

UNION CITY FOREST

Union City, Georgia

Terrell Jacobs, City Administrator

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The purpose of this project was to foster the increase of tree canopy cover and protection of the urban forest by incorporating impact analysis into the local permitting process. An Urban and Community Forest Strategy was developed with funding in part from the Urban and Community Forest (U&CF) Grant Assistance program. With the Grant Assistance program, American Forests provided the City with the software CITYgreen. American Forests developed CITYgreen as a Geographic Information System (GIS) to analyze on a day-by-day and site-by-site basis the value of trees and other natural systems as part of the urban infrastructure. CITYgreen was incorporated seamlessly into the City's current GIS database. American Forest also provided training to the city staff. Bron Cleveland Associates re-drafted and updated the City's tree ordinance.



Protecting The Urban Forest



CITYgreen
calculating the value of nature
AMERICAN FORESTS
New Technology for Building Better Communities

American Forests used satellite images, remote sensing techniques, and GIS technology to "clip" community tree cover data from regional data. With this base data, they mapped, measured, and analyzed changes in the community tree cover. This analysis was used to quantify the urban forests' ecological and economic value. Benefits of the tree canopy were demonstrated in dollar amounts in terms of storm water runoff reduction, summer energy savings, and air pollution mitigation. The resulting program, tailored to Union City, calculates the value of existing tree cover for specific land parcels proposed for redevelopment when owners apply for land disturbance permits.