

Sampling Instructions

We decided that there is no perfect way to divide up the park for sampling, but we have come up with a compromise that I think might work. The primary thing is that we want to try to cover all three MOFOs without too many gaps or too much overlap.

Attached (and on the web site) is a vegetation map of the park. The three areas we are sampling (MOF1, 2, and 3) are labeled and colored a slightly different shade of green. Copies of these maps will be laminated and placed in the kits (thanks Bruce!).

I have given each group a number to simplify things. Group times are followed by assigned areas on the map (see attached map or on the web site):

1. Tues morn (MOF1 CDEF-17 and 18)
2. Weds morn (MOF1 GHI -16, 17 and 18)
3. Weds aft (MOF2 GHI -3, 4 and 5)
4. Thurs aft (MOF2 GHI - 6 and 7)
5. Fri. morn (MOF1 JKLMNO - 17, 18 and 19)
6. Fri aft. (MOF3 OPQR - 3, 4, 5 and 6)
7. Sat. morn.(MOF3 OPQ - 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11)

The letters and numbers refer to the grid on the map. GHI - 6 and 7 = G6, G7, H6, H7, etc...

These areas are approximately the same size.

Some notes:

1. Sample within each square on the grid and adjacent partial squares covered by your MOF. Start sampling at an easily recognizable landmark (e.g., the corner of the park boundary or a trail junction).
2. Start sampling 20 m from vegetation or park boundaries. Ignore trails- just note that a trail is contained within the plot if you land on one.
3. You can use either the the meter tape or the GPS to start a base line. If you use the GPS assume that 0.00036 decimal degrees is about equal to 40 meters (maybe check this to be sure).
4. Your transects will extend into the sampling area perpendicular to the base line. Sample every 40 m and sample every "Big Tree" that you encounter. A Big Tree is a single stem larger than 49 cm diameter (use the diameter tape to check [the little orange tape]- just wrap it around the trunk and read diameter right off the tape).
5. Sample every 40 meters until you reach the end of your designated area. Use your compass to try to maintain a straight line. You use can trails and features outside the park boundary to get a basic idea of where you are. If you are in doubt, it is better to overlap than to leave any major gaps.
6. Since your group is responsible for your area you can pick up where you left off each time you go out. If you are running out of places to sample, let me know asap because another group might need help. The sooner we finish the oak census in the park, the sooner we can check off our first major goal for the course.
7. If you run into a different kind of vegetation (e.g., a swamp)), you do not need to sample it unless there are oaks in there. Work around the wet boggy areas marked PFO on the map.
8. MOF2 and 3 can be accessed via gates along 170th Ave. on the far side of the park. It might be easier to access these areas if you pick up your kit at the office and then drive around by car.

Call me if there are questions.

Mitch
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