Modeling Urban Forestry Canopy in Wisconsin – Bob Smail

DNR staff created new statewide urban landcover models for Wisconsin for 2020 and 2022 derived from USDA aerial imagery. This presentation will describe the creation and validation of these models and highlight urban forest canopy differences between Wisconsin communities. In addition, this presentation will highlight the relationships between urban landcover and several variables including temperature, cooling, population demographics, and housing values. Finally, this presentation will demonstrate how the model can be used to optimize the beneficial effects of urban forests.

Presenter Bio –

Bob Smail is a research scientist for the Division of Forestry in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. His research topics include public land economics, urban heat island effects, historical forest cover change, and the effects of groundwater and climate variation on forest management. He holds a B.A. from Carroll University, a M.S. from UW – Stevens Point, and a Ph.D. the UW – Madison. He lives in Watertown with his dog, cat, daughters, wife and bikes.