



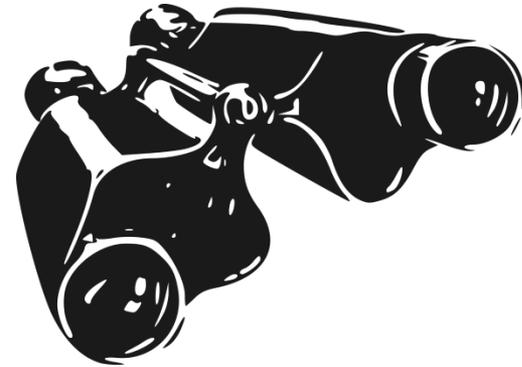
# What Changed, How, and When?

Sarah C. Low

Philadelphia Field Station,  
Northern Research Station

USDA Forest Service

# Monitoring Change



## Canopy change: aerial photos



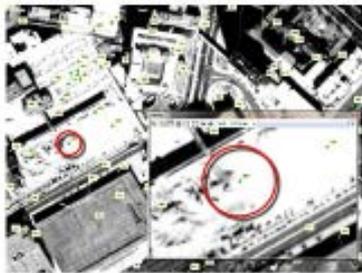
Lara Roman  
Research  
Ecologist



2012 Canopy



2004 Canopy



1980 Impervious Building



1970 Groundcover

Chronic impacts of Hurricane Sandy on New York City's street trees.



Richard Hallett  
Nancy Falxa Sonti\*  
Michelle Johnson  
USDA Forest Service  
NYC Urban Field Station



# Assessing Ecosystem Services

Table 9.—Summary of urban forest features, Philadelphia parklands, 2012

| Feature                              | Estimate                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Number of trees <sup>a</sup>         | 1,100,000                                                               |
| Tree cover                           | 64% <sup>b</sup>                                                        |
| Most abundant species by:            |                                                                         |
| Number of trees                      | ash species, boxelder, spicebush, black cherry, American beech          |
| Leaf surface area                    | American beech, tulip tree, sycamore species, ash species, black cherry |
| Trees 1-6 inches d.b.h.              | 66.7%                                                                   |
| Pollution removal                    | 179 tons/year (\$6.6 million/year)                                      |
| VOC emissions                        | 54 tons/year                                                            |
| Carbon storage                       | 273,000 tons (\$19.4 million)                                           |
| Carbon sequestration                 | 6,900 tons/year (\$489,000/year)                                        |
| Value of reduced building energy use | \$21,400/year                                                           |
| Value of reduced carbon emissions    | \$2,400/year                                                            |
| Compensatory value <sup>c</sup>      | \$350 million                                                           |

<sup>a</sup> all woody vegetation > 1 inch d.b.h.

<sup>b</sup> assessed using LIDAR in an earlier report (O'Neil-Dunne 2011)

<sup>c</sup> Estimated value of compensation for the loss of the urban forest structure (a value of the forest's physical structure)

Note: ton = short ton (U.S.) (2,000 lbs)



# Canopy Loss Due to Deforestation and Pests



# Forest Service Publications

- Roman, L.A., L.A. Walker, C. Martineau, D. Muffly, S. MacQueen, W. Harris. 2015. Stewardship matters: Case studies in high urban tree survival. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 14: 1174-1182.
- Roman, L.A., J.J. Battles, J.R. McBride. 2016. Urban tree mortality: A primer on demographic approaches. GTR NRS-158. Newtown Sq., PA: USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 24 pp.
- Nowak, D.J., A.R. Bodine, R.E. Hoehne, A. Ellis, S.C. Low, L.A. Roman, J.G. Henning, E. Stephan, T. Taggart, T. Endreny. In press. Urban trees and forests of Philadelphia. Anticipated publication as NRS Resource Bulletin, 2016.
- Heath, Linda S.; Anderson, Sarah M.; Emery, Marla R.; Hicke, Jeffrey A.; Littell, Jeremy; Lucier, Alan; Masek, Jeffrey G.; Peterson, David L.; Pouyat, Richard; Potter, Kevin M.; Robertson, Guy; Sperry, Jinelle; Bytnerowicz, Andrzej; Jovan, Sarah; Mockrin, Miranda H.; Musselman, Robert; Schulz, Bethany K.; Smith, Robert J.; Stewart, Susan I. 2015. Indicators of climate impacts for forests: recommendations for the U.S. National Climate Assessment indicators system. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-155. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 143 p.
- Brandt, Leslie; Lewis, Abigail Derby; Fahey, Robert; Scott, Lydia; Darling, Lindsay. 2016. A framework for adapting urban forests to climate change. *Environmental Science & Policy*. [In PRESS Available 23 June 2016]. [Date Accessed 9-14-2016]. [No volume]. [No issue]: 1-10.
- Prasad, Anantha M.; Iverson, Louis R.; Matthews, Stephen N.; Peters, Matthew P. 2016. A multistage decision support framework to guide tree species management under climate change via habitat suitability and colonization models, and a knowledge-based scoring system. *Landscape Ecology*. 31: 2187-2204. doi: 10.1007/s10980-016-0369-7
- Pontius, Jennifer; Hallett, Richard. 2014. Comprehensive methods for earlier detection and monitoring of forest decline. *Forest Science*. 60(6): 1156-1163.