



2025

Tacoma Community Tree Program

Year Three Report



CITY OF
Tacoma



**Tacoma Tree
Foundation**

REPORT PREPARED BY THE TACOMA TREE FOUNDATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY
OF TACOMA'S URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM.

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Program Overview

Administered through a partnership between the City of Tacoma's Urban Forestry Program and the Tacoma Tree Foundation, the program combines municipal strategy, resourcing, and support with community-based implementation to achieve equitable tree planting and stewardship outcomes citywide. This collaboration ensures that resources, training, and engagement opportunities are effectively aligned with community needs.

For readers interested in more context on the program's development, strategic approach, and early outcomes, the [Year One](#) and [Year Two](#) Community Tree Program Annual Reports provide a detailed overview of CTP's purpose, structure, and guiding principles.

Now in its third year, the Community Tree Program (CTP) continues to strengthen Tacoma's urban forest through equitable, community-driven action. Building on the foundation established in 2023 and 2024, this year focused on expanding access to trees, refining operational processes, and deepening relationships across neighborhoods and partner organizations.



This year, we distributed 417 trees to 171 households, down approximately 300 trees from 2024. Even so, the greatest outcome of 2025 was the community care and trust program planners chose to prioritize and re-commit to through adapting program approaches. This impact is not reflected in tree counts but deeply reflected in deepened community relationships, strengthening trust within our most vulnerable communities, more cultural connections, and an increased sense of inclusion and belonging in urban forestry programming.

We are growing steadily in household requests, and as we move to the southern neighborhoods with lower tree canopy, there is noticeably more physical space for planting including opportunities for larger tree species. However, the data also shows that infrastructure barriers, especially utilities in otherwise ideal planting areas, continue to prevent many interested households from fully participating. At the same time, residents from previous years remain engaged in our programming and continue to request trees.

Community Tree Program Overview	2023	2024	2025	Total / Average
Trees distributed	515	747	417	1,679
Households receiving trees	204	292	171	667
Volunteers engaged	152	168	178	498
Volunteer hours	377	672	731	1,780
Outreach events	13	13	13	39
Residents trained	42	51	22	115
Trees planted by volunteers	40%	41%	47%	42.6% AVG
Acres of tree canopy added (at maturity)	4.6	5.1	3.5	13.2
Trees distributed to neighborhoods of focus	86%	79%	100%	88% AVG

The most notable highlights of the 2025 Community Tree Program include strengthened partnership and in depth services provided to Tacoma residents. Each year, the City of Tacoma Urban Forestry team and the Tacoma Tree Foundation work to further refine program strategies and communications, resulting in clearer, more impactful community engagement.

While overall tree numbers did not increase this year, the program's impact was strengthened through trusted and responsive relationships between the City's Urban Forestry Team, Tacoma Tree Foundation, and Tacoma residents. The team successfully adapted program models in response to issues immigrant communities are facing, ensuring services were delivered in ways that met the safety needs of those most vulnerable in our community. We continue to incorporate lessons learned from prior years, using past challenges to refine our approaches and strengthen the effectiveness and resilience of our services.



