



# MEMORANDUM

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Date: July 6, 2010

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Melissa Brown, Street Tree Program Forester, Parks & Community Services

Subject: GIS Streetscape Inventory Database Presentation  
*(No Board action requested)*

At your July 13 meeting I will provide an overview of the Natural Resources inventory database, which helps various workgroups in the Natural Resource Division manage our physical inventory. This presentation is informational, and we welcome your questions and feedback.

## **Background**

The inventory database is an invaluable tool to manage various Park resources, track changes over time, provide instant up-to-date data for planning purposes, and generate maps for management and contractors. This database is managed through a program called GIS – Geographical Information Systems, which is a standard database program utilized by natural resources organizations worldwide.

The inventory includes detailed, dynamic, information about:

- Park sites and parcels - about 100 Parks covering 4 Sq. Miles or 13 % of City
- Trails - 176 Miles of Trails
- Right-of-Way Streetscapes - 213 acres
- Street trees – over 8500
- Site Responsibilities
- Cover Classifications – data on invasive vegetation, hard surface, sports fields, and more

This inventory has been developed over time. Utilizing regular staff and temporary workers, the Natural Resource Division has been able to incrementally add and refine the database over a 10 year period. As our needs and technology change, Parks partners with the IT Services Department to adapt the inventory to track information more efficiently, integrate with other workgroups, and provide the level of detail necessary for quick response to safety issues as well as long-term planning. Currently, the Natural Resources and Resource Management Divisions are collaborating to incorporate Resource Management's static inventory into GIS, including sports fields, turf, and formal landscaping.

The inventory is an essential tool for many workgroups throughout the City. As much of our work is accomplished through contractors, the Natural Resource Division relies on accurate and detailed mapping to facilitate contract development and ensure compliance. Inventory information is available to all City employees, via the Mapster application on the intranet. City staff uses the inventory to determine site responsibilities in park or right-of-way sites where management responsibilities are shared. Other departments use the inventory data regularly, including Utilities Streets Maintenance and PCD.

