MANAGING CAMPUS TREES

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
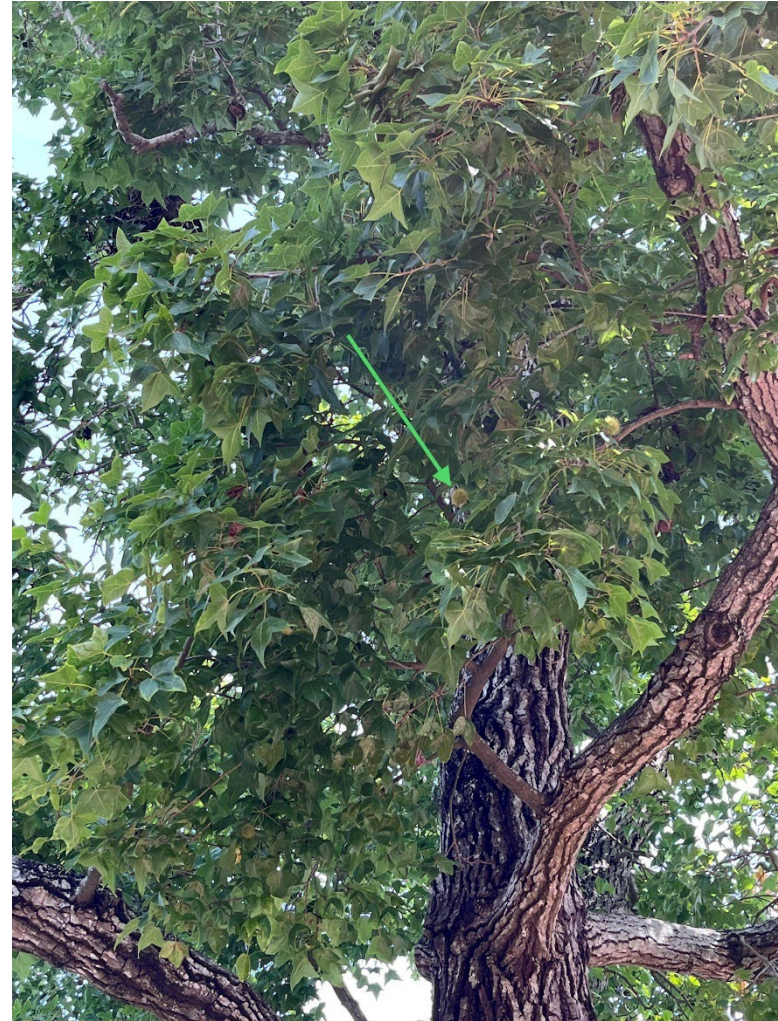
Alex Hedgepath, RF, TRAQ   September 14, 2023

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

DENDROLOGY

DENDROLOGY

Liquidambar formosana!!

CREDENTIALS

Borrowed Credentials and Surrogate Professional Societies: A Critical Analysis of the Urban Forestry Profession

By Keith O'Herrin, PhD, Corinne G. Bassett, Susan D. Day, PhD, Paul D. Ries, EdD, and P. Eric Wiseman, PhD

Abstract. Background: Urban forestry is an emerging profession, yet its professional identity is not clearly defined, nor does it have the full complement of support mechanisms commonly expected or needed by professionals. As a result, urban forest professionals rely on closely allied professions (e.g., arboriculture, forestry) resulting in frustration amongst urban forest professionals and confusion and lack of awareness amongst the general public. Methods: We developed a series of practical but ideal benchmarks for a successful "modern profession" based on features extracted from a review of the literature and precedents from 11 other professions. We then examined a broad array of evidence to identify gaps between the benchmarks and the current reality of urban forestry. Strength of evidence was assessed, and each benchmark was classified as being supported by established, emerging, or little to no evidence. Results: Gap analysis indicates that while the profession provides an essential service to society, there is a need for improvement in credentialing, public awareness, recruitment into the profession, and support for career advancement. Many gaps result from a lack of coordinated efforts or organized community dedicated to the full scope of urban forest professionals. We identified a misalignment between urban forest professionals and existing professional organizations that are dedicated to closely allied professions. Conclusion: To meet benchmarks for a successful "modern profession," urban forestry needs professional support explicitly dedicated to urban forestry. The profession cannot meet the future needs of society supported only by borrowed credentials and surrogate professional organizations.

