

An aerial photograph of a dense green forest covering a large area. In the far distance, a city skyline is visible under a hazy sky. The foreground shows a road and some buildings partially obscured by the trees.

Urban Forestry in Indiana

Planning and Partnerships

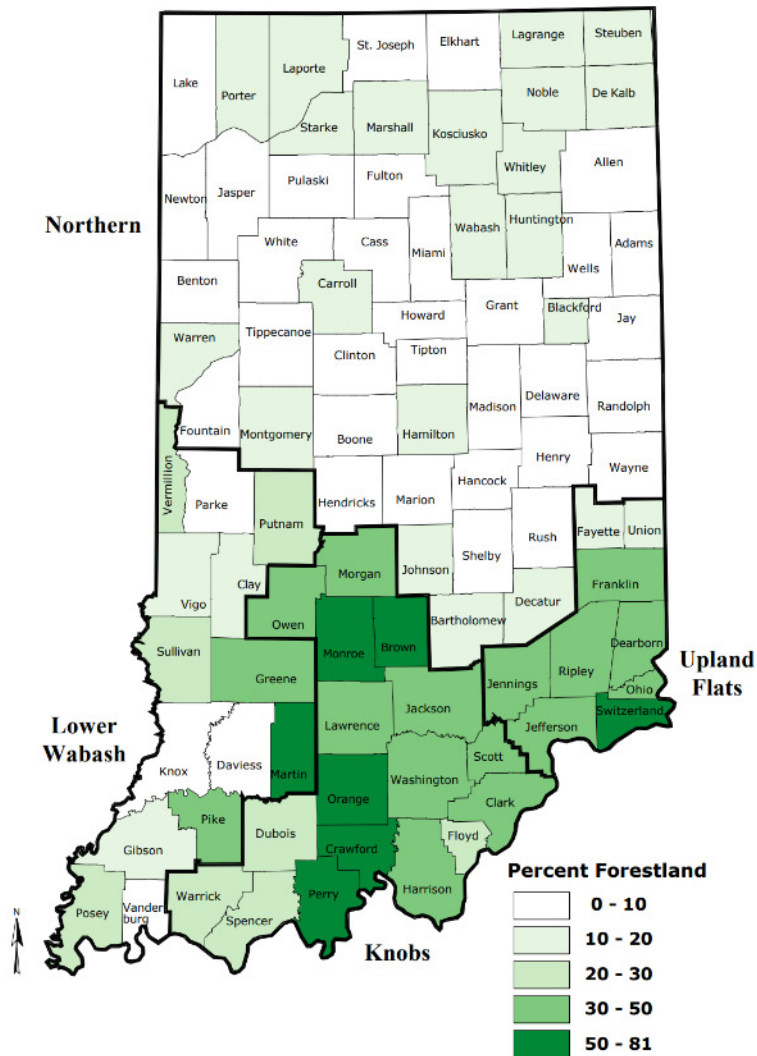
Lindsey Purcell

Urban Forestry Specialist
Purdue University

Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

Executive Director, Indiana Arborist Association

Indiana Urban Forest Inventory (2008)



- 243 species
- 35- 42 % Maple species
- 8- 14% Ash species
- 58% in good functional condition, prior to EAB
- Stocking Level- 52%
- ~20% Urban Tree Canopy.
- Nearly all urban forests inventoried are mature to over-mature

Current Trends



- In Indiana, urban trees provide nearly 100 million dollars in ecosystem services annually and increasing.
- 3.1% of land is urban which supports 79% of our population. Indiana- 8%
- Nationally, Urbanization is currently at 54% and estimated to be at 66% by 2040.
- By 2050, projected to lose nearly 10% of “non-urban forest” or over 250,000 acres. (Indiana)
- Increase consumption of urban forest areas reduces classified forest area as well.

Attitudes in Indiana

- Improving the public education system 27%
- Making health care more accessible and affordable 27%
- Attracting and retaining businesses and jobs 14%
- Protecting the state's air and water quality, land use and wildlife 11%
- Lowering taxes 10%
- Improving public safety 7%

...it gets better.