2025 At A Glance

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED TREES



171

TREES DISTRIBUTED



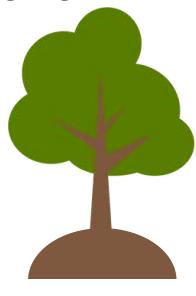
417

TREES IN FOCUS NEIGHBORHOODS



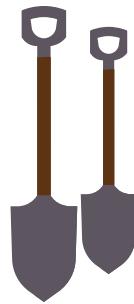
100%

TREES PLANTED BY VOLUNTEERS



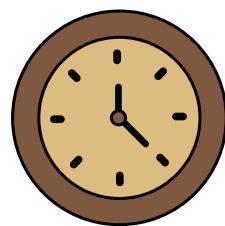
170

VOLUNTEERS



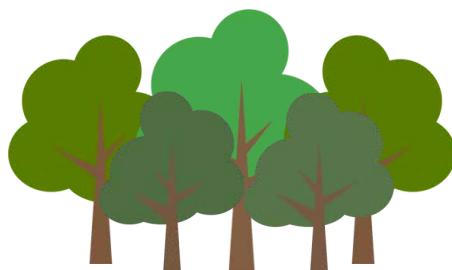
178

VOLUNTEER HOURS



731

ACRES OF TREE CANOPY ADDED AT MATURITY



3.5

RESIDENTS TRAINED



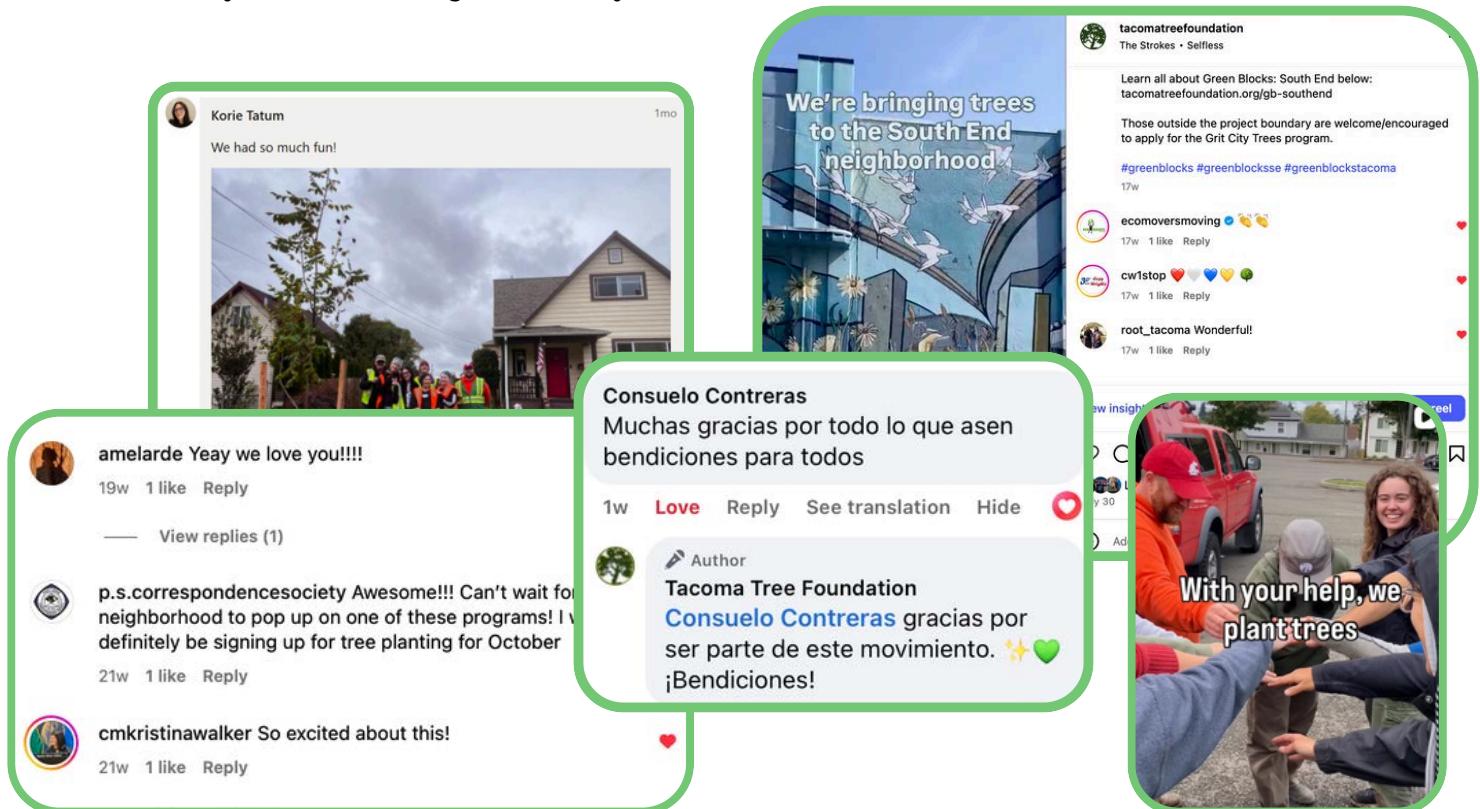
22

Program Components

The Community Tree Program's impact is rooted in a diverse range of activities that connect people to trees and to one another. Each program component plays a unique role in achieving equitable urban forestry outcomes.

The Community Tree Program has developed and successfully implemented a comprehensive communications strategy to support each Program Component: community events & training, Green Blocks: South End and Branch Out. This year, our efforts centered on two key approaches—online engagement, and community engagement—both utilizing branded digital and printed materials.

A newly developed and robust program website and a strategic social media presence allow us to maintain consistent communication with the community, providing reliable and accessible information. Complementing our digital efforts, we also connect with residents in person by tabling at community events and gathering spaces, distributing mailers to participating neighborhoods, and engaging in door-to-door outreach. We recognize that being present where residents gather to celebrate, learn, and access services builds deeper relationships grounded in trust and consistency. We see these relationships grow over the years, contributing to a vast network of supporters and community members throughout the city.



Korie Tatum
We had so much fun!

