Dallas State of the Urban Forest Report – February 2015

During the summer of 2014, the Texas Trees Foundation (TTF) completed an i-Tree Eco* Assessment for the City of Dallas. With generous assistance from six college interns and the City of Dallas Urban Forester, Foundation staff assessed 621 randomly selected plots. Data was analyzed, interpreted and combined with information from two additional studies completed by the Texas Trees Foundation: The Dallas Roadmap to Planning and Planting Trees (2010), the Open Lands Study (2014). With support from the Dallas Urban Heat Island Study (2004) the comprehensive *Dallas State of the Urban Forest Report* was produced.

HIGHLIGHTS
- There are 14.7 million trees within the City limits (340.5 square miles) valued at $9 billion
- There are nearly 1.5 million sites throughout Dallas available for planting trees
- Trees provide annual savings of over $9 million through energy conservation
- Trees capture 60 million cubic feet of stormwater runoff and save $4 million in repairs annually
- Trees clean the air by storing two million tons of carbon valued at $137 million annually
- Over 50% of the land in our city is covered with buildings, cement or roads
- The city's average tree canopy is 28.7% while the USDA Forest Service recommends 40%
- South Dallas has 37% of the total tree canopy, North Dallas 17%
- The Trinity Forest accounts for nearly 20% of all tree benefits but covers just 1/6 of the total area

NEXT STEPS
With a goal of adding 3 million trees to the Urban Forest by 2022 through our "Tree North Texas" program, the Foundation is committed to moving its vision forward with partnerships in Dallas focused on:

- **Greening Medical Mile:** Improving the healing atmosphere of our health-care community in the Medical District
- **Dallas ISD Cool Schools:** Bringing green, healthy playgrounds to elementary schools throughout the community
- **Planting Downtown Dallas:** Cooling the heart of the city, shading streets and cleaning the air
- **Neighborwoods Groves:** Partnering within City Council districts to beautify public spaces

Trees provide many benefits in urban areas. Trees clean the air we breathe and the water we drink. Trees capture runoff (keeping water out of storm drains and available for irrigation). Trees store carbon to keep it from entering the atmosphere. Trees reduce stress and lower symptoms of ADHD in young people and add to the quality of life. Trees shade our cars, homes and schools, lowering energy costs. Trees are our "green" civil servants!

*The i-Tree program is a software application developed by the USDA Forest Service and offers information that planners, developers, and residents can use to pro-actively manage the Urban Forest in Dallas.