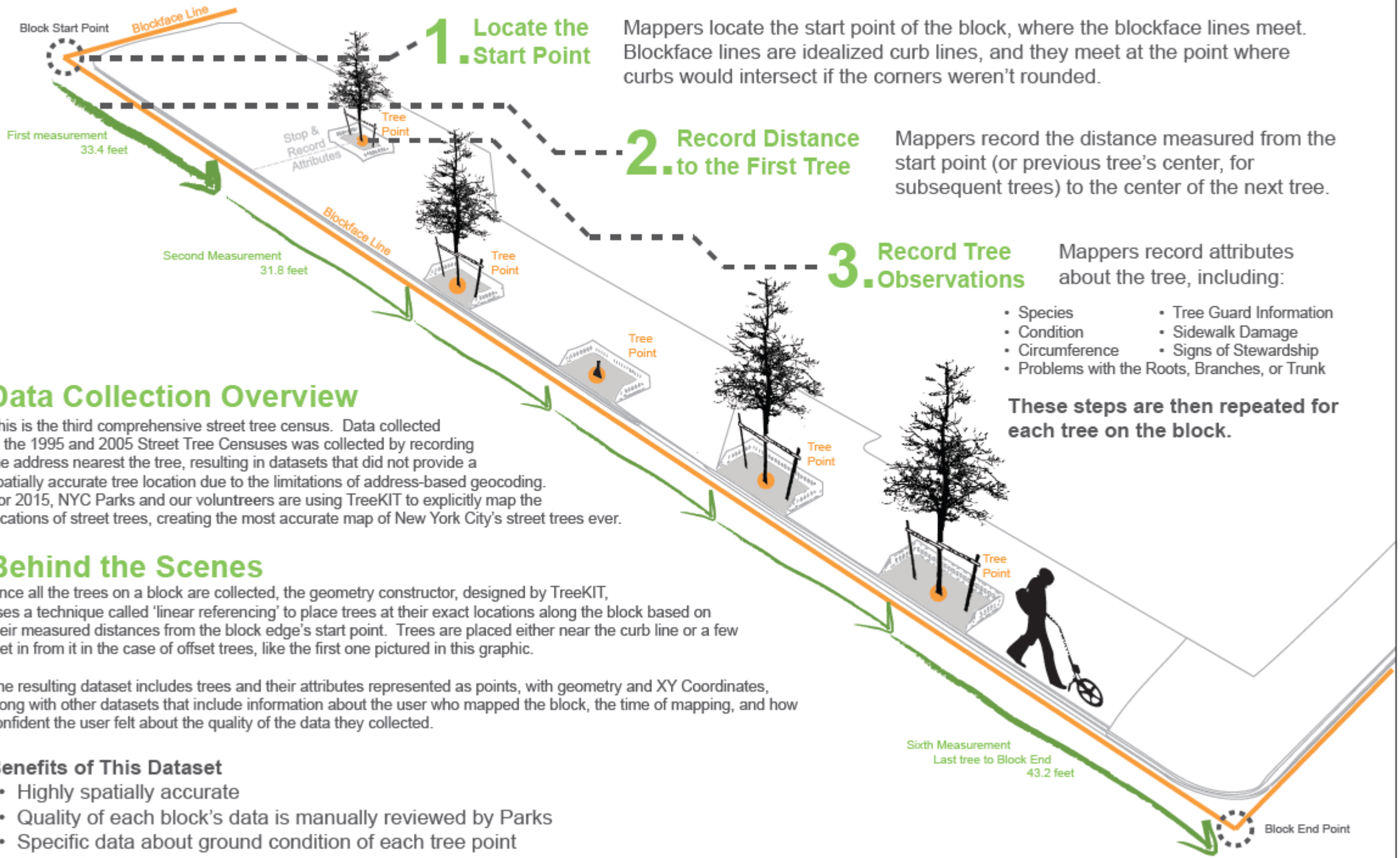
Data Collection Overview

TREES COUNT 2015



1. Locate the Start Point

Mappers locate the start point of the block, where the blockface lines meet. Blockface lines are idealized curb lines, and they meet at the point where curbs would intersect if the corners weren't rounded.

2. Record Distance to the First Tree

Mappers record the distance measured from the start point (or previous tree's center, for subsequent trees) to the center of the next tree.

3. Record Tree Observations

Mappers record attributes about the tree, including:

- Species
- Condition
- Circumference
- Problems with the Roots, Branches, or Trunk
- Tree Guard Information
- Sidewalk Damage
- Signs of Stewardship

These steps are then repeated for each tree on the block.

Data Collection Overview

This is the third comprehensive street tree census. Data collected in the 1995 and 2005 Street Tree Censuses was collected by recording the address nearest the tree, resulting in datasets that did not provide a spatially accurate tree location due to the limitations of address-based geocoding. For 2015, NYC Parks and our voluntreers are using TreeKIT to explicitly map the locations of street trees, creating the most accurate map of New York City's street trees ever.

Behind the Scenes

Once all the trees on a block are collected, the geometry constructor, designed by TreeKIT, uses a technique called 'linear referencing' to place trees at their exact locations along the block based on their measured distances from the block edge's start point. Trees are placed either near the curb line or a few feet in from it in the case of offset trees, like the first one pictured in this graphic.

The resulting dataset includes trees and their attributes represented as points, with geometry and XY Coordinates, along with other datasets that include information about the user who mapped the block, the time of mapping, and how confident the user felt about the quality of the data they collected.

Benefits of This Dataset

- Highly spatially accurate
- Quality of each block's data is manually reviewed by Parks
- Specific data about ground condition of each tree point
- Tree attributes are coded and level of confidence in species identification is captured
- All measurements, observations, and choices made by mapper available in the data

nyc.gov/parks/treescount