Keywords. Green Industry; Professional Credentials; Professional Organizations; Professionalization; Public Image.

REVIEWING TERMS

arboriculture the planting, care, and scientific cultivation of trees and woody vegetation in a nonforest context, usually in relation to orchards or for their ornamental or aesthetic values

arborist one who possesses the technical skills, through experience and related training, to care for individual trees and related woody plants in the residential, commercial, and public landscape

REVIEWING TERMS

forestry the profession embracing the science, art, and practice of creating, managing, using, and conserving forests and associated resources for human benefit and in a sustainable manner to meet desired goals, needs, and values

forester a professional engaged in the science and profession of forestry – *note* foresters are commonly credentialed by states or other certifying bodies

REVIEWING TERMS

urban forestry the art and technology of managing trees and forest resources in and around urban community ecosystems for the physiological, sociological, economic, and aesthetic benefits trees provide society.

forester a professional engaged in the science and profession of forestry – *note* foresters are commonly credentialed by states or other certifying bodies

DATA INFORMS & DIRECTS GOALS

DEFINING GOALS, NEEDS, VALUES

1. **Reduce Risk**
2. Promote Resiliency
3. Increase Canopy Coverage
   1. Preservation
   2. Plant Health Care

DIAMETER BREAKDOWN

6-12in	38.0%
3-6in	21.4%
12-18in	17.2%
0-3in	8.3%
18-24in	7.1%
24-30in	3.9%
>30in	3.0%
N/A	1.0%
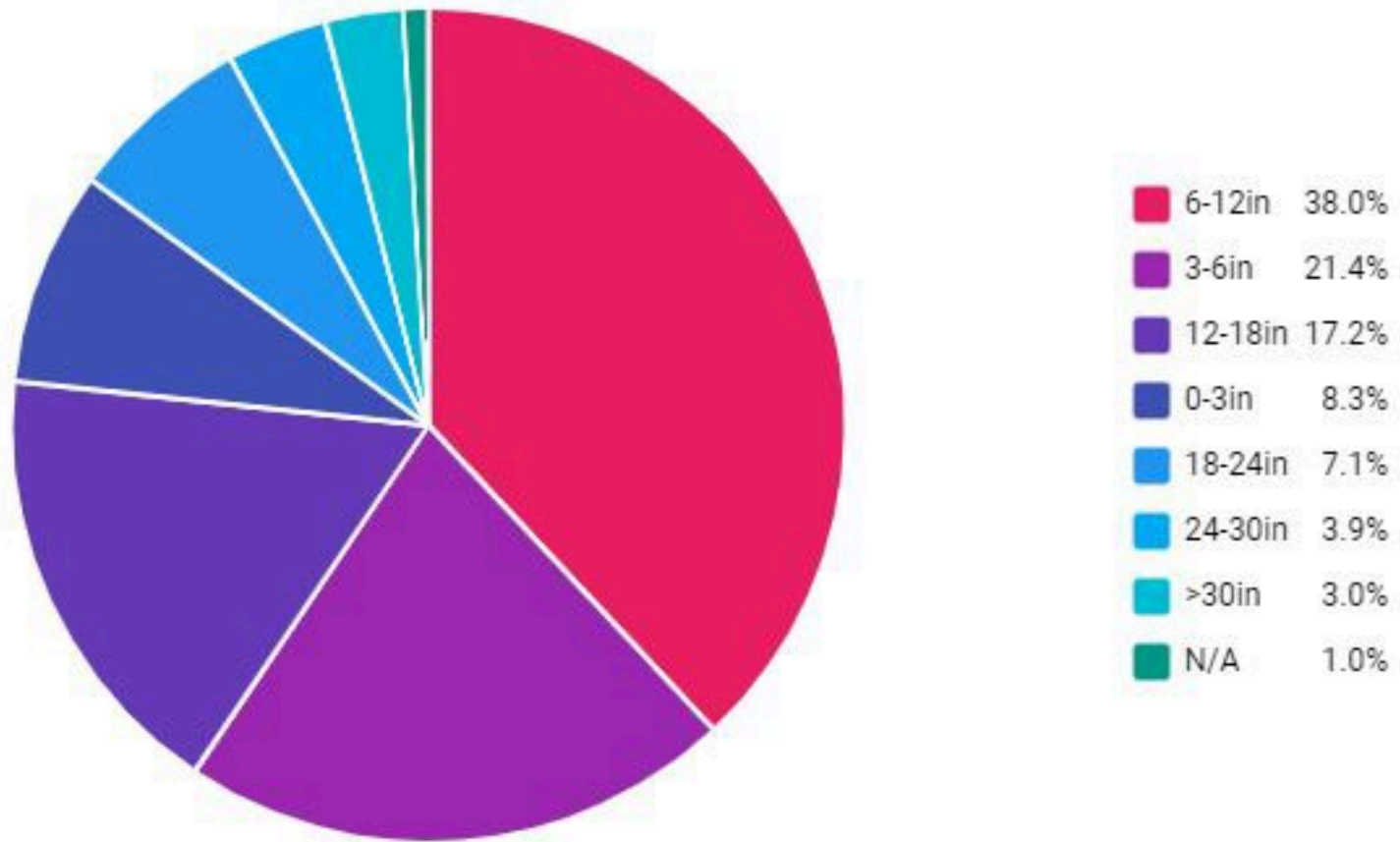
REDUCE RISK

