Austin Troy: Are drones usable for urban forest management?

As Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), also known as "drones," come down in price and weight while sensor technology improves, there is a question about whether this technology could be feasibly used to help better manage urban forests. Working with the USGS UAV program, we flew numerous missions in Denver and Vermont to test whether UAVs can be safely and cost-effectively used for common urban forestry purposes, like species inventory, health assessment and height and size mapping.

- Funders: USDA-National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (active 2018-2021)
- Partners: USDA Forest Service, USGS, Denver Parks and Recreation
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USGS UAV technicians prepare for a test flight in City Park Denver

LiDAR tree data collected from City Park