpose of the tree canopy assessment is to measure the extent of our community's urban tree resource and how it is changing. This will help inform the Township's policies for managing both private and public trees.

The canopy study used aerial and satellite imagery collected in 2008 and 2019. Township Geographic Information System (GIS) specialists used GIS technology to visualize and calculate public tree canopy gains and loss across the Township in parks and Township right-of-ways. In addition, this analysis also enabled calculation of public and privately owned tree canopy gains and losses at a neighborhood level. This analysis informs such actions as planting decisions and forecasting Township maintenance activities.

On behalf of the Township Tree Commission, Arborist, Public Works Director, Township Manager and Board of Supervisors, along with future generations of Township residents we thank residents for their stewardship of the private and public trees. Our Township trees are more than a financial investment in property value; they are valued community members. Beyond beauty, shade and erosion control they provide multiple ecosystem services to people and wildlife.