"Risk of tree failure can be reduced by establishing a structural pruning program that begins at planting and could carry through the first 25 years or more, depending on species."

REDUCE RISK

Over 80% of AU's core-campus trees were planted in the last 25 years …

REDUCE RISK THROUGH PRUNING

Slowing vigorous aggressive branches
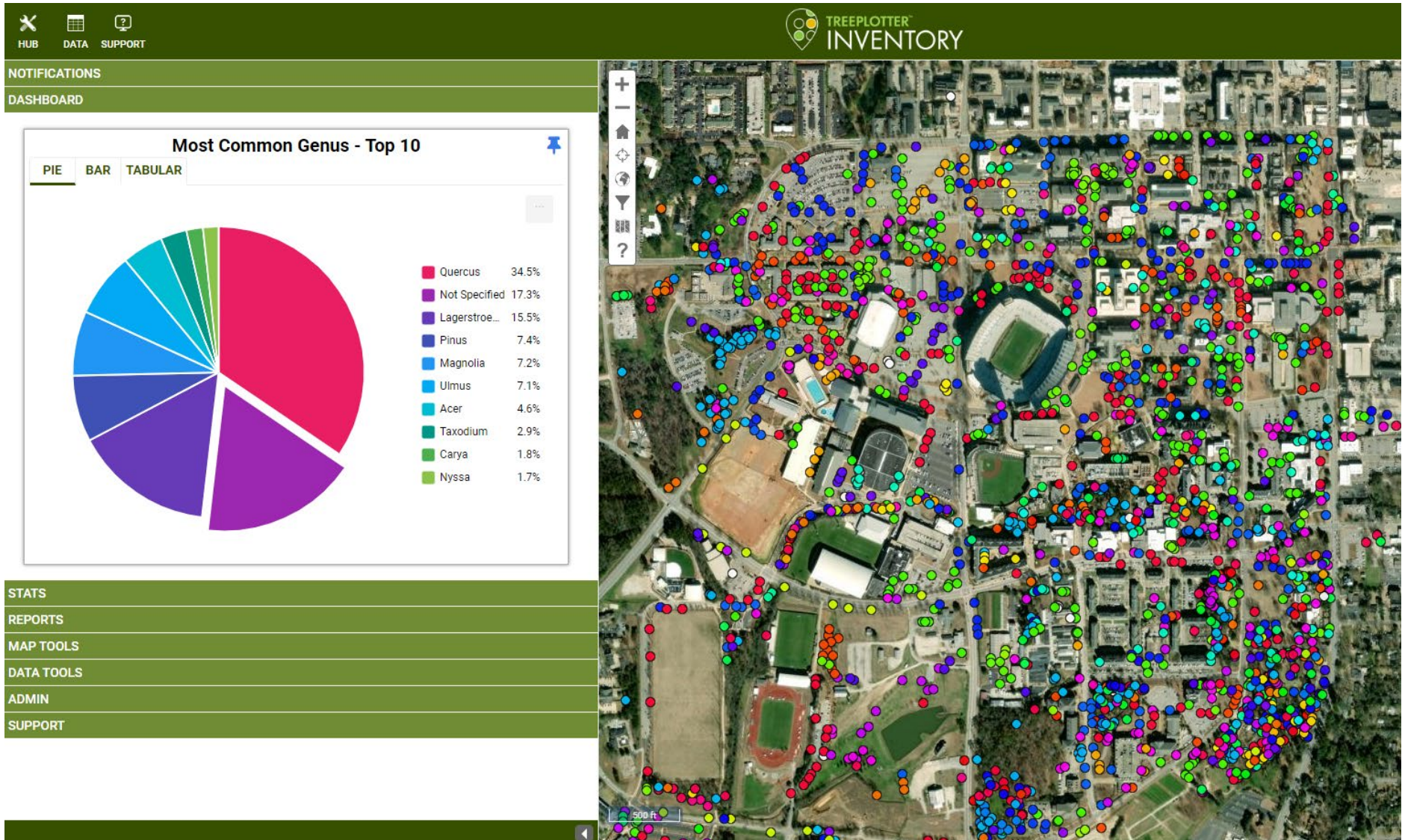
Before pruning
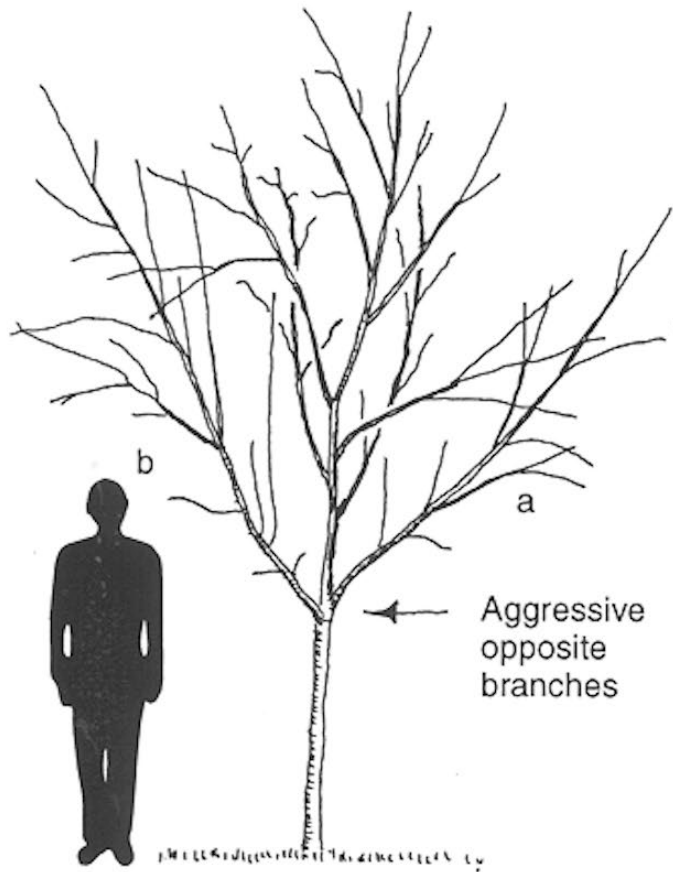
Remove indicated branches
