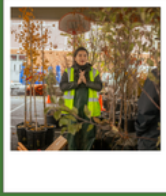
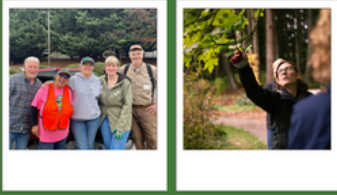
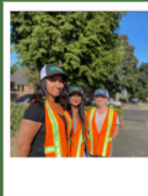


CELEBRATING

5



Thank you!



We are celebrating our 5th year anniversary! As we look back, and even as we write about the last few weeks for this issue, it is clear that we would not be here without a base of committed and energized volunteers, donors, and supporters, a vigorous Board of Directors, inspiring and generous partners, and of course, a devoted part-time staff team. Thank you for making it possible to grow the urban forest while creating stronger community connections every year! We are grateful for you! Over the next few weeks we'll be sharing highlights of the last 5 years on our social media channels. Stay tuned!

OUR TEAM IS GROWING



If you read our last newsletter, you know that Green Blocks: McKinley Hill was a success. What you might not know is that this success was in great part due to our new Planting Coordinator, Jaala Smith (they/she). Green Blocks was Jaala's first planting event with us, and it took place only two weeks after they joined our full-time staff team. But newness was not apparent as Jaala welcomed and trained volunteers and staff with aplomb, humor, clarity, and warmth. Jaala provided just the

kind of excitement and support volunteers needed. Jaala's passion for creating welcoming, inclusive spaces is rooted in a childhood spent in the woods of the Pacific Northwest and a career in education. Both inform their belief that planting and gardening are about learning from and with each other. We have quickly come to appreciate Jaala's commitment to inclusion, and we feel very fortunate that they are part of TTF. We look forward to growing our planting programs with them. Welcome, Jaala!

TACOMA CLIMATE LEADERSHIP COHORT 2023

On October 20, 2023, we gathered at the Byrant Neighborhood Center to celebrate this year's Tacoma Climate Leadership Cohort's projects. Cohort members presented the climate actions they accomplished, including joining one of the City's Participatory Budgeting processes, advocating for depaving and growing tree canopy coverage in South Tacoma and Parkland, growing access to local food, and mapping urban heat islands in the City of Tacoma. We are excited to see this Cohort's work continue in coming years. Congratulations!



From left top to right bottom: Evelyn Rojas, Ursula Thompson, Jane Arge, Issac Penoyer, Erica Hernández, Ana Rojas, Shadiamon Barnes, Eden Standley, Kenzie Knapp. Photo Credit: Julia Gonzalez-Wolf

Branch Out



Photo Credit: Julia Gonzalez-Wolf

While Green Blocks: McKinley Hill began under an astronomical event (an eclipse), and Branch Out began during a monsoon (or what seemed like one!). On November 4th, staff from TTF, City of Tacoma Urban Forestry Program, and Pierce Conservation District drove their cars and trucks to Stafford Elementary School in zero visibility rain. As we set up tables, soaking sign-up sheets and other materials, and prepared to receive volunteers and participants under a leaking canopy, we momentarily paused and asked the dreaded question: Do we have to cancel the planting event? But when volunteers, staff, and participants showed up smiling and ready to make the event a success, we realized this question is foolish when you are working with such an inspiring community! The event's success is confirmed by the numbers: 191 people participated; 410 trees were given to residents, including over 100 fruit trees; and 30 households received planting assistance from our volunteers. Most of these were planted in South, East, and Central Tacoma, as well as Parkland. These trees found a home in South and Central Tacoma, and the greater Pierce County area.

Many thanks to our present and past partners: Homeownership Center NW, Valeo Vocation, VFW McKinley, SunAlliance, Tacoma Public Schools, Pierce Conservation District, City of Tacoma Urban Forestry Program, and Pierce County Parks.

We want to express our gratitude to the Language Ambassadors who helped us pilot the very first multilingual Branch Out! They translated materials into Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese, and provided assistance at the walk-up event in these languages. We are very excited to continue growing this part of the program next year.



