



Tacoma Tree Foundation

March Newsletter

A Musical Mindfulness Walk



Partners and Volunteers at Sprinker Recreation Center. Photo Credit: Julia Wolf.

Planting Event: On Saturday March 16, 50 volunteers circled up in the sunshine at the Sprinker Recreation Center to support planting trees for Parkland-Spanaway residents. We heard from Pierce County Councilmember, Jani Hitchens, and celebrated lowering barriers to tree equity for our neighbors. Over half of our volunteers were new to volunteering with us, and we're so grateful they decided to spend their time with us!

Tree Share - A week later, on March 23, in partnership with Pierce County and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, we brought over 1,000 trees to the Sprinker Recreation Parking lot. Stay tuned for more impactful data and stories from these events!



Photo (left to right): Eden Standley, Jaala Smith, Aaron Yang, Kirsten Iverson, Alejandro Fernández, and Jess Stone bask in the sun at the Green Blocks: Parkland-Spanaway planting event on March 16, 2024.

You don't need us to tell you that the sun finally came out for more than a few precious minutes the weekend before last. In fact, it felt a little like summer. We were reminded of what we love to do in the warmer months: sit out in the sun with friends, music, or a book; long hikes in the mountains; tabling at street fairs; and watering young trees! The first spring teaser of the year is always a meaningful reminder of our animal nature. No matter how effectively technological comforts shelter humans from the elements during winter, we need the sun's rays just as much as the trees we plant and love do. We look forward to gathering with you under clear skies in the coming months!

Spring Wanderings



A blooming tree created with the 9 ingredients of comics by budding young Tacoma artist, Genevieve.

While volunteers and most of TTF's staff were busy at Green Blocks: Parkland-Spanaway, Claudia Linares, David Lasky, Sarah Low gathered with Tacoma and Seattle residents to wander through Wright Park for a bilingual mindfulness walk. Then, they returned to King's Books for a bilingual haiku comics workshop where participants got inspired by spring's blooms. We were particularly excited to have three young Tacomans join us. Their creativity and engagement added excitement and wonder to David Lasky's always enchanting workshops. We left feeling hopeful for the growing culture of tree appreciation in our City. Thanks to Tacoma Creates and King's Books for making this event a reality!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Under the Urban Canopy



Photo Credit: Julia Wolf

We always have great things to say about our volunteers, who keep us connected to our community-driven mission. But we don't always take the time to share how our partnerships with local organizations do the same. This month, we'd like to open by thanking Blue Cactus Press, Hilltop Urban Gardens, Voices of Tacoma, and DJ Smokey Wonder for trusting us with their partnership. Together, we collaborated on a day-long somatic writing workshop, community conversation, and dance. We were reminded that shared values and time spent together will not only light up the winter but also keep our urban canopy growing strong and healthy.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Join our upcoming Potting Parties! Happening rain or shine! Parking is off-site with a volunteer shuttle. Tools, gloves, snacks and beverages are provided. Please feel free to share this link with friends who'd enjoy visiting with the community, playing with plants and trees and supporting Tacoma's urban tree canopy! Registered volunteers will receive details via email a week before the event.

- Potting Parties - 3/30 | 9-11:30am
- Potting Parties - 4/08 | 1-3pm

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sustainability Expo Tree Share
 April 12 | 10am-3pm | Tollefson Square
 For 16 years, the South Sound Sustainability Expo has been the region's largest community celebration of all things sustainability. This free, family-friendly event features activities, presentations, performances, and art exhibits.

Trees and Wildlife | April 16 | 6:30pm-7:30pm | Tacoma Public Library - South Tacoma Branch

During this talk with Sarah Low, we will learn about the relationship between trees and other living organisms, discover some of the organisms that live in and around trees, and learn how we can care for trees to encourage a diverse and thriving ecosystem.



Donkey Creek Tree Share | April 20 10am-1pm | Donkey Creek Park

Join your neighbors in welcoming spring and take home a new tree!

Bilingual Mindfulness Walk | April 20 10:30am-12:00pm | China Lake Park

Sarah Low and Claudia Linares will help us wake up to the sounds of spring by practicing mindfulness as we listen to the trees, the Park's wildlife.

Sarah Low y Claudia Linares nos ayudarán a despertar a los sonidos de la primavera mientras practicamos la conciencia plena, escuchamos nuestra respiración y los sonidos de los árboles y la vida silvestre.



Alling Park: Bilingual Neighborhood Walk | April 12 | 11am-12pm

Alling Park is a great starting point for us to walk together as we consider the relationship between our parks and neighborhoods. Join Sarah Low and Alejandro Fernández for this bilingual walk! Alling Park es un excelente punto de partida para caminar juntas y considerar la relación entre nuestros parques y nuestros barrios, el desarrollo urbano, y los beneficios que nos regalan los árboles. ¡Únete a esta caminata bilingüe con Sarah Low y Alejandro Fernández!

Lincoln High Tree Share | April 22 | 2pm-4pm | Lincoln High School

Tacoma's Lincoln Neighborhood is invited to join Lincoln High School's Climate Change Club in celebrating Earth Day by sharing the gift of trees! Lincoln's Climate Change Club members meet to discuss local climate change issues and tackle projects within the school and community. Support this partnership between the Tacoma Tree Foundation and Lincoln High School by taking home trees and greening Tacoma's Lincoln neighborhood.



Mi Centro Tree Share | April 23 | 10 am-12:30pm
 Come get free trees and support this amazing organization serving BIPOC residents!

Grand Park to Reservoir Bilingual Neighborhood Walk | April 27 | 10:30am-11:30am

By connecting two apparently ordinary landmarks, this walk will help us make sense of the presence and absence of trees and tree benefits. Join Sarah Low and Alejandro Fernández and learn how to see your streets from a new perspective! Sarah Low y Alejandro Fernández nos guiarán entre dos sitios aparentemente ordinarios, para ayudarnos a entender cómo interpretar la ausencia y la presencia de los árboles y sus beneficios. Acompáñanos y aprende cómo ver las calles de tu barrio desde una perspectiva arbórea.



TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY CLIMATE LEADERSHIP COHORT



We are excited to announce that the third annual Climate Leadership Cohort has grown to include Pierce County! Inspired by the City of Tacoma Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Pierce County Sustainability 2030, this multi-day training gathers frontline community members, City and County staff, elected officials, and local organizations to work for a collective climate future.

Applications close APRIL 16 at 11:59pm

WHAT WE'RE READING



Tacoma Gets \$1.3 Million to Plant Trees | Tacoma News Tribune (paywall)