

Minimum Tree Inventory Attributes

Organizations which pursue tree inventories using DNR Urban Forestry grant funds are required to provide their inventory data to the Department. In order to organize and analyze this data across the state, we require the inventories include **minimum** information that can be incorporated into datasets and mapping applications, such as the [Wisconsin Community Tree Map](#). These minimum, *required* data fields are below.

The inventory shall track individual trees and be sent as a dataset of those individual trees rather than summaries of, for example, total trees by species.

The inventory should be sent as a shapefile or geodatabase. If not in a GIS format, a spreadsheet with x/y coordinates is also acceptable. Spreadsheets with tree locations only identifiable by street address are accepted, but least preferred.

Data Fields

Species

- **Preferred:** Scientific name (*Acer saccharum*) and common name (sugar maple)
- **Accepted:** common genus, species (maple, sugar); common name (sugar maple) also accepted, though less preferred
 - **Note:** ensure that spelling is correct and consistent. Capitalization does not matter for common names.

Location

- **Preferred:** exact location identified in a GIS format (in shapefile or geodatabase), with street address included, if applicable
- **Accepted:** x/y coordinates (in spreadsheet); spreadsheet with *only* street address as location is acceptable, but least preferred

Diameter at Breast Height (in inches), measured at 4.5 feet above ground level

- **Required:** whole number (e.g., 8 or 27), or to the nearest tenth of an inch (e.g., 5.9 or 12.5)

Condition

- **Required:** condition rating percentage (e.g., 60% or 0.60), or condition rating category (e.g., excellent, good, fair, poor, dead)
 - **Note:** while it's useful to simplify tree condition to a single rating or word, as shown above, ensure that each tree is assessed in a consistent and holistic manner by an experienced arborist.

Inventory year or date

- **Required:** year in xxxx format (e.g., 2011) or date in xx/xx/xxxx format (e.g., 06/18/1987)

Year planted (if known)

- **Required:** year, in xxxx format (e.g., 1999)

Additional inventory fields can be found in the common data fields document. These fields are in many tree inventories and can be very useful but are not required by the DNR.

Contact your [urban forestry regional coordinator](#) with any questions about tree inventories.