- Nearly all Indiana voters (87 percent) feel the state's "parks, preserves, forests and open spaces are either "very important" (68 percent) or "somewhat important" (28 percent) to them.
- one-third of Indiana voters (34 percent) say they are "very concerned" about "the state's overall natural environment," (39 percent) are "somewhat concerned".

“Our” Challenges

- Development
- Climate change
- Air/ water quality
- Invasive plants / pests
- Funding/ Resources
- Administrative priorities
- Attitude and lack of education



Problem Areas

Indiana's forests are a maturing resource that will eventually experience density and age-related changes.

The forest land base of Indiana is highly fragmented due to agriculture and development.

Despite the diverse array of native plant species in the understory of Indiana's forests, growing numbers of invasive plant species are outcompeting native vegetation.

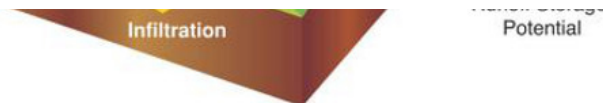
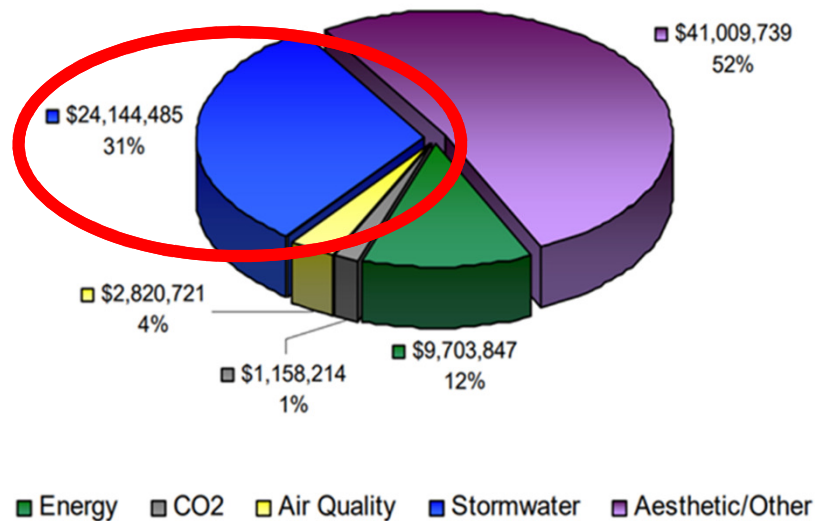
Urban Forestry is one of the best tools to help people understand general forestry concepts.

Stormwater Management

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)



Figure 1. Estimated Statewide Benefits From Indiana's Street Trees



- Leverage funding for trees and conservation.
- Incentives; development and financial.
- Regulatory tools.
- Encourage private landowners.
- Training coordinators.

A single 24" Oak tree intercepts over 3,000 gals of water.

Stormwater Benefits Chesterton, IN

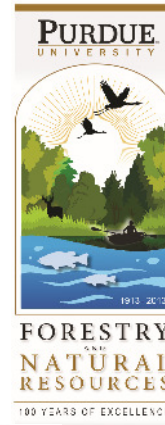
Species	Gallons	
Silver Maple	3,761,690	Silver Maple Accounts for 17% of trees 47% of benefits
Norway Maple	922,390	
Red Maple	282,204	
Sugar Maple	324,019	
Boxelder	12,992	
		Maple make up 66% of all stormwater benefits
	5,303,295	

Total Stormwater benefit: 8,001,278gal
Value: \$216,835

Strategies

- Support partnerships and programs to provide “stop-gaps” where municipal budgets fail.
- Maintain funding for urban forestry initiatives, through CUF, to ensure a safe, healthy and dynamic urban canopy.
- Continue support of IDNR CUF program to provide communities with access to professional urban forestry expertise and promote awareness of urban forestry issues.
- Continue to design and implement professional educational and volunteer engagement activities to improve practice and safety.

Programming/ Partners



TREE CITY USA®



Thank You.

We must remember that in nature,
there are neither punishment or
rewards; only consequences- Ingersoll.