1mo

amelarde Yeay we love you!!!!
19w 1 like Reply
View replies (1)

p.s.correspondencesociety Awesome!!! Can't wait for neighborhood to pop up on one of these programs! I will definitely be signing up for tree planting for October
21w 1 like Reply

cmkristinawalker So excited about this!
21w 1 like Reply

Consuelo Contreras
Muchas gracias por todo lo que asen bendiciones para todos

1w Love Reply See translation Hide

Author
Tacoma Tree Foundation
Consuelo Contreras gracias por ser parte de este movimiento. ✨GREEN
¡Bendiciones!

tacomatreefoundation
The Strokes - Selfless
Learn all about Green Blocks: South End below: tacomatreefoundation.org/gb-southend
Those outside the project boundary are welcome/encouraged to apply for the Grit City Trees program.
#greenblocks #greenblocksse #greenblockstacoma
17w

ecomoversmoving 17w 1 like Reply

cw1stop 17w 1 like Reply

root_tacoma Wonderful!
17w 1 like Reply

With your help, we plant trees

Tacoma Tree Foundation's online engagement for the Community Tree Program is a multifaceted approach to engage and empower residents in greening their neighborhoods. TTF maintains accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. In 2025, TTF posted 23 times for The Community Tree Program, totaling 39,351 views and 1,344 post interactions. Our social media communications are a tool that leverages community engagement and enthusiasm.

Community Events & Trainings

Community events and trainings cultivate local knowledge and leadership within Tacoma's growing network of tree stewards. Through educational workshops, volunteer leadership opportunities, and events, the program continues to empower residents to care for trees and share urban forestry knowledge within their communities. We see residents return to learn more, share opportunities with their neighbors and deepen their investment and learning in our programming and Tacoma's Urban Tree Canopy.

Community Events - 9 Partners and 13 Events

Goal: To meet community members where they learn, celebrate, play, and shop as a way to reduce accessibility barriers.

Key Takeaways: Key partners are Second Cycle , Tacoma Public Library, Tacoma Public Schools, University of Washington of Tacoma, Neighborhood Councils, City of Tacoma Environmental Services, Asian Pacific Community Center, Conservation Organizations and ParksTacoma. Residents utilize our outreach table with curiosity and staff are trained to suggest the most relevant resources depending on where the resident lives or their interest. The most requested resources that we do not currently provide are private property hazardous tree services, pest identification and pruning services.



"Thanks for coming to our school. I wouldn't have known you're bringing trees to the South End if you hadn't" — South End Resident

Tree Steward Training - 8 Stewards in a 7-Hour Training

Goal: Equip residents with free, accessible in-depth training around proper planting tree care, local regulations, and answering tree-related questions.

Key Takeaways: In its third iteration, the CTP Tree Stewards training continued to attract all new participants. There was a strong representation from the South End neighborhood which demonstrates the value of localized program outreach. Participants consistently show the most interest in how to share practical, hands-on skills such as right-tree-right-place standards, planting skills, tree identification, and proper pruning techniques.



"I want to learn how to talk with my neighbors about planting and caring for trees." — Tree Steward

Tree Captain Training - 12 Captains in a 5-hour training

Goal: Training volunteers to confidently lead tree-planting teams, ensuring effective planting practices that improve tree survival, and positive volunteer experiences.

Key Takeaways: This year's training was collaboratively developed and implemented by CoT and TTF program leaders. This was our highest attended captains training. All who attended are returning planting volunteers who showed interest in deepening their volunteer management and tree planting skills. All 12 newly trained captains returned to lead in a planting event this year.



“Tree captaining takes my current involvement and deepens it enabling me to better connect with community and green Tacoma in an equitable and just way.” – Tree Captain

Technical Training: Tree Health Walk

2 Participants on a 2 Hour Walk

Goal: To provide residents with locally accessible trainings that provide everyday skills that support the health and longevity of our Tree Canopy.

Key Takeaways: Low turnout suggests that summer timing and limited promotion may have affected participation, even though tree-health training has been requested. Earlier and more robust outreach could help reach more residents. Because hands-on pruning training continues to be one of the most requested and well-attended topics, the TTF recommends refocusing future sessions on this ongoing community interest.



“I walked to the park today from my home and appreciate having programming in my neighborhood.” – Tree Walk Attendee

Community events and trainings are strengthening local knowledge and leadership within Tacoma's expanding network of residents. Through workshops, volunteer leadership roles, and ongoing events, the program empowers residents to care for trees and share urban forestry knowledge throughout their neighborhoods. As participants return, bring neighbors, and deepen their engagement, they continue to invest in both the program and the long-term health of Tacoma's Urban Tree Canopy.