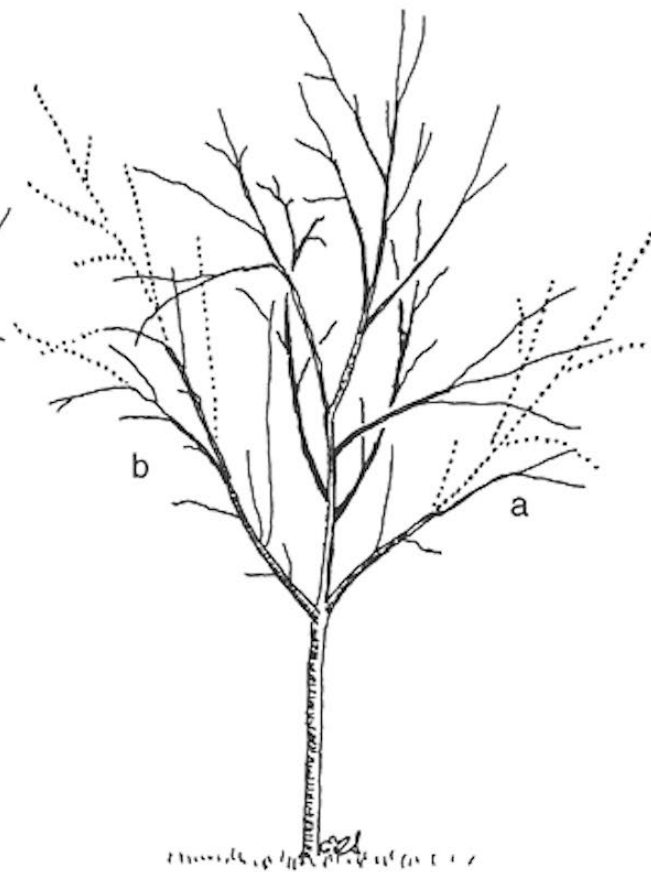
After pruning
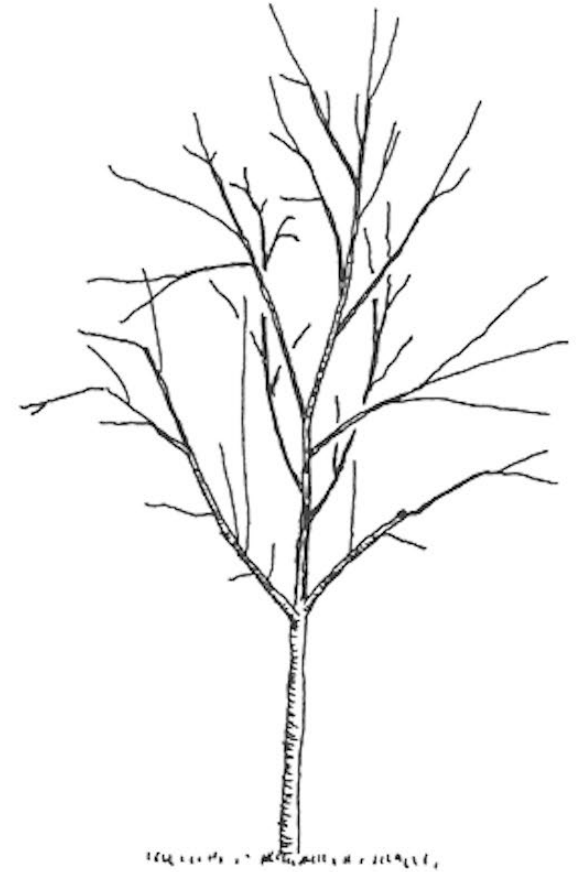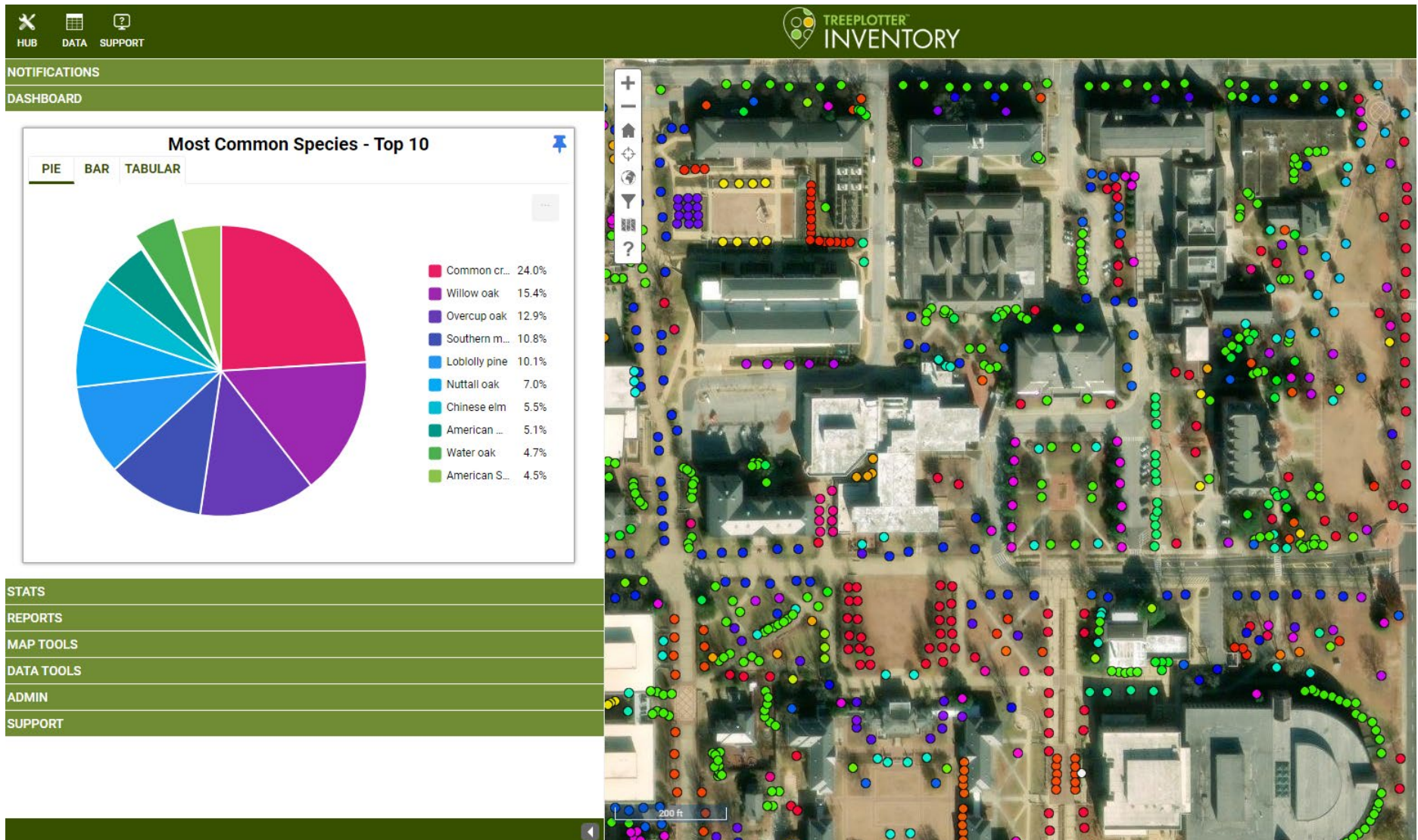
Aggressive opposite branches

