



Technology

City of New York
Parks & Recreation
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner



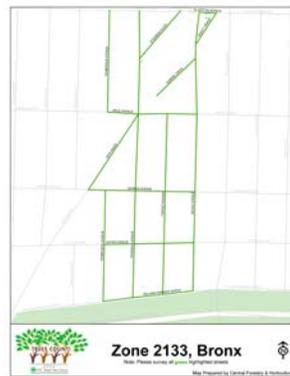
Technology was a hallmark of the 2005-2006 street tree census. Parks used computer mapping, email, the internet, and handheld computers to recruit volunteers, report our progress and analyze results, while only ten years ago we relied 100% on paper, copy machines and highlighters.

Computer Mapping. In 1998, Parks used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map the 1995-1996 census results. We used that information to organize the 2005-2006 effort, creating zones of approximately 300 trees each. These zones served as the organizing unit for the census. Each volunteer was asked to commit to one zone, we customized our recruitment efforts by mapping assigned zones and we provided a custom designed GIS zone map for each volunteer.

1995 Zone Map



2005 Zone Map



Using the most up to date New York City Department of Planning's GeoSupport application, the census data was mapped providing a basis for borough and neighborhood scale *spatial* analysis in ArcGIS. For example, the mapped census data will allow us to estimate how many additional trees could be planted on every block in all five boroughs.

Email. While email is a vital part of any business transaction or public program today, it was still in its infancy during the last census effort. Staff used email extensively to recruit volunteers and communicate with them through weekly updates and other notices.

Trees Count Website

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Home About Things to Do Your Park Permits & Services Newsroom Opportunities Parks FAQs Contact Parks

SEARCH

Interactive Park Maps
Flagship Parks and Virtual Tours
Trees & Greenstreets
Greenways
Historical Signs
Public Art
Monuments Catalog
Adopt-a-Park
Redevelopment Projects

Your Park > Trees & Greenstreets > Trees Count > Volunteer Resources

Volunteer Resources

Contact Email Updates FAQ's Drop-off Locations Volunteer Forum Volunteer Materials

2005-2006 NYC Street Tree Census

Submit Data

Take our online volunteer survey

Attention volunteers: we are very interested in your motivation, experience, and feedback--both positive and negative. This will help evaluate our effectiveness and improve future efforts.

Is your zone complete?
If you have finished your zone, let me know by either email, calling or marking it complete in the database.

Are you finished with the field work of your zone and only have to enter the data?
Let me know if you fall into this category also. This will aid us in getting an accurate picture of

Website. Parks designed a completely interactive census website where volunteers could:

- View a training calendar and register for classes;
- Access resources including the training manual, data collection forms, and the leaf key;
- View weekly census updates;
- Communicate with other volunteers through a facilitated bulletin board;
- Enter tree census data into an online form; and
- Participate in a volunteer survey.

Handheld computers. Hewlett Packard donated 40 handheld computers. The Davey Resource Group's professional staff designed a customized database to put on the handhelds that matched the paper data forms so their data could be easily imported into Parks' online database. This bypassed the data-entry phase and saved paper and trees.



Forestry Management System (FoRMS). This fall, Parks will roll out a GIS-based application for tracking our tree inventory and work orders. Using a map-based application for everyday operations will revolutionize how Parks manages our urban forest. By tracking our inventory and work orders within a map of our city, Parks will be able to manage every tree in relation to other trees and infrastructure such as roads, highways and buildings. FoRMS will also allow people to submit and track requests on the Parks website.

FoRMS Sample Web Interface

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Search NYC.gov for

Advanced Search

ADDRESS SEARCH
Enter New Address

SERVICE REQUEST SEARCH
Enter Service Request

- About Parks
- Things to Do
- Your Park
- Permits & Applications
- Parks Newsroom
- Opportunities at Parks
- Parks FAQs
- Contact Us
- Home

Find It

SITE INFORMATION
My Neighborhood

Identify

Legend

Visible	Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	Libraries
<input type="checkbox"/>	Schools
<input type="checkbox"/>	Universities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Police
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rec. Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	Post Offices
<input type="checkbox"/>	Day Care
<input type="checkbox"/>	Subways
<input type="checkbox"/>	After School

CITIZEN INFORMATION

COPY ADDRESS INFO

FIRST NAME Enter Text	LAST NAME Enter Text	BOROUGH Enter Text
ADDRESS NUMBER Enter Text	STREET Enter Text	ZIP CODE Enter Text
HOME PHONE NUMBER Enter Text	CELL PHONE NUMBER Enter Text	EMAIL ADDRESS Enter Text

PROBLEM INFORMATION

STREET NUMBER Enter Text	STREET NAME Enter Text	CROSS STREET Enter Text
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Did You Know?

- 20% of the census was collected on handheld computers.
- The new online forestry management tool will allow users to see individual trees in their neighborhoods, and track requests related to them.