Green Blocks: South End

Green Blocks is a neighborhood-focused effort designed to bring all resources available directly into neighborhoods with low tree canopy.

Through an orchestrated effort that includes door-to-door outreach, direct mailers, multiple site visits, tree materials, planting assistance, volunteer management, and strong resident participation, Green Blocks continues to demonstrate how local and focused engagement leads to lasting environmental and social benefits as well as bolstering a sense of neighborhood belonging.



2025 Green Blocks engaged the South End neighborhood. This project area included 3,243 single family households with 1 park, 3 public schools and a minimal business district. The South End project area is characterized by a Tree Planting Prioritization Score of High (-0.4), Urban Heat Island Average Temperature at 87°, a 14% Tree Canopy Cover, and an Equity Index of Low.

Green Blocks: South End Timeline



Residents were invited to engage with the program through a variety of outreach methods. Staff distributed flyers to local businesses and churches, participated in summer school events and community programs, announced the online request period through social media, and promoted the program timeline in organizational newsletters. Residents within the focus ZIP codes who were already in the TTF database also received email notifications. In addition, program staff and volunteers conducted door-to-door canvassing and distributed printed mailers to households.

Approximately 3,243 mailers were sent to every owner of a single-family home within the project area. Each mailer included a tree-request form that residents could complete by hand and return with postage paid. The mailers included a QR code linking directly to the project's webpage for online requests. In total, 100 mailers were returned, accounting for 37% of all tree requests received.

Participants were invited to indicate their tree preferences—"deciduous," "evergreen," or "either"—as well as the number of trees requested (1, 2, 3, or "as many as can fit"). These preferences support staff in matching each property with tree species based on resident preference, City planting standards, and species availability.



Here is a side-by-side comparison of how residents in each project boundary over the years have reported that they've engaged with Green Blocks. Postcards continue to be the most successful tool for Green Blocks outreach. Combining mailers with door-to-door engagement has been a successful recipe for getting people involved in our programming.

Green Blocks Self Reported Modes of Communications	2023: McKinley	2024: Lincoln	2025: South End
Mail Advertisement/Doorknocking	40%	76%	82%
Community Events	27%	6%	5%
Social Media or Word of Mouth	13%	12%	12%
Email from TTF	5%	1%	1%
Other	15%	2%	<1%

Over the course of 7 days in July, we dispatched 4 staff and 8 Northwest Youth Crew members to walk every block within those areas, knocking on 1,462 doors and having conversations with residents. This face-to-face approach accounted for a high number of registrations. Canvassers successfully engaged 95 homes with 6% of participants reporting they discovered the project through door knocking.

For eligible properties, staff submitted utility locate requests and marked the right-of-way with white paint. After utilities were marked, staff conducted site visits. During these assessments, staff documented existing trees, visible utilities (such as power lines and fire hydrants), nearby infrastructure, and the width of planting areas. Sites that met spacing requirements for street-tree planting were marked with wood stakes and paint. Sites that could not accommodate street trees were referred to alternative programs. Sites with compacted soil or paved right-of-way were flagged for potential Depave work.



COLLECTING DATA AT EACH PHASE IN THE PROCESS HELPS OUR TEAM DEVELOP A NARRATIVE OF EACH NEIGHBORHOOD WE HOST GREEN BLOCKS IN. THESE NUMBERS GIVE US INSIGHT INTO EACH NEIGHBORHOOD AND ITS CORRESPONDING PLANTABLE SPACE AS WELL AS GENERAL RESIDENTIAL INTEREST.

Green Blocks: South End

Community Response and Infrastructure

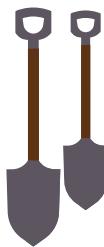
268

HOUSEHOLDS
REQUESTING TO
PARTICIPATE



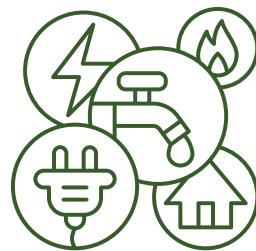
222

HOUSEHOLDS
REQUESTED PLANTING
ASSISTANCE



46 households had planting conflicts. A large majority of all conflicts were due to utilities, with gas lines being the most reported conflict. Approximately 30 out of 46 conflicts (65%) were due to gas lines running through the middle of rights-of-way or a lack of space from gas lines to plant within guidelines. The other 16 homes had conflicts like right-of-way size or existing trees.

