TREE INVENTORY vs. TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Both are tools for collecting comprehensive information about an urban forest, however, the insights they offer are very different.

BOTTOM-UP

- Completed on the ground to map the location and record the condition of individual trees in a defined area
- Personnel plot the location and record a determined set of criteria for each tree
- Can focus on just street trees, park trees, trees in certain locations, or all public trees
- Identifies species composition and age diversity of the urban forest, identifies high risk trees for prioritizing maintenance efforts, and offers helpful statistics for future planning decisions

TOP-DOWN

- Uses satellite, aerial, and Lidar imagery to map out the coverage of tree canopy over a defined area
- Provides a map of how trees are distributed throughout a community and a percentage of the total land area covered by tree canopy
- Looks at all trees in the community, both public and private
- Excellent for tracking large scale trends, setting canopy growth goals, calculating tree equity, and measuring the effectiveness of urban forest management programs over time

also known as:

Urban Tree Inventory
Tree Survey

Urban Tree Canopy Assessment
Tree Canopy Analysis

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