

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

Tree Inventory Fact Sheet

Summary

The Park District of Oak Park is committed to the highest possible level of management for all natural resources represented in our parks. A component of this management strategy is having a complete and current inventory of all trees within the park system. This inventory identifies the location, general health, and other data about each tree; and is used to make informed decisions about tree management within the park system.

Discussion

Trees represent one of the most valuable natural resources in our environment, in our community, and in our parks. As with any natural resource, the trees in our parks must be managed appropriately to protect the trees' health, the safety of park visitors, and ensure proper ecological function. Management of the Park District's trees starts with a complete inventory of all trees within the park system. This inventory will allow the Park District to know precisely the total number of trees within all parks and at all facilities, as well as know the general health and condition of each tree. These data can then be used to inform decisions about tree care, removal, planting, and ecological management of the tree resources present at each park or facility.

The tree inventory is conducted by municipal arborists certified through the International Society of Arboriculture, and in collaboration with Park District staff. Data collected during the inventory includes:

- GPS location
- Identification by genus, species, and, where applicable, variety or cultivar
- Tree height, trunk diameter, and canopy spread
- General condition rating
- Identification of root, trunk, branch, and canopy defects
- Tree risk assessment quantification rating
- Short- and long-term maintenance recommendations
- General health notes

The Park District's tree inventory is conducted in collaboration with the Village of Oak Park. Management strategies for both the Park District and Village's tree resources are developed in parallel in order to provide the best overall municipal tree management program.



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For more information about the Park District of Oak Park
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