



mpls
downtown
improvement
district

Greening Lab presentation
2020 Partners Steering Committee

08.16.2017

Greening Lab

- Pilot projects to improve public realm greening outcomes in downtown Minneapolis
- Supported with Research Assistants from the University of Minnesota College of Design
- Partnership with Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB), Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) and Green Minneapolis

MDID greening work includes:

- Plantings we install and maintain
- Celebrating private investments in the public realm (i.e. Greening Awards)
- Advocacy for effective greening investments in street reconstructions (Nicollet, Washington, etc.)



background

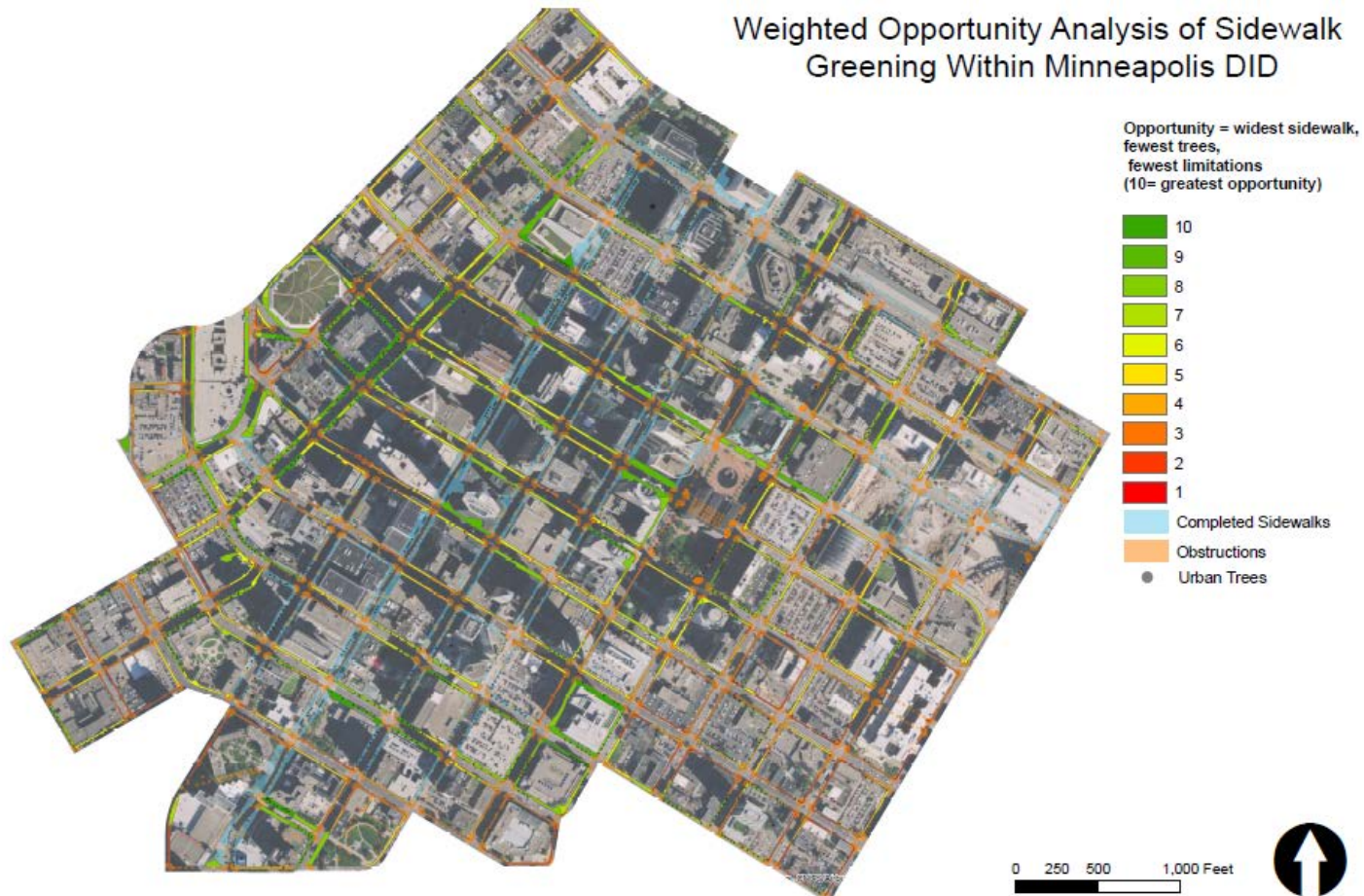
- **Street tree outcomes on most downtown streets remain poor**
- **Contributing factors:**
- Most downtown street trees were not planted according to Best Management Practices
- MPRB owns and maintains street trees, but does not control or design the planting sites
- MPRB Forestry cares for 600,000 trees
- Standard maintenance regimen includes watering a new tree twice
- Downtown environment is harsh for trees: hardscape, hot, dry, higher likelihood of damage



