

SANDY SPRINGS TREE CANOPY

July, 2014



Canopy Studies - 1991, 2001 and 2005

2

- UGA Institute of Ecology Natural Resources Spatial Analysis Laboratory (NARSAL) conducted canopy studies using 1991, 2001, and 2005 Landsat Satellite Imagery
- Data resolution was 30 meter pixels

Canopy Studies - 1991, 2001 and 2005

3

- 1991 – 59% canopy cover
- 2001 – 54% canopy cover
- 2005 – 55% canopy cover

2008 Canopy Study

4

- Sandy Springs GIS staff, with significant assistance from NARSAL, conducted a canopy study of using 2008 Landsat 5 data
- 30 meter resolution infrared pictometry
- Data had already been processed by NARSAL
- 2008 – 51.82% canopy cover

Canopy Studies – 2010 and 2013

5

- Sandy Springs GIS staff, again with significant assistance from NARSAL, conducted canopy studies using data from National Agriculture Inventory Program (NAIP)
- NAIP 1 meter higher resolution data allowed for very accurate grading
- Data was checked against aerial photography of the City

Canopy Studies – 2010 and 2013

6

- 2010 – 59.02% canopy cover
- 2013 – 62.48% canopy cover

Sandy Springs Canopy Studies

7

30 Meter Resolution

- 1991 – 59% canopy cover
- 2001 – 54% canopy cover
- 2005 – 55% canopy cover
- 2008 – 52% canopy cover

1 Meter Resolution

- 2010 – 59% canopy cover
- 2013 – 62% canopy cover

Sandy Springs vs. Other Cities

City	Percent Tree Canopy
Ann Arbor, Michigan	32.93
Atlanta, Georgia	52.45
Austin, Texas	32.00
Baltimore, Maryland	27.28
Des Moines, Iowa	24.09
Salem, Oregon	23.23
Portland, Oregon	28.24
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	42.00
Sandy Springs, Georgia	62.48

Source for Comparable City Data: *Tree Canopy Coverage for the City of Atlanta: Methodology Definition, Geography Assessment and City Comparison*, Gilliam Campbell, MRCP 2013



Sandy Springs vs. Other Cities

9

- Tree canopy percentages available for US cities vary considerably depending upon the source, the study boundaries (city limits vs. MSA), data resolution, year calculated, etc.
- A more valid comparison is canopy data for Sandy Springs over time

Next Steps

10

- Develop targeted canopy management plan
- Present recommendations regarding revisions to the Tree Ordinance and Administrative Guidelines

QUESTIONS?