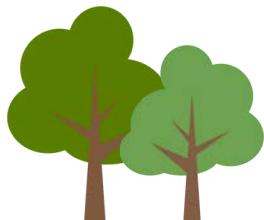
17% PLANTING
CONFLICTS



**APPROXIMATELY 65% OF CONFLICTS WERE DUE TO GAS LINES
RUNNING THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

466

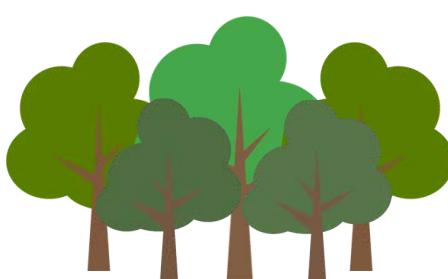
TREES
OFFERED



This is a 61% increase in trees offered from last year.

391

TREES
ACCEPTED



13

TREE PITS
DEPAVED



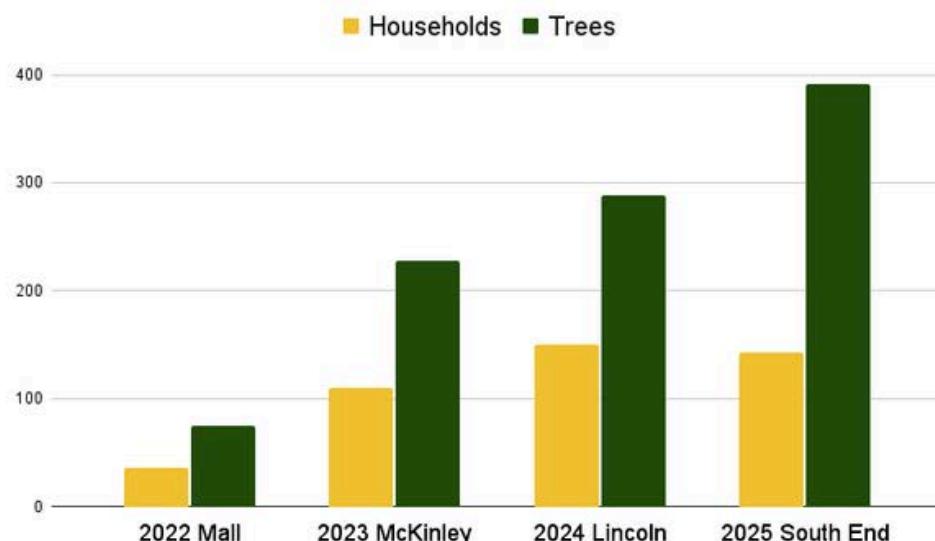
5 Households

This year we more than doubled our tree offers while receiving fewer household requests. The following charts show how the household requests are steadily increasing over time while the amount of space varies by neighborhood. Due to a staggered planting strategy in 2025, the listed numbers are the final households and trees *planted* and the parenthetical number reflects totals that will be completed by 2026. This year's planting strategy is detailed in the following pages.

Green Blocks Over the Years	2022: Tacoma Mall (pilot)	2023: McKinley	2024: Lincoln	2025: South End
Households in project area	1400	2600	3100	3243
Households canvassed	353*	280*	1446	1462
Households interested	44*	169	277	268
Trees offered	75*	234	328	466
Trees accepted	75	228	288	303 (391)
Final households	36	110	150	114 (143)
Depave (households & trees)	N/A	18 houses, 33 trees	8 houses, 17 trees	5 houses, 13 trees
Trees planted by volunteers	58	156	233	268
Volunteer number	21	56	82	64
Volunteer hours	105	225	328	256

*estimated

THE GROWTH IN HOUSEHOLDS COMPARED TO THE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF TREES OFFERED.



As community interest in the program continues to grow, so does the level of coordination, labor, and support required to deliver high-quality outcomes. The following section outlines how sustained demand has impacted program capacity, the strategies used to manage labor and planting logistics, and the intentional approach CTP takes to balance efficiency, equity, and meaningful community engagement.

Each participating household requires some communication from program staff but the labor associated with each tree (site verification, site assessment, tree matching, material and tree delivery logistics, planting preparation, and installation) continues to place a significant strain on both staff and volunteer resources.

Due to the high demand, the large volume of trees offered, and limited capacity, the program implemented staggered planting schedules and employed a range of delivery and installation approaches. These adaptive strategies were necessary to ensure quality outcomes while responding to sustained community interest.

Not fully reflected in the data above is the expansion of crew labor that made these outcomes possible. Program capacity was strengthened through the strategic use of Washington State Conservation Corps (10 crew members and 2 leads), Northwest Youth Corps (4 crew members and 2 leads) and an in-kind donation from a local moving company, EcoMovers. Together, the City and TTF leveraged our strengths and resources to mobilize 20 additional crew members and multiple trucks and trailers, over the course of 3 days. With the City funding additional crew days (~\$1300 per crew, per day) and in-kind contributions (~\$2000 per crew, per day) brought in by TTF, we leveraged these resources in order to meet higher program demand while also deepening levels of service. Without the addition of these partnerships, overall tree installation and program impact would have been substantially lower.



**ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES WERE NECESSARY TO ENSURE
QUALITY OUTCOMES WHILE RESPONDING TO
SUSTAINED COMMUNITY INTEREST.**

CTP program staff intentionally design volunteer planting events to be welcoming, accessible, and engaging spaces where community members can connect with one another, learn new skills, and feel empowered to participate in the growth of Tacoma's urban tree canopy. This approach aligns with the City's broader goal of increasing participation in urban forestry activities and strengthening long-term engagement and stewardship.

Green Blocks: South was intentionally held on Green Tacoma Day; an annual day of service across the city that supports engagement of local green spaces, and restoration. While participation in these partnered events enhance overall community cohesion it also provides its own challenges. Green Tacoma Day hosts volunteer events throughout the city, resulting in our team sharing volunteers and engagement with other valuable planting events. Volunteers also often have to choose between multiple events they care about, which can impact overall participation at any single site.



PLANTING EVENTS ARE STRUCTURED TO PRIORITIZE A POSITIVE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE.

From TTF's perspective, strategies that avoid relying on volunteer labor for tasks that are logistically complex, overly strenuous, or time-intensive (site assessments, tree and material delivery, difficult site preparations) will support continued volunteer engagement. TTF recommends planting about 160 trees for a 4hr event. This strikes the balance of manageable number of trees for event planners and positive volunteer experiences where groups complete all assigned trees.

In order to plant the anticipated number of trees this year, the program implemented a combination of pre- and post-planting activities and strategically adjusted planting timelines. This included postponing the installation of 40 trees to November 2025 and an additional 88 trees to February 2026. Alongside these adjustments, the program completed 3 days of pre-planting, hosted one large-scale volunteer planting event, and conducted 2 days of post-planting support. This model supports long-term volunteer retention, builds community ownership of urban forestry efforts, and ultimately strengthens the sustainability of Tacoma's expanding tree canopy.

Green Blocks remains a highly impactful program due to the depth of services provided to participating households. While annual tree installation numbers are expected to remain relatively steady, continued growth in program staffing and operational support are expected to increase overall capacity, improve long-term tree survival, and strengthen program outcomes over time.



BRANCH OUT

Branch Out continues to be the most multi-cultural aspect of the Community Tree Program by centering language access and ensuring multi-lingual communities are connected to tree planting opportunities and resources. Trees are powerful connectors to health, cultural identity, and community belonging. The program's planning partners adapted the model in 2025 to respond to the larger safety crisis impacting immigrant communities throughout the nation, Tacoma included.

We kept the pre-request portion of the program in place so residents in priority neighborhoods could continue requesting right-of-way and private property trees. Community outreach for this phase of the event was disseminated through multiple channels, similar to our Green Blocks Program. This outreach resulted in 75 pre-requests, reaching 44 households and distributing 78 trees, of which 51 were planted for residents. This phase of the program served residents in the following neighborhoods: (South Tacoma, South End, Lincoln, Hilltop, McKinley, Eastside).

The pre-request component of Branch Out continues to see strong and sustained utilization by Tacoma residents, with notable engagement from communities previously served through the Green Blocks program. Neighborhoods such as McKinley and Lincoln accounted for the majority of tree requests during this year. This demonstrates ongoing community trust and awareness generated through earlier neighborhood investments.

The Tree Share portion of Branch Out has continued to challenge the team in terms of accessibility, safety, and maintaining data integrity. This year, we recognized that many members of Tacoma's community were increasingly feeling unsafe attending local events due to heightened political violence of immigrant communities. Local partner organizations were canceling long-standing social service events to protect the safety of the communities they serve.

As a team, we understood that hosting Branch Out's Tree Share event in its usual format would risk excluding the very language communities we aim to reach each year. In response, we chose to adapt our outreach approach, connecting directly with these language communities through their trusted ambassadors. Program staff limited publicly advertising this event. When recruiting volunteers and partners for the event we maintained a clear stance on safety and advocacy. Each language ambassador used translated fliers and their own platforms to engage their community members.



Many communities still did not feel comfortable attending in-person events, even with these adaptations. For example, our work with the Khmer community highlighted deeper safety concerns and cultural nuances that required an entirely different engagement model. Despite extensive outreach from our Khmer Ambassador, including distributing printed surveys and offering individualized one-on-one phone call support, the community opted not to attend due to heightened policing presence of their community. They expressed that trust-building is the best support currently. Ultimately, they recommended that future engagement prioritize pop-up style tree giveaways located within existing, trusted community spaces rather than being integrated and/or invited to formal public events.

