Perry Township tree canopy summary

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Introduction

Perry Township, located in southern Marion County, currently has 32% total canopy cover with 46% possible planting area. 32% of this is possible vegetative planting area. This study and report was done to find which areas of the township were in most need of tree planting.
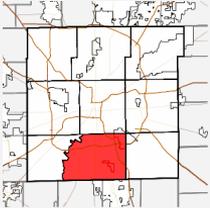

Figure 1: A map of Marion County, IN, displaying Perry Township in red.

Methods and Materials

To determine which areas of the township were most in need, we used KIB's Tree Canopy Planner (TCP) to search through different layers such as possible canopy, stormwater reduction, energy savings, and more. Using this tool, we decided which layers were most positively impacted by an increasing canopy and which areas needed the most work done.

Results

We determined that the most important layers for Perry Township were areas with low existing canopy and high possible vegetative canopy, vulnerable populations, and areas with low economic vitality. Vulnerable populations were a top choice because they receive the most health benefits from trees, while trees in low income areas help raise property value and decrease the cost of energy. When these layers were combined on the TCP, it was clear that the west side of the township was in most need of tree planting.
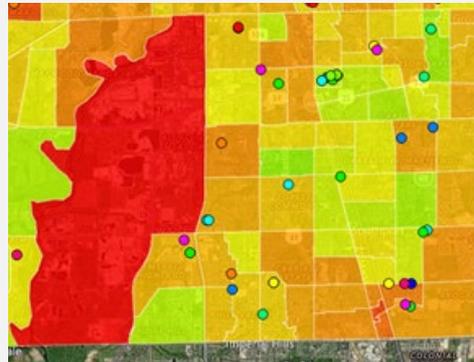

Figure 2: TCP image of Perry Township with the chosen layers, darker areas being the most in need of more trees.

Conclusions

Using an emerging and valuable combination of GIS mapping, aerial photography, and online software developed by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful for their Tree Canopy Planner tool, we were able to target a specific area of focus in regards to tree planting and maintenance that, if acted on appropriately, could serve as a way to benefit the health and economic situation of citizens of Perry Township in Marion County, IN, as well as set a new precedent for how urban forestry is conducted as a whole.

Literature Cited

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Achknowledgements

For further information

Please contact *jwstanto@indiana.edu* with questions on this or related projects.