Pictured: Adela Ramos, Katelyn Cam, Iuliia Didkivska, Sandra Garibaldi, Svetlana Konotopchik, Lisa Kenny. Photo Credit: Julia Wolf-Gonzalez.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tacoma Street Tree Code Lunch and Learn with Mike Carey

November 30 | Noon

Trees help make our city streets beautiful! Trees in the public right-of-way also have other important benefits for our quality of life, like noise reduction, shade, and cooling. The Tacoma City Council has scheduled a vote for early December on modernizing the municipal codes that cover landscaping in the right-of-way. Some of the main codes have been in place since 1927! At this lunch-and-learn webinar, Mike Carey, the City of Tacoma Urban Forest Program Manager, will share about why our tree codes matter and what the community can expect from this particular code update process.



Ode to the Trees of Tacoma with Wendy Call | Oda a los árboles de Tacoma con Wendy Call

December 7 | 5:30 pm | Blue Cactus Press

In this bilingual workshop, we will talk about iconic Tacoma trees, we will savor some poems about trees in English and Spanish, and we will write our own odes to trees. No previous experience with poetry is necessary. Hot chocolate and warm beverages will be offered. | En este taller bilingüe, conversaremos sobre los árboles tacomeños, gozaremos de poemas en ambos idiomas, y escribiremos nuestras propias odas. No es necesario tener experiencia previa con la poesía. Habrá chocolate caliente y bebidas de temporada.



Structural Pruning Basics Online Workshop with Sarah Low

December 13 | 5:30pm

Did you plant a tree 3-5 years ago? You're done establishing your tree! What comes next? PRUNING! Now is a good time to learn how to properly care for it by pruning it at the right times and in the right way, so that it can continue to grow healthy and reach maturity.



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>

ADVOCACY CORNER

STREET TREE ORDINANCE

The Tacoma City Council is moving forward with an important vote on a series of changes to the Municipal Code related to trees in the right-of-way. Parts of Tacoma's tree code were originally passed in 1927! As a result, they have not been legally enforceable for years. The City's Urban Forestry group has been working to modernize the codes for the past several years. Now the code is written and ready to be adopted! This would be a huge step forward for Tacoma's tree policies and our collective ability to increase tree canopy coverage. But passage is not guaranteed.

Urban Forest Program Manager Mike Carey will inform us and answer questions about the proposed changes via webinar on **November 30th at 12:00 p.m.**

We at TTF believe these code changes to be an important step for Tacoma's urban forest policy that, if adopted and enforced, will benefit human and environmental health. We encourage everyone to share your thoughts about the proposed ordinances through the public comment process, now through early December. Supporters of this code update and a host of further actions called for in Tacoma's Urban Forest Management Plan can also sign this petition that was put together by a local group called Tacoma's Urban Forest Friends.

WHAT WE'RE READING



From the TTF Blog: The Urban Heat Island Effect
By Lowell Wyse

The Urbanist: A Tree Grows in Tacoma
By Rubén Casas



CrossCut Cascade: Saving SeaTac's Forest



Giving Tuesday



After every planting and educational event, we come away with one lesson that we love to learn over and over again: Tacomans love their communities and care about their trees. **This is why on GivingTuesday, we will be asking you to share your favorite Tacoma area tree on our channels.** Our goal is to create a map of Tacoma's favorite trees that can be accessible to all while raising funds to plant the young trees that will become Tacoma's future favorite trees.

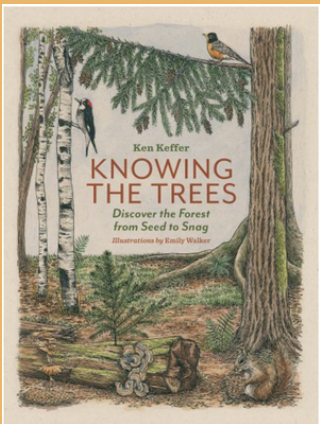
Tag us using **#My253tree**, send us an email info@tacomatreefoundation.org, go old school and send it by snail mail (P.O. Box 2012 Tacoma, WA, 98401), or donate today.

WHAT WE'RE READING



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](https://www.cloverdaydreams.com).



This month, Clover recommends Ken Keffer's Knowing the Trees: Discover the Forest from Seed to Snag.