AS BRANCH OUT CONTINUES TO EVOLVE, THESE STORIES MAKE CLEAR THAT MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT, NOT SCALE, IS WHAT GROWS LASTING, COMMUNITY-ROOTED CHANGE.

While the final tree share number was lower than years past with 36 total trees distributed to 13 households, we believe that consistently demonstrating our commitment to inclusion, safety, and accessibility has a much greater and longer-term impact on the communities we serve. The CTP team understands that building trusting relationships is often more important than tree distribution numbers alone.

Thanks to the collaboration of the City's Language Access Program, and Pierce Conservation District's Green Stormwater Program, we were able to respond quickly and host a safe and accessible tree distribution event for our most vulnerable neighbors.

It strengthened trust, honored cultural connections to nature, and affirmed that safety and belonging are as essential to urban forestry as the trees themselves.



IN TOTAL:
57 HOUSEHOLDS REACHED
114 TREES DISTRIBUTED
51 TREES PLANTED FOR RESIDENTS

Equity & Community Access

Equity remains at the core of the Community Tree Program. Each year, the program refines its approach to ensure that residents in historically underserved neighborhoods have equitable access to tree planting, education, and stewardship opportunities. The Community Tree Program prioritizes the following strategies as a commitment to equity: cultivating accessible learning environments for all abilities and identities; engaging communities where they live; and implementing multilingual resources and events that reflect the lived experiences of those communities.

Our trainings and planting events are intentionally designed to recruit community members who are not always represented in the environmental field such as LGBTQIA+ residents, young people, families, and multilingual community members. We are transparent about the accessibility of our programs, welcome feedback and requests, and provide resources that lower barriers to participation, including folding chairs, youth-centered tools, and dietary variety.

By centering our outreach on events within the communities we serve, we actively demonstrate our commitment to equity. The Community Tree Program prioritizes tabling and engagement at established community hubs, schools, churches, parks, where trust is already present. Community members remain the experts on their neighborhoods and the leaders of our outreach efforts. Through multilingual engagement, planting assistance, and focused community-driven strategies, the program continues to remove barriers and connect more residents to the benefits of trees.

In our programming, community stories point to something larger than tree distribution. They show how trees remain powerful connectors to health, cultural identity, and community belonging. This year's Branch Out adapted model, though smaller in numbers, fortified relationships with communities most impacted by safety concerns and systemic exclusion. Families from the Slavic community who picked up their trees were very grateful for the opportunity. They felt welcomed by the team and some community members who live in apartments and didn't need trees still stopped by to say hello and show support. Ambassadors shared barriers to accessing the program with us like: limited planting space, interest in cultivating fruit trees and concerns around long term maintenance and tree care.

As we look ahead, the Community Tree Program remains committed to growing not just Tacoma's urban canopy, but the sense of safety, belonging, and cultural connection that trees make possible. Each season offers new opportunities to learn from the communities we serve and to deepen trust through thoughtful, inclusive practices. Program staff are committed to addressing the barriers to participation and adapting approaches to meet those needs. By continuing to center equity in every decision, the program ensures that the benefits of trees and the community resilience they foster are shared by all.



Partnerships & Collaboration

The Community Tree Program's success depends on establishing and maintaining strong partnerships that combine municipal resources with community-based expertise. Collaboration among City departments, nonprofits, youth crews, and local organizations has continued to expand program capacity, strengthen trust, and deliver consistent, high-quality service to residents.

This year alone we collaborated with the following public agencies: PCD Green Stormwater Management Program, City of Tacoma Language Access Program, City of Tacoma's Open Space Program, Green Tacoma Partnership, ParksTacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, Tacoma Public Library, TAGRO and many more.

Nonprofits like Second Cycle support our efforts by collaborating in events, and organizations like Northwest Youth Corps and EcoMovers provide integral labor to our tree planting services. Local small businesses like 7 Seas Brewery, Manifesto Coffee Roasters, Bluebeard Coffee Roasters, and Pho Tai donated and/or provided materials, food and beverages to our events. Volunteer teams from local Bank of America branches, students from the University of Puget Sound, and staff from WSU Extension come together at these events as a way to create creative and cohesive workplaces and learning spaces. Their shared participation strengthens the impact of each planting day, not only by increasing the number of trees planted, but also by deepening community connections, fostering hands-on learning, and building a sense of shared stewardship across our city.



Together, these partnerships form the backbone of the Community Tree Program.

