

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY'S NATIVE TREE TRAIL

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Abstract

Biodiversity of native species is constantly challenged by fragmentation, invasion of exotic species, and habitat loss. The objective of this project is to raise the awareness of and to promote native tree species to the general public. This service-learning project incorporates the use of native tree identification skills, GPS data collection, and GIS map design to produce a Native Tree Trail map, which demonstrates a recreational and educational opportunity that utilizes preexisting on-campus resources. Field data collection was conducted with the use of a Trimble GeoXM[®] handheld GPS receiver. A total of 44 polypoints collected to represent the 44 native trees was used to design the 2.2 mile Native Tree Trail in ArcGIS[®]. The resulting map, tree descriptions, and tree photographs were incorporated into a tri-fold brochure providing a self guided tour of native trees of Kentucky that are found throughout the University of Kentucky's campus. This educational, recreational, and awareness raising project serves as a good example of how GIS technology can be used to serve the local community in a practical and low cost manner.

[Abstract Only]

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