

Port of Tacoma Planting Event



Photo Credit: Julia Gonzalez-Wolf

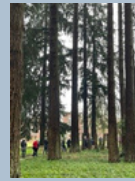
After a very short lull in our planting season activities, we were back outdoors on Saturday, January 20th in the tideflats. We were joined by 77 people: 73 of them volunteers, 10+ of them young people! 23 of them were from the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters. We gathered for the planting demonstration that taught each volunteer how to properly plant each tree with care. We heard from Port Commission President Kristin Ang and Tacoma City Council Member Rumbaugh about their support for the greening of the Port of Tacoma. Alongside Council Member Joe Bushnell, they joined us for the planting event. We divided up into teams and planted 51 trees in 1 hour! We planted roughly 3/4 of an acre in the Port of Tacoma with 35 medium trees and 17 large trees when mature!



Photo Credit: Julia Gonzalez-Wolf

Late last week, someone declared it was that last week when the sun would set before 5pm until November of 2024. If that is any indication of how winter is going for you, we understand! This is a dark and rainy time of year. It is no wonder that cultures across the globe have found different ways to celebrate light and come together in the weeks leading up to spring. If you're looking for a way to find joy in winter, we invite you to look up. The bare branches of deciduous trees are like whimsical sculptures against the winter grays, and they make it easier to spot the colorful feathers of wintering birds, like Steller's Jay and the Northern Red Flicker. Winter bird-watching might also give you another reason to love our resident crows, house finches, and juncos.

A Musical Mindfulness Walk



After nearly six months of planning, the morning of Saturday, January 20th finally found us walking on the UPS campus alongside NorthWest Sinfonietta, Communities for a Healthy Bay, the UPS Music and Environmental Policy programs, and many of you as Sarah Low guided us through old trees and open spaces, helping us remember how trees can comfort us. Later that evening, we gathered again, this time indoors, to listen to the Northwest Sinfonietta's Sea & Sky concert and poems written by Tacoma residents during some of our fall events. We celebrated the trees, the sea, and the special gift of doing so in community.

WELCOME!

New Board Members! The Board of Directors voted in three new members to serve in 2024–2025. We are very excited to welcome Angelia Paul, Jamika Scott, and Jenny Wetzel. Several other members renewed their volunteer commitments for two more years. Find out more about our staff and board members on our recently expanded bio page. We are also grateful to departing members Alex DeOme and Danny Person for their two years of Board service!

A Musical Mindfulness Walk



Photo Credit: Julia Gonzalez-Wolf

Planting season is also a season of learning. For our upcoming Green Blocks: Parkland-Spanaway planting event and tree share, we held the very first Tree Stewards training of the year. On a rainy Saturday morning, 9 residents gathered in the fireside room at Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland, to learn more about how to organize their neighbors around greening, access free and low-cost trees for their neighborhood, plant and care for young trees, and advocate for better tree care. The tree stewards engaged with formal lectures, neighborhood walks, hands-on activities and community-building activities led by Sarah Low, an ISA-certified arborist.



Board Members Jennifer Schaal, Vivian deZwager, Amy Kirkman, Luke Vannice, and Janel Krilich at the November 2023 Board of Directors Retreat. Photo Credit: Julia Gonzalez-Wolf

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tacoma's Urban Forest and You February 10 | 11am

Join us for a bilingual presentation co-hosted with the Tacoma Public Library-Wheelock, where we will explain urban heat island effect, why Tacoma's urban forest does not fully sustain us, and how tree care and alternative yards can help communities grow a greener future for all.



Lunar Year Tree Share February 11 | 11am-4pm

You're invited to the annual Lincoln District Lunar New Year celebration! Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with Lincoln District businesses and residents. Tacoma Tree Foundation will be bringing free trees: Arctic Fire, Dogwoods, Red Flowering Currant, and some other all-stars! First come, first serve. Some species will be offered in 10 gallon pots, others in 1 gallon pots. Volunteers are available to help load trees into cars or choose the right species for you.



Hilltop Community Tree Share February 17 | 10am-2pm

A healthy tree cover is crucial for our climate well-being. In partnership with the Tacoma Tree Foundation, the Shalom Project is exploring direct-action and advocacy efforts to grow Tacoma's urban tree canopy, as this plays an important role in mitigating the impacts of climate change. BIPOC community priority will be given from 11-12PM. Please read the full program for more details.



Traveling Through Time with Trees February 21 | 12:30pm

What is the oldest tree species on earth? During this talk at the Tacoma Public Library - Swasey, Sarah Low will take us back in time as far as 290 million years ago to discover the trees that have stood the test of time. We'll consider the trees that lived among dinosaurs, a tree whose spread covers over 100 acres, and many other living marvels, and learn about some of the younger trees among us.



GREEN BLOCKS: PARKLAND-SPANAWAY



If you were hoping to join us at the tideflats but could not, your next opportunity to be a planting volunteer is coming up soon! We'll be planting alongside our Pierce County Parks partners in Parkland-Spanaway in March with funding from the USDA Forest Service and Urban and Community Forestry Program, administered through the State of Washington DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program.

March 16th - Planting Assistance Event: All ages welcome, no experience required. Join a team led by a trained tree captain, travel to local homes to get dirty, and plant trees! Tacoma Tree Foundation's planting assistance events help remove barriers to tree planting in our communities. We have a blast and couldn't do it without our amazing volunteers!

March 23rd - Tree Share Event: Join us at Sprinker Recreation Center in supporting Parkland-Spanaway residents as they choose trees and load them to their cars. Support the Tacoma Tree Foundation by providing learning resources for our community members.

WHAT WE'RE READING



KNKX: Urban Garry Oaks Persist | Bellamy Pailthorp

New York Times (paywall): The Trees Saved Me | Alan Burdick



City Council Approves updates modernizing Tacoma's code regarding trees after nearly 100 years

TTF Blog: Parkland: From Wilderness to Unfair Forest | Adela Ramos and Eden Standley

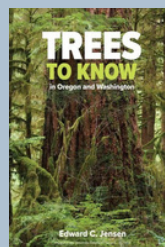


CLOVER DAYDREAMS RECOMMENDS



Clover Daydreams
-a safe and inclusive book space-

Clover Daydreams is now a brick and mortar bookstore! Created by 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.



A reliable source for familiar and rare regional species, Jensen's guide will make a good companion for anyone excited to learn how to identify the trees that nourish our region: Trees to Know in Oregon and Washington, Edward C. Jensen.



G.R.I.T.

Greening Research In Tacoma

Calling all South Tacoma Residents

Researchers at the University of Washington, in partnership with Tacoma Tree Foundation and The Nature Conservancy of Washington, are conducting a study on the relationship between community experience, environmental surroundings, and well-being in South Tacoma. Participants will answer online survey questions and provide input about their experiences in and vision for their neighborhood. The survey will be conducted in late 2023/early 2024, and there may be opportunities to participate in additional surveys in the future. Participants will be compensated for survey completion.

Interested in participating? Visit our website to find out if you are eligible:
<https://tacomatreefoundation.org/grit>



TTF hoodies are perfect for all occasions: planting, walking, working, socializing, and staring at tiny pinecones... Add the Tree Down the Sleeve hoodie to your collection!

Interested in participating? Visit our website to find out if you are eligible.