

Trees working hard in Midtown

By Martin Sinderman

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Midtown's tree inventory is getting increased attention for the role it plays in making this a unique place to live, work and play.

A major component of the **Atlanta Botanical Garden's** green expansion focuses on making the city's dwindling tree cover more accessible to the public — without damaging the environment.

The Canopy Walk suspension bridge spans some 600 feet from a bluff in the Garden into the branches of oaks, hickories and poplars, linking to the adjacent Storza Woods, and effectively doubling the size of the ABG to 30 acres. Visitors walk on a 12-foot-wide concrete pathway at tree-canopy level, some 40 feet in the air, and enjoy a view below that includes understory trees, native azaleas, camellias, hydrangeas, perennials and seasonal bulbs.

Since opening last May, the Canopy Walk has proven to be a very popular attraction, according to Atlanta Botanical Garden Executive Director Mary Pat Matheson.

The oaks, maple and Chinese elms that dominate the Midtown tree scene work hard at cleaning up some nasty environmental byproducts of urban life, according to Spence Rosenfeld, president of **Arboguard Tree Specialists Inc.**, who handled the tree preservation plan for the Canopy Walk project, and conducted a tree inventory for the 53-acre Piedmont Park North Woods expansion to demonstrate the role trees play in enhancing the North Woods' economic, social and environmental benefits.

Trees in Midtown (and everywhere else) work hard at storing, filtering and neutralizing air pollutants — and they require ongoing care to keep doing their job.