

Information about the Community Tree Study and request for help from property owners where study plots are located.

What is the Athens Clarke County Community Tree Study?

According to the [Southern Group of State Foresters](#), urban trees are worth billions of dollars and annually provide tens of millions of dollars' worth of environmental benefits. Athens Clarke County has the highest known tree canopy coverage percentage of any other municipal government of 100,000 people or more in the United States! Yet, there are many things we do not know about our Community Trees. The Community Tree Study will allow us to better understand the benefits provided by our community's trees.

The Unified Government of Athens Clarke County, in partnership with The University of Georgia (UGA), The Georgia Forestry Commission, and the Athens Community Tree Council, will be conducting a Community Tree Study beginning May 2021 and concluding in the fall. The study team has generated 228 randomly generated 1/10 acre sample plots throughout Clarke County for this study. The random sample helps to ensure scientifically valid results. Plots are located on public and private property because the community forest includes public and private trees. The trees and ground surface will be measured in each of these plots.

UGA student Teams from the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources will be collecting tree data across the Clarke County. This project will utilize the [i-Tree Eco](#) model developed by the US Forest Service to quantify the composition (for example, tree type, size, and health) and environmental benefits of Athens Clarke County's trees.

We are requesting permission from private property owners to access the private properties where these plots are located to collect information on the trees within the sample plot. The measurements will take about 60 minutes, will not harm the trees in any way, and only the trees and ground cover within the plot will be measured. If you would like your trees to be included in the Community Tree Study, **please complete the [Community Tree Study online permission form](#).**

Thank you very much for your consideration.

This is a great opportunity to have your trees represent Athens Clarke County!



Sincerely,

Rodney Walters

Athens Clarke County Community Forestry Coordinator

(762) 400-7519, rodney.walters@accgov.com