

Public Tree Inventory 2020

Town of Normal, Illinois

Davey Resource Group completed a geographic information systems-based tree inventory of the Town of Normal, Illinois in July 2020. Trees in city-designated sections of public street rights-of-ways (ROW), public parks, and public properties were inventoried.

City of Normal, Illinois: Public Tree Inventory

The following statistical summary of the tree population reflects species composition, condition, and benefit information:

- A total of 11,959 sites were inventoried, including 11,629 trees and 330 stumps.
- The species distribution: *Malus spp.* (crabapple), comprises 8% of the tree population, followed by *Acer rubrum* (red maple), 7%, *Acer saccharinum* (silver maple), 5%; *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple), 5%; *Picea pungens* (Colorado blue spruce), 5%; *Ulmus spp.* (elm hybrid), 4%; *Picea abies* (Norway spruce), 4%; and all other species, 62%.
- Conditions include: 9,288 trees are noted as Good (79%); 1,938 noted as Fair (17%); 310 noted as Poor (3%); and 93 trees in Dead condition (<1%).
- Recommended maintenance: 8,345 discretionary prunes (72%); 2,550 training prunes (21%); 516 prunes (4%); 330 stump removals (3%); and 218 tree removals (<1%).
- Greenhouse Gas Benefits: \$34,799.06; 1,065 tons CO₂ avoided and 1,347 tons CO₂ sequestered
- Water Benefits: \$328,005.00; 12,104,243.55 gallons saved
- Energy Benefits: \$295,538.88; 1,407,203.65 kWh saved and 192,583.80 Therms saved
- Air Quality Benefits: \$47,897.89; 14,980.95 lbs pollutants saved
- Aesthetic/Property Benefits: \$378,447.61, 1,564,371.13 leaf surface area (sq.ft.)



Tree such as this pin oak can pose unnecessary risk. In order to address instances of risk and maximize the benefits trees provide, cyclical maintenance needs to occur. Tree inventories provide insight into maintenance requirements for your tree population and risk assessment information that can aid in prioritizing work.

This tree inventory is an important planning tool that should help the Town of Normal continue a systematic program for tree care and determine budget, staff, and equipment needs. Implementation of the maintenance recommendations will improve public safety and help guide future management decisions. When properly maintained, trees return economic, environmental, and social value to the community. These benefits greatly exceed the time and money invested in planting, pruning, protection, and removal.

Some of the environmental benefits trees provide include: shading and acting as windbreaks, which decreases residential energy consumption; slowing and reducing the amount of stormwater that reaches storm drains, rivers, and lakes; reducing noise levels; cleansing atmospheric pollutants; producing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide; stabilizing the soil by controlling wind and water erosion; and providing a habitat for wildlife. Additionally, the aesthetic benefits of properly-managed and well-placed trees are numerous. Attractive areas increase property values and appeal to commercial businesses. The shade and beauty trees provide an enhanced quality of life throughout the Town of Normal.