



## CASE STUDY: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



### Sheila & Morris Cregger Track

*Project Location:* Columbia, South Carolina

*Application:* Tree Soil Cells

*Installation Date:* Summer 2016, Revisited Spring 2024

In the Summer of 2015, the University of South Carolina started construction on a new track and field facility for their campus in Columbia, South Carolina. The project included a new 400-meter track, spectator grandstand, extensive promenade, and a series of canopy trees overlooking the grandstands.

These trees were surrounded by brick pavers, underground utilities, and the grandstand facility itself – each requiring high levels of soil compaction that would limit the root space available to the trees and potentially prevent the trees from reaching maturity. The University of South Carolina prioritizes the long-term health of the canopy trees on campus, so the landscape architect and civil design team specified a modular suspended pavement soil cell for these trees – providing a lightly compacted soil volume for healthy tree root growth.

The soil cell originally specified for the project was not a Brentwood product, but the university decided to pursue value engineering alternatives after receiving cost feedback from bidding contractors. Brentwood proposed a 30-inch-tall StormTank Urban Root System (URS) design that reduced the cost of the soil cell system by approximately \$45,000. The university chose the StormTank URS over the specified soil cell product and the URS was installed in the summer of 2016.



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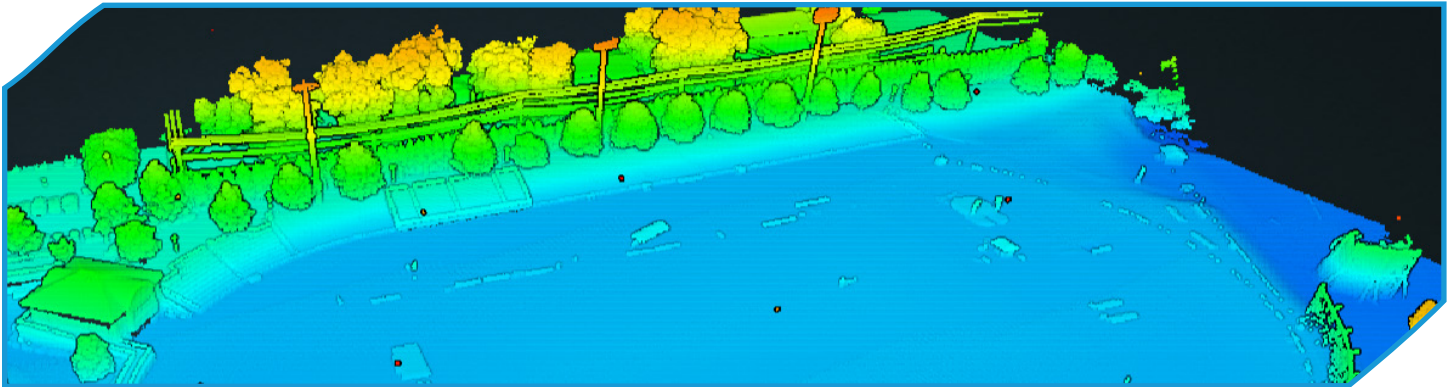
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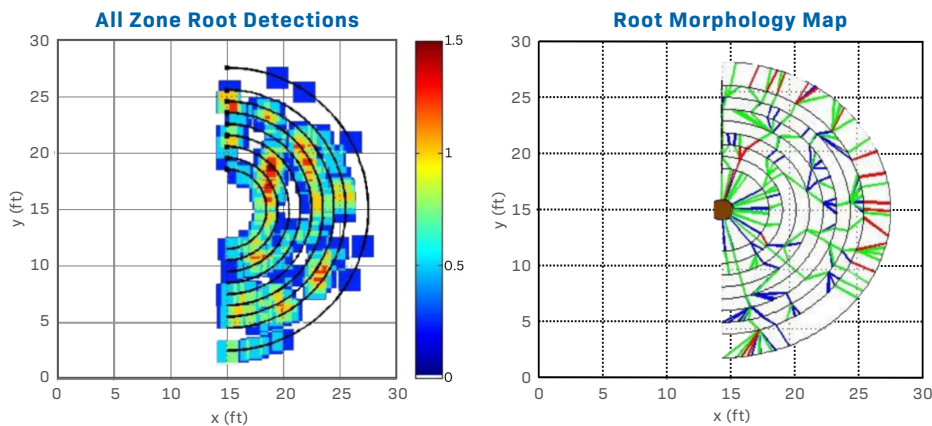
### CASE STUDY FOLLOW UP: USC Track - 8 Years Later

After nearly eight years of tree growth, Brentwood hired a certified arborist to return to the site and assess the condition of the trees installed with the StormTank URS soil cell system.

On April 24th, 2024, Fulgham Tree Preservation inspected the trees above and below the ground using TRU (Tree Radar Unit) System technology – a cutting-edge approach to assessing a tree's root system using ground-penetrating radar. TRU scanning allowed Fulgham to map the extent and density of the root system for each tree. Fulgham also scanned the trees with a LiDAR drone.

All the inspected trees showed a healthy root density, especially for trees installed in an urban environment.

The StormTank URS successfully protected the root growth potential for these trees for the last eight years of growth in a challenging urban environment. Brentwood is proud to be a part of USC's efforts toward providing a beautiful campus full of large healthy trees.



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