Introduction

The WSU Facilities Services function to maintain and construct campus property. Some of the available resources are grounds keepers, architects, and engineers. Within this service is Capital—which oversees all new constructions and renovations. It is an independent, campus representative. The tree inventory is a database of the Capital division.

The tree inventory is a database filled with tree information such as tree names, diameter, location, and condition. With new technology, the database is being mapped through the use of graphic information systems and global positioning systems also known as GIS and GPS. The purpose of the tree inventory is to provide information for better grounds maintenance, archive the impact of tree removals and make tree information available for the public’s use.

Responsibilities

- Map WSU Campus trees with GIS/GPS
- Tree identification and information collection
- Calculate tree economic values
- Attend Irrigation-installment meetings
- Oversee construction sites for proper tree conservation practices
- Digitalize documents pertaining to campus trees

Summary

I went into this job with a rudimentary skill set. There is no replacement for hands-on experience to solidify current skills and highlight the areas that need improvement. The opportunities I had during this internship have extended my abilities to work with people, trees and computers. My confidence has been boosted through the independence of the work this summer. When there were problems I had to address them by myself or find the resources to help. This often meant building good communication skills with the other people in the office. The work was very intensively focused on using computer programs. Even the programs that I had used for classes were employed in ways previously unknown to me. Another change was my tree identification skills. In the landscape, there are more trees than are normally taught in classes. This meant that I had to be alert to identifying features and be prepared to research the plants that were new to me. These skills should benefit me through my career in Nursery Management.