



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE INSTITUTE
Office of the Vice President for Research

December 12, 2019

RE: Request for Urban Forest GIS Data to Build Statewide Map

Dear Urban Forest Manager:

This letter is a formal invitation for your city to join with us to build a seamless statewide map for the benefit of all Indiana citizens.

The use of geographic information systems (GIS) to assist decision making is expanding in all levels of government. As you may know, the State and others have developed a great deal of GIS data, which is available for use by your city. One of these important data providers is Indiana Geological and Water Survey (IGWS) (www.igws.indiana.edu/) and their IndianaMap resource (www.maps.indiana.edu/).

IGWS has now partnered with Indiana University (IU) researchers, Davey Resource Group (DRG), and the Indiana DNR Community and Urban Forestry (CUF) Program to build a new online map and GIS data resource focused on urban green infrastructure (UGI) – the **Indiana UGI Data Portal**. This seamless statewide map ties together the most current and accurate UGI data available throughout the state, including urban forest data.

Through this letter and attached form, we seek your permission to allow CUF to provide IU researchers and IGWS staff the *original* urban forest inventory dataset(s) your city obtained through a CUF-funded grant.

The requested data will be utilized by the project partners to:

- 1) Produce an online map that displays statewide urban forest data in terms of canopy cover and street / park tree inventories.
- 2) Offer accessible but limited data sets for public consumption.

The **full inventory datasets will never be made publicly accessible or downloadable**; rather, data made available to the public on the online portal will include only the following fields:

- Street tree inventory data (as a GIS shapefile) including:
 - Tree Species
 - Tree Diameter at Breast Height
 - Tree Location
- City-wide canopy cover as a GIS shapefile



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IU researchers will maintain a secure database that includes the full CUF-provided data sets and use these data for our own analyses that will never publicly reveal sensitive city-level information such as tree maintenance needs.

Allowing CUF to provide researchers these data will help us to better assess and communicate the state of our urban forest resource, placing us all in a better position to compete for grants and to make better management choices. Please indicate on the next page (Attachment 1) if you allow CUF to provide IU researchers the requested data and return the form by **December 20** to me at skmincey@indiana.edu.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at the above email.

Thank you,

Sarah Mincey
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Attachment 1.

In Witness Whereof, the undersigned by their respective signatures dated below, hereby agree to share our data, either directly, or via Davey Resource Group (DRG) with Indiana University researchers (c/o Sarah Mincey, Environmental Resilience Institute).

_____ Yes, _____ agrees to share our data with IU researchers, and hereby
(municipality)

give DRG permission to provide our city's original tree inventory data.

Signature

Printed Name

Position

Date