DEFINING GOALS, NEEDS, VALUES

1. Reduce Risk
2. **Promote Resiliency**
3. Increase Canopy Coverage
    1. Preservation
    2. Plant Health Care

DATA INFORMS & DIRECTS GOALS

DATA INFORMS & DIRECTS GOALS

DEFINING GOALS, NEEDS, VALUES

Promote resiliency through *Genus* diversity by:

Remove most common (+ high-mod risk) and exotic

Replace w/ Genus <10% population:

Liriodendron

Taxodium

Tilia

Juniperus

Nyssa

Carya

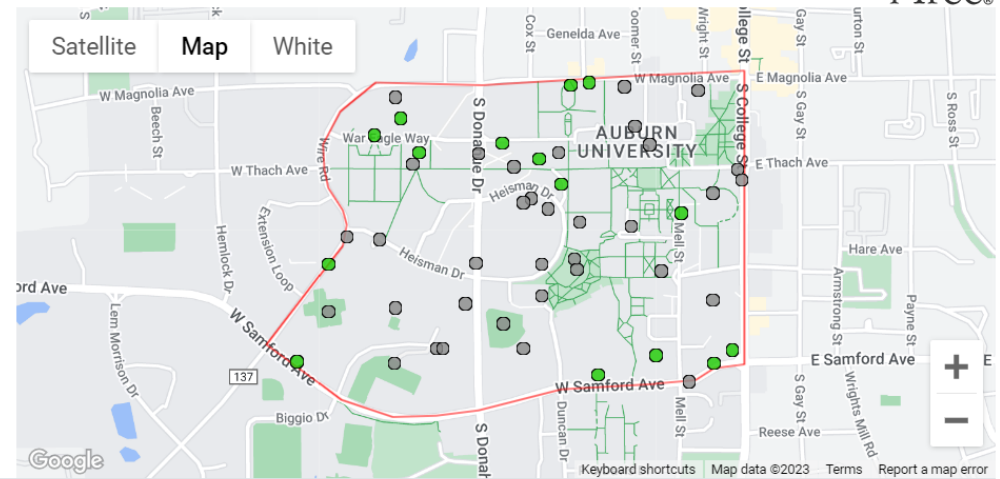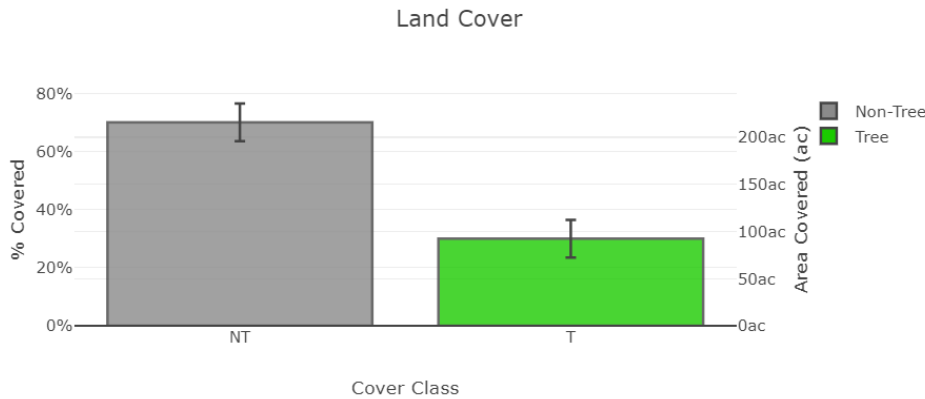Diospyros

DEFINING GOALS, NEEDS, VALUES

1. Reduce Risk
2. Promote Resiliency
3. **Increase Canopy Coverage**
   a) Preservation
   b) Plant Health Care

CANOPY COVERAGE

PRESERVATION

PLANT HEALTH CARE

URBAN TIMBER

THANKS!

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