By uniting the strengths of public agencies, nonprofits, local businesses, and dedicated volunteers, we are able to deliver far more than any single entity could accomplish alone. This collective effort not only increases our program's capacity, but also deepens community trust, strengthens local stewardship, and ensures that Tacoma's urban forest is grown and cared for by the people who call this city home.

Conclusion

The 2025 Community Tree Program reflects a year of intentional growth, deepening relationships, strengthening partnerships, and refining the ways we serve Tacoma's diverse neighborhoods. While tree distribution numbers naturally fluctuate from year to year, this report shows that the program's true impact lies in the trust built with residents, the culturally responsive practices that guide our decisions, and the expanding network of partners and community leaders who help shape and sustain this work.

Through educational workshops, volunteer leadership opportunities, and events, the program continues to empower residents to care for trees and share urban forestry knowledge within their communities. Over the course of three years we've seen residents return to learn more, share opportunities with their neighbors and deepen their investment and learning in our programming and Tacoma's Urban Tree Canopy.

After three years of a fully implemented Green Blocks program, it remains highly impactful due to the depth of services provided to participating households. With strategically implemented tree logistics based on past data and experience, along with the intentionally designed volunteer planting events, Green Blocks champions local neighborhoods and grows their tree canopy with trust and consistency. Green Blocks distributes the highest number of trees while prioritizing positive volunteer and residential experiences.

Branch Out continues to embody our commitment to equity through partnership and advocacy. While the final tree share numbers were lower, we were able to consistently demonstrate our commitment to safety and accessibility has a much greater and more long-term impact on the communities we serve.

After three years of implementation, CTP program staff agree that sustaining and expanding this work will require additional investment in staffed labor to support the time-intensive work behind each tree planted—from initial assessment through delivery and long-term care. We also recognize the need for increased administrative capacity to keep pace with rising program demand. In addition, TTF recommends expanding funding for crew labor to support the scale and timing of planting work. TTF further recommends strengthening support for language ambassadors through increased resources for multilingual materials, expanded digital engagement, and community stipends to ensure culturally specific outreach remains accessible and effective as the program grows.

Together, we continued to bring essential resources to neighborhoods with the greatest need, adapted our models to protect and uplift vulnerable communities, and created welcoming spaces for residents to learn, connect, and care for the urban forest. As we move forward, the Community Tree Program remains committed to cultivating a healthier, more resilient, and more equitable Tacoma, one rooted in collaboration, belonging, and the shared belief that everyone deserves the benefits of trees.



Acknowledgements & Credits

The progress and impact achieved through the Community Tree Program reflect the dedication of many individuals and organizations. From residents who planted their first tree to volunteers who attended their tenth event, and from youth conservation crews to partner staff who contributed their time and expertise, each played a vital role in advancing Tacoma's vision of a greener, healthier, and more connected city.

Special Acknowledgements to the following team members that dedicate their time, share their expertise and celebrate their love for trees and the City of Tacoma.

City of Tacoma's Urban Forestry Program

Lisa Kenny - she/they - Community Trees Program Coordinator
Ryan Hebert - he/him - Urban Forest Analyst
Mike Carey - he/him - Urban Forest Program Manager
Christean Jenkins - she/her - Urban Forest Intern

Pierce Conservation District's Green Stormwater Management Staff

Sarah Pyle - she/her - Green Stormwater Program Manager
Graham French - she/they - Water Quality Specialist
Hillary Esdaile - they/them - Water Quality Project Manager

City of Tacoma's Language Access Program

Maria Teresa Gamez - she/ella - Language Access Coordinator

Tacoma Tree Foundation Team

Jaala Smith - she/they - Planting Director
Natalie Caro - she/her - Planting Coordinator
Adela Ramos - she/ella - Director of Partnerships and Communications
Julia Wolf - she/her - Communications Coordinator
Jessi Pickel - she/her - Database Extraordinaire
Eden Standley - they/them - Outreach Specialist
Lowell Wyse - he/him - Executive Director
Fulton Bryant-Anderson - they/them - Intern
Hope Flanigan - she/her - Intern
Kate Threat - she/her - Intern

Washington Conservation Corps - City of Tacoma's Open Space Crew

Dan Nakamura - he/him - Crew Supervisor
JP Kemmick - he/him - Crew Supervisor

Written and produced by the 2025 Tacoma

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All photographs in this report were taken by Julia Wolf.

ROOTED IN PARTNERSHIP!

OUR COMMUNITY TREE PROGRAM THRIVES THANKS TO SUPPORT FROM THE CITY OF TACOMA URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM.

LET'S KEEP PLANTING, LEARNING, AND GROWING TOGETHER!

