

# Urban Tree Canopy

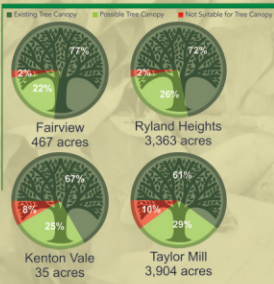
## in the cities of Kenton County

More Trees Means  
Cooler Temperatures and  
Less Energy

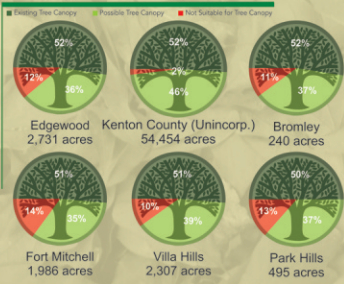
High Coverage = Low Temperature

52° Surface Temp  
Thermal imagery acquired on April 27, 2014 by the Landsat satellite.  
81° Surface Temp

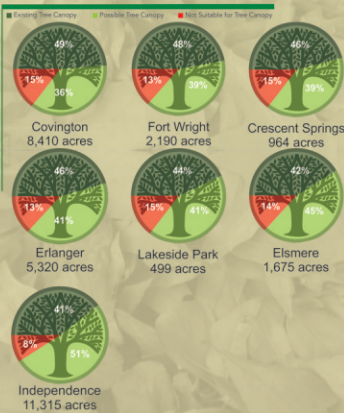
### Existing Tree Canopy Greater than 60%



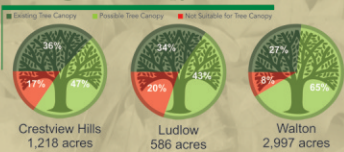
### Existing Tree Canopy 50% - 60%



### Existing Tree Canopy 40% - 50%



### Existing Tree Canopy Less than 40%



**direction 2030**  
Your Voice. Your Choice.

**Plan Goals & Objectives**

C Community Identity H Health  
E Economy HC Healthy Communities  
G Governance M Mobility

N Natural Systems  
Primary Goal  
Secondary Goal

**How Does This Topic Apply to Direction 2030?**

**HC** Improve the ability of residents to live a healthy lifestyle.

**M** Encourage the provision of both active and passive recreational opportunities to address the needs of different age groups and interests.

**N** Promote adequate access to natural systems to encourage outdoor activities for all generations on public property.

**M** Promote connectivity within and from surrounding neighborhoods to public parks or natural areas to encourage walking and biking.

**N** Strive to achieve a balance between development and preservation.

**HC** Encourage innovative design on sites with constraints based on the presence of natural systems and incentivize the protection of quality open space.

**Key Recommendations:**

"Kenton County is rich in natural resources such as fertile soil, forestland and valuable water resources that provide many essential benefits. The ability to integrate the natural and built environment will be crucial to supporting a safe, healthy and sustainable community."

— Direction 2030 Environment Research

**NKYmapLAB**

June 2015 Volume 1: Map 6

Northern Kentucky mapLAB is a collaborative, public-private partnership of planning and development agencies of Kenton County. The goal of the initiative is to analyze a wide variety of natural data and present them in a more user-friendly format that facilitates understanding by the public and decision makers. Support for these analyses are gratefully acknowledged.

**Tree Canopy**

- Existing Tree Canopy
- Possible Tree Canopy
- Not Suitable for Tree Canopy

**Land Cover Class**

- Tree Canopy
- Grass / Shrub
- Bare Soil
- Water
- Buildings
- Roads / Railroads
- Other Paved Surfaces

**Featured Data Sources**

www.direction2030.org  
www.linkgis.org  
www.nkyurbanforestry.org

**PDS**

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— Direction 2030 Environment Research Report

**Urban Tree Canopy**

**Why is the Tree Canopy so Important?**

Tree canopy is the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground surface. Tree canopy is important for many reasons, including: reducing air pollution, reducing energy costs, and providing shade for buildings and streets.

**URBAN HEAT ISLAND**

Urban heat islands are areas of the city that are significantly warmer than the surrounding rural areas. This is caused by the high concentration of buildings, roads, and other paved surfaces that absorb and retain heat.

Urban heat islands can cause a variety of problems, including: increased energy costs, increased air pollution, and increased health risks. Tree canopy can help to reduce the urban heat island effect by providing shade and cooling the air.

The Urban Tree Canopy analysis applied the USDA Forest Service's Tree Canopy Assessment protocols to Kenton County, using 2012 imagery, and 2011/2012 LiDAR. This project was made possible through funding from the Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council. The analysis was performed by the SavATree Consulting Group in collaboration with the Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Vermont. More information can be found at: [linkgis.org](http://linkgis.org)

Percent of Total  
Tree Canopy  
by Land Use

