Tree Canopy

Why measure tree canopy?

Canopy refers to a tree's aboveground layer of leaves, branches, and stems. When tree canopy density is high, we receive various benefits. These benefits include preventing flooding by intercepting rainfall and cooling our homes through shading among many other benefits. Monitoring tree canopy distribution is one way to measure the health of our urban forest over time and to ensure we continue receiving benefits.

What we have

The City of Austin digitally extracted tree canopy from aerial images flown in the summer of 2006. The image at top right shows dark red areas depicting tree canopy which was extracted into a Geographic Information Systems dataset shown in green at bottom right. This data was used to determine areas of high and low canopy cover throughout Austin. A 2010 canopy update is currently in the works, so stay tuned.
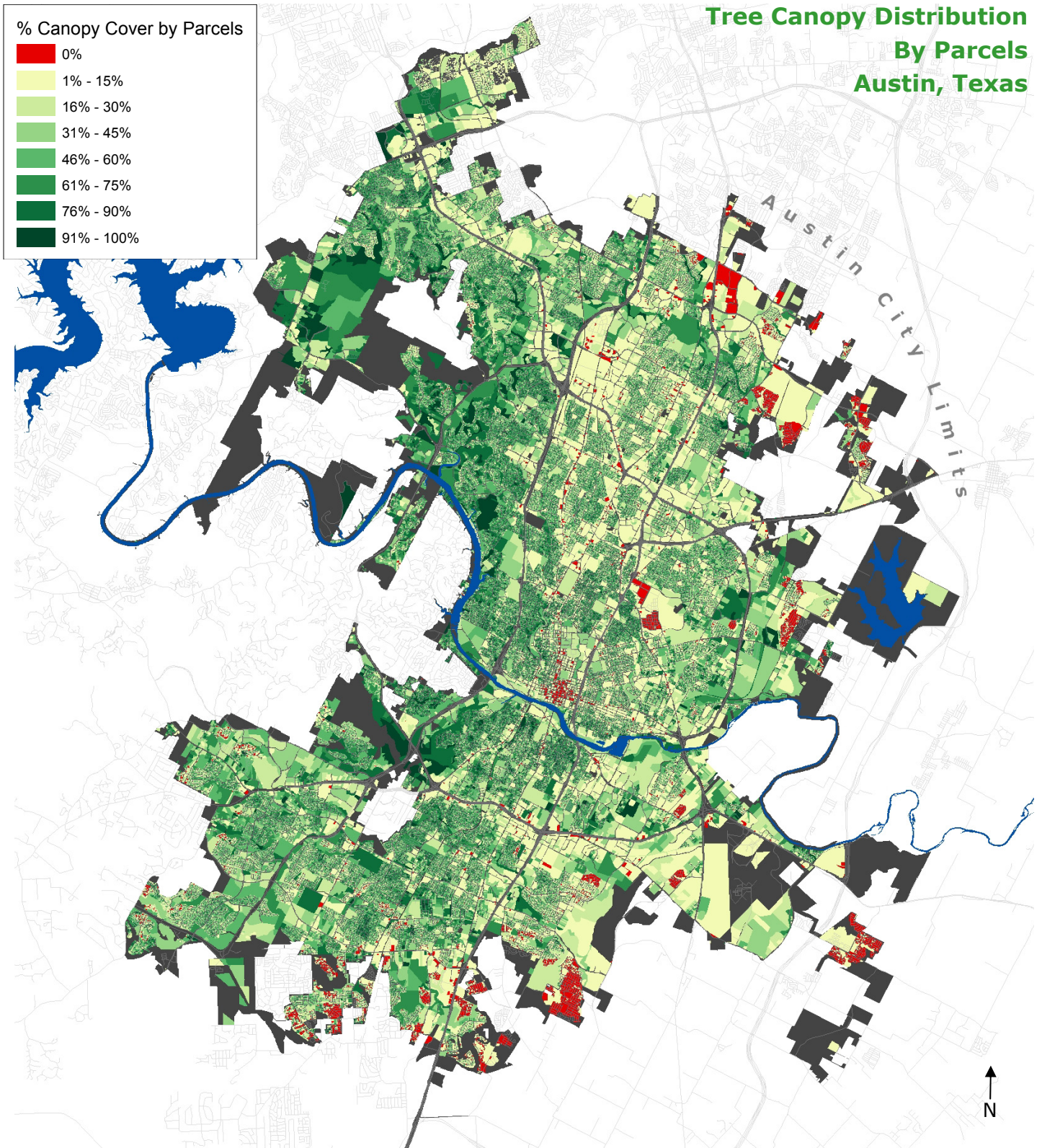
Colorinfrared image

Tree canopy data

% Canopy Cover by Parcels

- 0%
- 1% - 15%
- 16% - 30%
- 31% - 45%
- 46% - 60%
- 61% - 75%
- 76% - 90%
- 91% - 100%

Tree Canopy Distribution
By Parcels
Austin, Texas

Austin City Limits

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| 0 | 5 | 10 Miles |

Urban Forestry Program |
City of Austin

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