There is No Stronger Symbol of Resilience Than a Tree

Like so many organizations, Tree Pittsburgh's resiliency was put to the test in 2020. The team leaned in and banded together to adapt our programs to work within COVID-19 restrictions while still meeting the needs of the community. Education programs went virtual, trees were distributed with minimal contact, staff planted trees without volunteer support, and a process was created to support volunteers to care for trees on their own. Thanks to support from local foundations, individuals, and government aid, we weathered the storm and were able to develop new programs and a vision that will contribute to our region's recovery effort.

Heritage Nursery Continues to Grow

The Heritage Nursery experienced another banner year thanks to the team’s hard work, flexibility, and the ongoing public demand for trees. Additional space was prepared for expansion in 2021, irrigation was installed across the existing footprint, a new online sales platform was developed, and the business plan was updated. Thanks to the Garden Club of Allegheny County and the Succop Family Foundation, a new pole barn with outdoor classroom space was designed and will be built in early 2021.

Tree Planting & Distribution

- 2,771 Trees Distributed to the Public
- 956 Trees Planted
- 252 Shrubs Planted
- 8,058 Trees and Shrubs Sold

25% Increase Over 2019
25% Increase in Tree Stock Over 2019
Taking it to Over 14,000+ Trees

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Community Technical Support

Tree Pittsburgh’s Director of Urban Forestry and Community Forester provide regular support to municipalities and institutions to develop tree-friendly ordinances, create strategies for tree planting and community engagement, and deliver tree care and tree planting training to maintenance crews. The team partners with municipalities and land-owning institutions to leverage funding for tree planting, and in 2020 trees were planted with Etna Boro, Brentwood/Baldwin/Whitehall Shade Tree Commission, the Housing Authority of Pittsburgh, Chatham University, and RIDC. The Shade Tree Commission Network was launched to support 32 member groups across 19 municipalities with monthly newsletters and regular training and networking opportunities.

Canopy Alliance

Tree Pittsburgh’s Executive Director launched the Canopy Alliance in 2020 to convene key stakeholders around Mayor Peduto’s 100,000 tree goal (2020–2030). The planning effort, funded through the Benter Foundation Vision Award, brings City Departments and Authorities together with non-profit planting partners to develop a coordinated and collaborative funding strategy and tactics to plant, distribute, and maintain trees in the City of Pittsburgh. Subcommittees are hard at work to achieve what will amount to a doubling of efforts by the partners.

Tree Planting Highlights

- Dynegy - Nearly 200 trees and shrubs were planted thanks to a commitment from Dynegy to plant 800 trees in the City of Pittsburgh through 2022.

- Allegheny County Health Department Clean Air Fund - ACHD funds were used to plant vegetated buffers along four lane roadways across the County. In 2020 the team planted over 400 trees through this program.

- PA DCNR - Thanks to a grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Tree Pittsburgh paired up with Allegheny County Parks to plant 200 trees and shrubs along a stream in North Park.

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Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Danielle Crumrine
**Tree Tenders**

6 **CLASSES OFFERED IN 2020**

6 **NEW GRADUATES IN 2020**

143 **GRADUATES 2007–2020**

2,200 **VALUE OF VOLUNTEER LABOR**

The pandemic forced our team to get creative and develop new methods of program delivery. With parents serving as teachers and teachers looking for ways to engage their students virtually, our education team jumped to action creating online teaching and learning tools, including an online expansion of the Explorers Program. This curriculum, developed for Northside schools in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh Park Rangers, is now available to everyone online. A nature activity book and tree growing kit were developed, assembled, and delivered to school lunch pick-up sites, and our team made themselves available to schools to serve as a guest instructor.

Our Volunteer Coordinator developed a program to support volunteers to care for public trees safely and on their own. These volunteers were able to register their activity and pick up mulch at local garden centers free of charge. Fifteen volunteers worked throughout the summer to care for 170 trees, and they sent us before and after photos to share their hard work.

Thanks to the Winter Pruning Crew, we pruned 1,504 City of Pittsburgh street trees. The crew also led five pruning workshops with volunteer Tree Tenders prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, adding an additional 180 trees to our statistics. This critical work was covered by generous public support. The approximate market value of pruning 1,684 trees is $202,080—a huge savings for the City of Pittsburgh who received this service in-kind.

**Tree Care Gone Virtual**

While we may not have been able to gather in-person, social media provided a great opportunity to reach the public with tree care tips each week. The popular weekly posts received nearly 15,000 views and were shared 65 times!

**Tree Care Tip Tuesday**

Be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly!

**Corporate Partner Spotlight**

REI was set to partner with Tree Pittsburgh in 2020 to plant trees across the City of Pittsburgh to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Once the reality of the pandemic set in, REI graciously offered their support as an unrestricted gift toward operations. Our team was still able to plant a commemorative tree in all nine City Council Districts plus a tree at the Forestry Division with Mayor Peduto, and we distributed 50 fruit trees to community gardens across the City of Pittsburgh. REI’s unrestricted support came at a critical moment, helping to alleviate the financial strain of the pandemic.

**One Tree Per Child Pittsburgh**

2020 marked the kick-off for Tree Pittsburgh’s management of the OTPC program. Thanks to support from the Heinz Family Foundation, we were able to bring on a OTPC Program Coordinator, and despite the many challenges facing schools in 2020, teachers and principals greeted the program with enthusiasm. Five hundred forty one trees were planted in partnership with seven Pittsburgh Public schools as well as with ongoing partnerships with Avonworth Elementary School. Thanks to the Allegheny County Health Department’s Clean Air Fund, the program will be expanded to five districts outside of the City of Pittsburgh in 2021.

**Tree Adoptions**

Thanks to generous support from the Colcom Foundation, trees were distributed to residents across Allegheny County with an emphasis on communities where tree canopy is lowest. In addition, UPMC signed on as a partner to distribute trees to employees at select City of Pittsburgh locations, including Shadyside Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital, and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. The team worked to develop a contact-free pick-up system that enabled the program to be delivered safely.

**Education**

- **Virtual Programs Reaching**
  - 19 Youth
  - 7 In-Person Classes Reaching 30,000 Views of Our Educational Videos

**Independent Tree Care**

Staff Tree Care: Nip it in the Bud!

Thanks to Joe Stavish teaching students enrolled in the Bidwell Training Center since the program started in 2007.

- **1,604 TREES PRUNED**
- **5 PRUNING WORKSHOPS PRIOR TO COVID-19**
- **1,000+ Youth**
- **560 Youth**

**Tree Tenders**

- **2,200**
- **$202,080 VALUE OF VOLUNTEER LABOR**

**Tree Tenders**

After two in-person Tree Tender courses were hosted prior to the pandemic, the program went virtual with four online classes offered throughout the year. One-hundred forty three volunteers graduated from the day-long training that teaches everything from tree biology and tree identification to proper tree care and planting practices. The program is promoted to the public and includes strong partnerships with Bidwell Training Center, Landforce, and municipalities across Allegheny County. 2,200 people have graduated from Tree Tenders since the program started in 2007.

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