



APRIL NEWSLETTER



Photo: Food is Free Tacoma, Mi Centro, and Tacoma Tree Foundation at the Día de la Tierra tree and food share celebration on April 23, 2024. Photo Credit: Julia Wolf

Our fifth planting season has concluded! The season began under the annular eclipse on October 14, 2023 as we gathered with residents of McKinley Hill, our Community Tree Partnership team, and volunteers. It concluded with our last tree share of the season in collaboration with Food is Free and Mi Centro. Partnerships have been an overarching theme this season. As we have grown, so have our collaborations. We have been honored to learn from and support the efforts of sister organizations, who share our vision for a cohesive, healthy, and green Tacoma. Thanks to everyone who joined us this season! We're excited to head into summer, when we'll be caring for the young trees we planted, and hosting events that support tree care education and appreciation, access to the outdoors and wellness. We'll see you out there!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Green Life Around Trees



Dr. Haberle holds what she calls "a miniature ecosystem": a fallen branch where varieties of moss and lichen happily make their home. Photo credit: Julia Wolf

Tree appreciation and education are fundamental to growing Tacoma's urban forest. But as all the tree nerds who read this newsletter religiously know, trees are not islands. Trees live and thrive in community. To appreciate them, it's also necessary to understand the life around them. This is one of the many reasons why we were very excited to gather with Dr. Romey Haberle (Associate Professor, PLU) to learn about licorice ferns, cat-tail moss, liverwort, Oregon grape, salal, and the many reasons why we should care for and plant native species. We'll be holding another walk with Romey in June. Stay tuned for details!

Tree Shares



Attendees walk alongside Dionne Bonner's mural at its unveiling on March 30, 2024, in South Tacoma. Photo credit: Julia Wolf

Over the past month we held five tree shares, bringing the grand total of trees we distributed this season to an amazing 2780 trees! We were especially excited to partner with Chief Leschi Schools to support their Earth Month celebration and efforts to restore green spaces on tribal land, with Lincoln High School's Climate Change Club with whom we spent Earth Day, and we were honored to join the Tacoma Public Library-South Tacoma's unveiling celebration of Dionne Bonner's mural.

Neighborhood Tree Walks



Yashar Vasef, Friends of Trees, Executive Director, keynote speaker at our fundraiser, shared his personal and professional journey to urban forestry. Photo credit: Julia Wolf.

On April 17, we came together with 155 attendees at Historic 1625 to celebrate our very first in-person fundraiser. When our Board decided to take the leap with this project, we had no idea what to expect. What we found out is that there are many Tacomans eager to learn about tree equity and why it matters for our region, and that our supporters will continue to humble us with their generosity. We are excited to develop relationships with new supporters, and to continue to cultivate the relationships that allowed us to make this happen in the first place. Thank you, everyone!

If you would like to help us reach our \$75,000 goal, visit our fundraiser site to see the many ways in which you can support our campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer is watering and outreach season, and we would love your help! Sign up for one or more of these opportunities by clicking the button:

- Friday afternoons starting on May 10th | Help us water trees!
- Saturday, May 11 · 10:00am – 4:00pm | Tabling at Livable Communities Fair | Key Peninsula Civic Center.
- Saturday, May 18 · 9:00am – 12:00pm | Tabling with Food is Free and Mi Centro | Mi Centro.
- Sunday, May 19 · 2:00 – 5:00pm | Tabling at YESS Film Festival for youth and college students | The Grand.

UPCOMING EVENTS

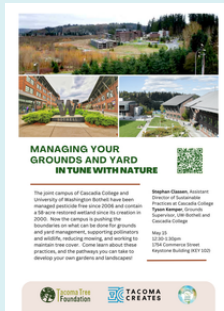
Snake Lake Mindfulness Walk | May 4 | 1pm

Join us as we celebrate spring in a mindfulness walk at Tacoma's Nature Center Snake Lake. Sarah Low will help us wake up to the sounds of spring by practicing mindfulness as we listen to the trees, our breathing, and the Park's wildlife—herons, finches, wrens, juncos, crows, amphibians, and more!



Managing Your Grounds in Tune with Nature May 15 | 12:30pm | Carwein Auditorium UW-T

The joint campus of Cascadia College and University of Washington Bothell have been managed pesticide-free and contain a 58-acre restored wetland. Now the campus is pushing the boundaries on what can be done for grounds and yard management, supporting pollinators and wildlife, reducing mowing, and working to maintain tree cover. Come learn about these practices, and the pathways you can take to develop your own gardens and landscapes!



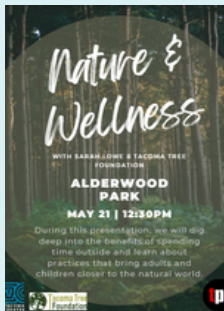
Forest Therapy Walk | May 18 | 9am-11am NW Native Plant Garden

With Denise McDermott's guidance, we will slow down and, through an evolving series of sensory-focused invitations, mindfully interact with the world around us. The guide holds space for every person to arrive at their unique relationship with the Earth while offering opportunities to witness our shared connection with the Earth as human people.



Nature and Wellness Presentation | May 21 12:30pm | Tacoma Public Library -Kobetch Branch and Alderwood Park

During this presentation, we will dig deep into the benefits of time outside, learn about practices that bring us closer to the natural world, and discover ways to cultivate nature nearby. Discover how planting and caring for trees can improve your wellbeing and learn about specific ways you can get outside. This presentation will provide an overview of some relevant research, share specific practices to try on your own, explore ways children benefit from time outside, and connect participants with opportunities and resources.



TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY CLIMATE LEADERSHIP COHORT 2024



Apply by May 1st! Created for frontline community members to enter into conversation with community leaders and develop a project to support their communities, the TPCCLC is a multi-day program focused on climate change, civic engagement, and collaboration.

WHAT WE'RE READING



Tacoma News Tribune (paywall): A beloved Tree by an Iconic Burger Joint was cut down.

Science News: Heat Waves Cause More Illness and Death in the U.S.



Grist: Cities scramble to find trees that will survive climate change.



Nature Explorers: Prairie Pals | Luna Azzouni



YOU ASKED, WE LISTENED

We heard your many requests to get access to our past newsletters. So, we are excited to announce our Newsletter Archive, now available on our website.

GET YOUR T-SHIRT



Help us reach our goal of \$75,000 while impressing everyone with this sleek Urban Forest for All t-shirt. Get it in cream or black!