

**MillionTreesNYC Strategic Plan
Research & Evaluation**

Program Goals

- Support and/or promote urban forestry research and data to advance initiative goals.
- Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of initiative programs and activities.
- Establish measurements to ensure initiative is reaching PlaNYC tree planting and sustainability goals.

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	STATUS & SEASON COMPLETED	STRATEGIC PARTNERS & SPONSORS
COMPLETED?		<i>Completed/Ongoing/On Hold (with corresponding season and year)</i>	
1 MTNYC Research Clearinghouse	Compile current research and data on urban forestry		USFS
a	Identify research categories	Distinguish various subject areas and concentrations of MTNYC-related research (i.e. stormwater management, biodiversity, social capital, etc.) Completed, spring 2009	Parks, NYRP, USFS, Cornell
b	Develop a research clearinghouse for MTNYC	Compile a survey of MTNYC-related research for use by practitioners, policy-makers, and researchers Ongoing; website can include blurbs on MTNYC related research projects; incorporate white papers developed from various Urban Field Station research projects; Ruth Rae's R&E Subcommittee evaluation	Parks, USFS
c	Review search results, identify and fill gaps;	Develop Literature Review based on clearinghouse; accessible via MTNYC website Ongoing; preliminary research done with UTC; UTM for Fall '08; STEW-MAP now live; MTNYC edition of CATE Journal published January 2011	Parks, USFS
e	Periodically update bibliography; Post bibliography on MTNYC website	Update research bibliography and MTNYC website with latest ongoing research Ongoing; Parks and USFS will update annually	Parks, USFS
2 Research Agenda	Identify current and future research needs		USFS, Parks, NYRP, Cornell, Sound Science, NYU, Columbia, NS
a	Building on Forest Service Science Plan identify additional research needs from Advisory Committee members	Convene researchers, practitioner, and policy-makers to build a MTNYC research agenda Completed (2009 research workshop)	USFS, Parks, NYRP, Cornell, Sound Science, NYU, Columbia, NS
b	Solicit research institutions and funders to advance research agenda	Identify topics from science plan that can be used for invitation letter Completed (2010 research symposium)	USFS, Parks, NYRP, Cornell, Sound Science, NYU, Columbia, NS
c	Support continuous MTNYC-related research among outside institutions	Establish collaboration with other research and academic institutions to implement existing research agenda and identify new topics Ongoing	USFS, Parks, NYRP, Cornell, Sound Science, NYU, Columbia, NS
d	Explore the creation of an annual symposium to share research.	Convene workshop participants and additional stakeholders in showcasing MTNYC-related research during symposia Completed 2010 symposium; consider hosting subsequent forums every 3-4 years	USFS, Parks, NYRP, Cornell, Sound Science, NYU, Columbia, NS
e	Track research presentations to outside bodies	Compile instances of MTNYC-related research presented to various local, national, and international institutions Ongoing; USFS Volunteer survey presented in Colorado, USFS-MTTP Green Jobs study presented in Philadelphia, Columbia-MTNYC Reforestation study at UN in NYC, etc.	Parks, USFS, Others
f	Develop criteria for selecting new target neighborhood:	UVM GIS Course project Ongoing; new Urban Tree Canopy assessment based on 2010 LIDAR-derived tree canopy map is expected by the fall.	Parks, USFS
g	Identify funding for and recruit a MTNYC research fellow	To be considered for ongoing sustainability funding efforts Ongoing; NSF proposal for Urban Field Station to explicitly fund research network and outreach material	Parks, USFS
h	Publish and present research findings with peer review	Publish results of symposia and promote through MTNYC website and other outlets Complete MTNYC edition of CATE Journal published January 2011	Parks, USFS
i	Set Research Protocol	Identify and implement evaluation and outcome measurements to gauge MTNYC effectiveness Ongoing	Parks, USFS, NYRP
3 Initiative Evaluation and Reporting			Parks, NYRP
a	Execute MTNYC internal program evaluation	Review MTNYC program and subcommittees structure, resources and activities including changes over time. Ongoing; Ruth Rae taking lead	Parks
b	Refine Goals and Establish Outcomes	Identify measurable characteristics of MTNYC programs; revise goals as necessary and help subcommittees define measurable outcomes Ongoing; will be second stage of internal evaluation of MTNYC programs being performed by Ruth Rae	Parks, NYRP, PlaNYC
c	Present evaluation results to Advisory Board and public	Compile program evaluations report done on MTNYC program, present internally and to larger Advisory Board Ongoing	Parks, NYRP
d	Initiate Reporting Schedule	Establish benchmark reporting criteria and schedule for MTNYC program assessment Ongoing	Parks, NYRP
e	Initiate External third-party program evaluation	Engage outside institutions in conduction of a economic impact analysis of MTNYC programs ON HOLD	NYRP
4 Partner and Engage with Local Research Outlets	Incorporate findings from the Urban Field Station and collaborate further with local research institutions		Parks, NYRP
a	Identify points of collaboration	Assess where associate and outside research intitutions can assist with MTNYC-related research/evaluation Ongoing; working on this through ULTRA-ex (re: Volunteer Survey and Survey of STEW-Map Organizational Nodes)	USFS, Parks, PlaNYC
b	Measure degree of partner engagement	Research the degree of engagement of different MTNYC partner institutions; rank partnerships based on level of collaboration ON HOLD; use STEW-MAP as a resource	USFS, Parks, PlaNYC

WISH LIST	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	NEEDED RESOURCES

Abbreviations

Parks
NYRP
USFS
NYU
Cornell
NS
Columbia

NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
New York Restoration Project
US Forest Service
New York University
Cornell University
The New School
Columbia University