Cataloging the Campus Trees of Cal Poly

Isaac Yorke, Matt Ritter, Chris Wassenberg, California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo

Introduction

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo has a diverse collection of interesting trees on its campus. Over the past decade, select trees have received labels that include their common name, genus and species. The goal for this project was to develop a comprehensive digital database of the trees on campus and to create an educational tool for public use.

Objectives

- Catalog the labeled campus trees
- Create a comprehensive map, and public database
- Create a self-guided tour map for educational use

Methods

A survey of the trees on campus was conducted and data were collected for each labeled individual. Cal Poly has a collection of over 300 labeled trees on campus—these labels include information like common name, genus, species, country of origin, and a web link to the Cal Poly Plant Conservatory website for additional information. Trees were inspected for the presence of a tree sign, quality of the tree sign, proper identification, and tree health. Each individual was photographed and all data associated with that tree was entered into a digital database.

Results

All of the labeled trees on campus were located and catalogued in an online database that the public can now search. Using this digital resource, a self-guided tour map was created for visitors of Cal Poly who are interested in learning about the native and non-native trees that inhabit the area.

Conclusion

Cal Poly's diverse collection of labeled trees on campus was surveyed and catalogued in an online database. The database is now open to the public to explore the trees on campus and aid those doing future campus tree projects. A self-guided map was created as a visual resource for campus visitors to learn about the exciting trees of the area. Not only will this be used to educate visitors and residents about Cal Poly's diverse tree collection, but it will hopefully spark interest in botany and conservation.