

Wanted - Sample Plots for Urban Site Index Study

The Morton Arboretum Soil Science Laboratory is seeking tree study plots in public spaces across the Chicagoland area (seven county region). This work is part of a large collaborative research project towards developing and testing an Urban Site Index model in 10+ metropolitan areas throughout Midwest and Eastern USA.

The study plots are approximately 4000 ft² (circular for open grown and rectangular for street trees). Each plot must contain at least two trees of similar species and age (10-50 years old). We are looking for 20 *Acer rubrum* and 20 *Quercus rubra* plots, for a total of 40 plots across the Chicagoland area. Our goal is 4 plots (2 *Acer rubrum* and 2 *Quercus rubra*) in each of 10 cities throughout Chicagoland. The sampling will take about 30 minutes per plot and include qualitative assessments of the tree and site. We will also collect 5 soil cores (1-inch in diameter) from the upper 12 inches and one tree increment core. The sampling will be conducted by myself and Research Assistant in my lab.

If you are willing to participate, we need: 1) permission to sample, 2) the location of the 4 plots (2 *Acer rubrum* and 2 *Quercus rubra*) (street address or GPS coordinates) in your city. To reiterate, one plot will contain 2 trees of similar species, age, and condition in a 4000 ft² area. Alternatively, you can send your city's tree inventory, and we will randomly select sample plots from it. If you can, we would appreciate if you could send along extra plots as well, in case we need additional/alternate plots.

We would like to begin our sampling this month and finish by the end of July, so please send sample plots ASAP if you wish to participate.

Follow this link for more information:

<http://www.masslaboratory.org/usi---urban-site-index.html>

Please contact Bryant Scharenbroch (bscharenbroch@mortonarb.org or [630-725-2071](tel:630-725-2071)) with questions.

Sincerely,
Bryant

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Bryant Scharenbroch, PhD

Soil Scientist

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