Scope of Greening Lab

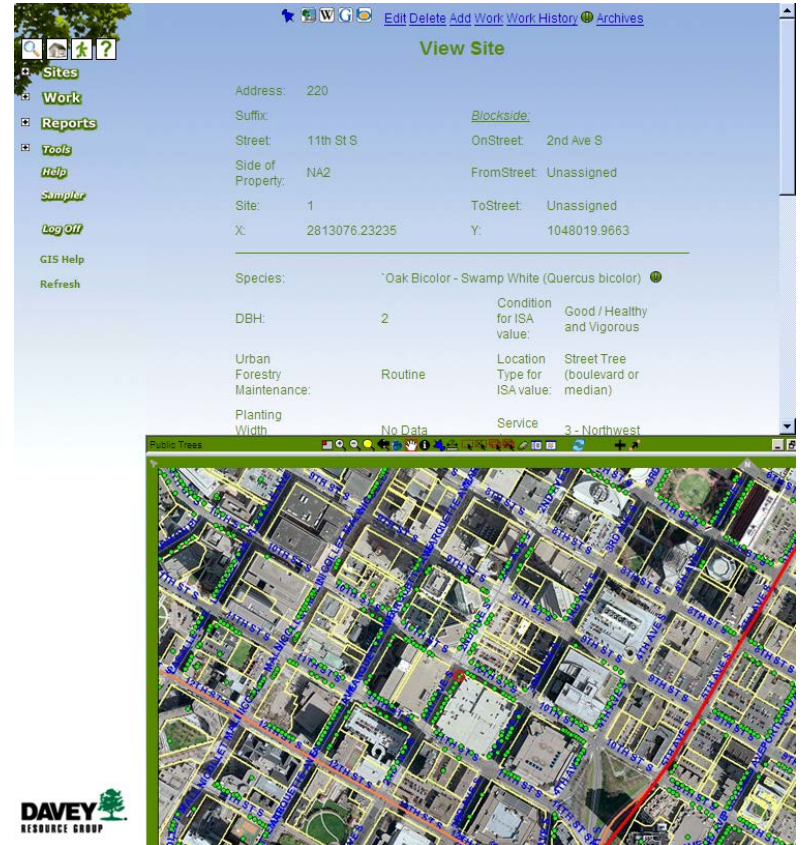
- **Analysis**
- **Enhanced maintenance**
- **Streetscape pilot projects**

Weighted Opportunity Analysis of Sidewalk Greening Within Minneapolis DID



MPRB inventory system

- Robust tool, but data have been incomplete & inaccessible
- Communication hampered
- As of June 6th, we have direct access
- UMN Research Assistant has verified and added data



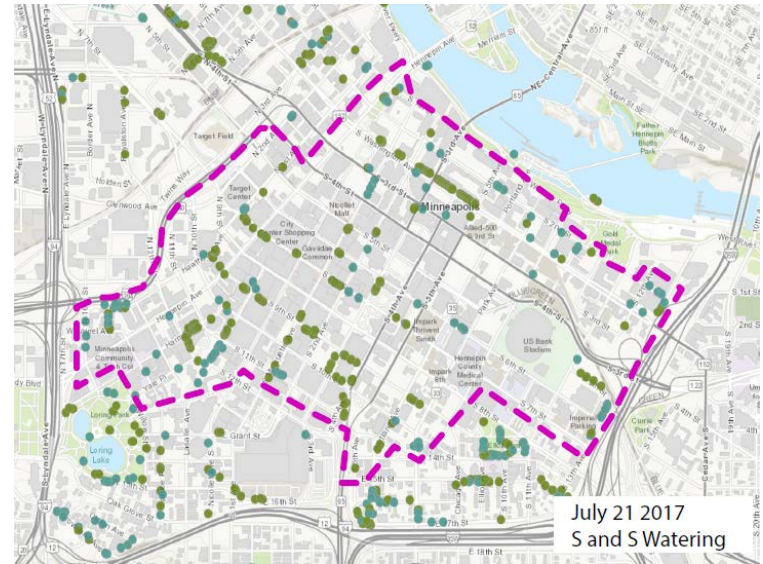
The screenshot displays the 'View Site' interface of the MPRB inventory system. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Edit', 'Delete', 'Add Work', 'Work History', and 'Archives'. A left-hand menu contains options for 'Sites', 'Work', 'Reports', 'Tools', 'Help', 'Sampler', 'Log Off', 'GIS Help', and 'Refresh'. The main content area shows the following details for a site:

Address:	220	Blockside:	
Suffix:		OnStreet:	2nd Ave S
Street:	11th St S	FromStreet:	Unassigned
Side of Property:	NA2	ToStreet:	Unassigned
Site:	1	X:	2813076.23235
Y:	1048019.9663	Y:	1048019.9663

Below the metadata, the 'Species' is listed as 'Oak Bicolor - Swamp White (Quercus bicolor)'. Other fields include DBH (2), Condition for ISA value (Good / Healthy and Vigorous), Urban Forestry Maintenance (Routine), Location Type for ISA value (Street Tree (boulevard or median)), and Planting Width (No Data). The Service is noted as '3 - Northwest'. At the bottom, a GIS map shows a street grid with various colored overlays representing tree locations and data points.

Enhanced maintenance

- **Supplemental watering of 2016/17 street trees**
- Raised \$10,000 from DMNA to support
- Outcome: MPRB watered new downtown trees weekly in June at their expense
- Tree tags with autopopulated information: species, inventory #, invitation to automated text system
- Outcome: MPRB assigned dedicated tree inspector to downtown
- Research & communications effort being supported by MWMO



- **Funding to support streetscape improvements this fall**
- \$142,000 from City of Minneapolis
- Private fundraising support from Green Minneapolis
- Greening Lab contributed to active Washington Avenue streetscape project



What's Next?

- **Goal: Project partnership laying groundwork to carry work forward in 2018**
- **Q&A**
- **Thank you!**