wbcsd

Natural Infrastructure Tool Fact Sheet

TOOL TYPE & AVAILABILITY

i-Tree is a suite of software tools for assessing and managing community forests; it is available online for download.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION & DEVELOPERS

Developed by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, in cooperative partnership with Davey Tree Expert Company, National Arbor Day Foundation, Society of Municipal Arborists, International Society of Arboriculture, and Casey Trees.

WEBSITE & CONTACT INFORMATION

i-Tree is available at http://www.itreetools.org/index.php; questions about the tool can be sent to info@itreetools.org.

TARGET USERS

Community planners.

RELEASE YEAR & UPDATES

i-Tree was released in August 2006, and its series of analysis tools was updated in 2014.

COST

No cost.

i-Tree

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

- i-Tree is meant to quantify the ecosystem service benefits of urban trees at a variety of scales; it includes some international applications.
- The urban forest assessment applications include i-Tree Eco, i-Tree Streets, i-Tree Hydro, i-Tree Vue, i-Tree Design, and i-Tree Canopy, i-Tree Species, i-Tree Pest Detection Module, i-Tree Storm.

SOFTWARE AND DATA INPUT REQUIRED

- System requirements vary by tool. The details are available at http://www.itreetools.org/installation/index.php.
- Each application uses existing data banks, and data input requirements vary by application and include a range of field data and project specifications. i-Tree Design, for instance, requires information on location, tree species, size, and conditions.

INFORMATION GENERATED

- The information generated will vary by tools selected based on the project specific need. i-Tree Design provides information on the benefits of the tree described in the data entry including, greenhouse gas mitigation and stormwater interception, and allows users to assess the benefits of a planned design.

EXPERTISE & TIME INVESTMENT REQUIRED

- The level of expertise required varies by tool. For instance, i-Tree Pest Detection Module may require a background in botany in order to accurately identify the tree species in question.
- Time investment varies by tool, project scope, and scale of the project area being assessed.

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY USERS

- i-Tree has been used by communities, nonprofit organizations, private/public consultants, schools, homeowners, landscape architects, and designers.
- The Energy Saving Trees program, as well as other successful community and regional initiatives, uses i-Tree tools to help utility companies connect with their customers to reduce energy use and get the right tree planted in the right place to avoid utility-tree conflicts. To date, 125,000 trees have been delivered to 70,000 home owners served by 18 different utility companies.