

INFORMATIONAL BRIEF

July 7, 2011

Arcadia
Boulevard
Springfield, MA



Tornado Damage Quick Facts Impacts on Springfield's Urban Forest

On June 1, 2011 a series of three tornadoes ripped through Western Massachusetts, and included the second strongest tornado ever recorded in Massachusetts, with wind speeds estimated at 136 to 165 mph, according to the National Weather Service. The most severe tornado was the EF-3, on the Enhanced Fujita Damage Classification Scale, that carved a half-mile-wide path for 39 miles from Westfield to Charlton, killing three people and injuring 200. In Springfield, the tornadoes impacted city's South End, Six Corners, East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres neighborhoods.

In the neighborhoods of Springfield affected by the storms, damage to the urban forest canopy was extensive, destroying or severely many of the trees growing in these areas. A team of US Forest Service and City of Springfield personnel conducted a preliminary review of the streets in the impacted neighborhoods, and utilized i-Tree modeling software to analyze the impacts of the storms on the urban forest, and an initial summary of the damage was developed.

A preliminary review of the storm damage to Springfield's urban tree canopy follows here:

- Based on initial estimates, over 13,000 trees were destroyed or severely damaged;
- Immediate impacts include the reduction of rainwater interception by over 7.5 million gallons per year;
- Reduced storage of over 30 million pounds of carbon annually;
- Approximately 1.4 million pounds of sequestered CO² has been lost.

For more information please contact:



David V. Bloniarz
US Forest Service Northern Research Station
Amherst, MA
dbloniarz@fs.fed.us

Alexander R. Sherman
City of Springfield
Assistant City Forester
arsherma@eco.umass.edu