



CELEBRATING 2023



Yesterday marked the first day of winter. For city dwellers, who continue the busy pace of life undisturbed by the season, it might be hard to pause and acknowledge what trees invite us to do this time of year. Trees, which are attentive to natural—not artificial—light, slow down and conserve energy to weather the colder temperatures. Although we humans can't go dormant, we at TTF have slowed down to create moments of gratitude and reflection over the past few weeks. These moments have allowed us to recognize everything we accomplished with your help. Thank you for helping us grow Tacoma's urban forest in community this year. As we prepare for 2024 in the darker days of winter, your support is our best source of energy!

HIGHLIGHTS

This was a great year of planting, education, and advocacy. We have much to celebrate, including that we distributed 2900 trees, with 374 of those being planted by our amazing volunteers!! We'll be sharing more moments and milestones in our last blog post of the year. Here we share some highlights:

PLANTING partnerships with local schools. We plant trees today for future generations of Tacomans. But planting with young Tacomans is part of providing immediate access to the cognitive, social, and emotional benefits of nature. We certainly experienced social and emotional wellbeing when planting with the students and teachers of Madison Elementary and Mt. Tahoma High School. As we reach for a greener future, we do so by learning from and with the original caretakers of the land. At our first partnership with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians in March, we shared trees as we celebrated native and culturally significant plants.

EDUCATION partnerships, many of which are possible thanks to Tacoma Creates, allowed us to walk in every corner of the City, and provide tree and wellness education in English and Spanish. We learned indoors, too, as we welcomed local and national experts on arboreal biomechanics, comics, environmental justice, ornithology, poetry, and more. We also trained 25 new tree stewards, who are helping us cultivate conversations about trees and tree care around Tacoma.

2023 VOLUNTEER STATS

Thank you volunteers for all of the amazing work you did. Here are some of the numbers we hit in 2023!



414
Volunteers



298 Residents Reached



2 Schools
1 Public Space



1500+ hours
contributed

THANK YOU!

ADVOCACY is an integral part of our work. With every tree we plant, we advocate for healthy Tacomans and a diverse urban forest. This is why we were excited to facilitate conversations about the outdated tree ordinance (written in 1927) and the newly approved ordinance, which will help make Tacoma more resilient in the face of climate change by better regulating tree pruning and removal, allowing fruit trees in the right-of-way, and celebrating heritage trees.

LEARN WHY IT'S SUCH A BIG DEAL

Executive Director, Lowell Wyse, writes about the implications of Tacoma's new ordinance and the work we must all do to grow and protect Tacoma's urban forest [in this week's blog post](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Taking advice from wintering trees means slowing down a bit, so we are only hosting two events in January. But as you'll see, they will help us start off 2024 by bringing people together to celebrate Tacoma and trees:



Port of Tacoma Planting Event January 20 | 11am-1pm

The trees of Northeast Tacoma might provide a backdrop to the Port of Tacoma. But the tideflats have the lowest tree canopy in the City. This is one of the many reasons why we are partnering with the City of Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma to plant 50 trees. We are seeking volunteers of all ages and planting experiences to help us bring trees to the tideflats!



From the Forest to the Sea | January 20
11am | Schneebeck Hall, University of
Puget Sound

Is the rustling of leaves in the wind music to your ears? It is to NW Sinfonietta and the Tacoma Tree Foundation! This is why we are partnering to bring trees and music together. The Foundation will be leading a tree walk to precede NW Sinfonietta's Sky & Sea Concert, both inspired by our beautiful Puget Sound region and the importance of caring for it. **Sign up for the walk and receive a 50% discount for your ticket!**



Sea and Sky Pre-Concert Panel and Concert | January 20 | 6:15pm

Join TTF and NW Sinfonietta for a pre-concert panel that will include Communities for a Healthy Bay and UPS Environmental Policy and Decision-Making Program partners. Following the panel, NW Sinfonietta's concert will include a reading of poems written about Tacoma's trees at two of TTF's fall education events.

CLOVER DAYDREAMS RECOMMENDS



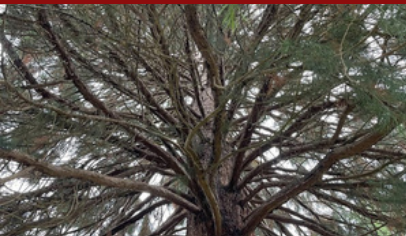
Clover Daydreams
-a safe and inclusive book space-

Clover Daydreams . This online bookstore is the making of Clover Tamayo (they/siya), a Tree Steward and environmental justice advocate who is always seeking out diverse stories from BIPOC, queer, trans, and disabled voices. These stories and much more are available at [Clover DayDreams Bookshop](#).



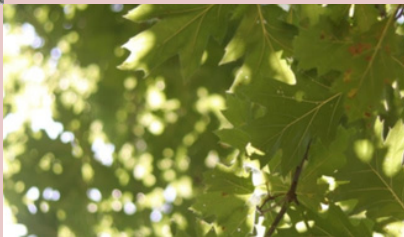
For those cold and rainy winter days when we wonder at the beauty of a tree's bare branches or daydream of spring and summer, Clover recommends: [The Book of Tree Poems](#), Ed. Anna Sampson.

WHAT WE'RE READING



Tacoma News Tribune:
Trees are Critical | Matt Driscoll (paywall)

Tacoma News Tribune
(paywall): Tacoma city Council approves updates to street tree code



Nature Explorers: The Pacific Tree Frog



LOOKING FORWARD

We end our final newsletter of 2023 by sharing exciting news about 2024: This month we are completing the purchase of a fully electric pickup truck, which will help us water the trees we plant in schools and other public places. The truck will also help us coordinate our tree shares and planting events more efficiently. The TTF Truck is expected to arrive in Tacoma in January. We really could not have done this without your amazing support during our fall fundraiser. Thank you! We look forward to sharing more TTF Truck news with you in 2024!



PLANT IN COMMUNITY

It is beanie weather!

Add a TTF beanie to your winter accessories and be ready to walk and plant with us into the spring!

