Special Visitors and Special Deliveries

The Heritage Nursery welcomed Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding for a special stop on his Urban Agriculture Week tour across Pennsylvania. Secretary Russell, along with distinguished guests from the region, learned about the work and impact of the Heritage Nursery before getting a tour of the ever-growing facility. The Heritage Nursery has repeatedly received funds from the PA Department of Agriculture for infrastructure improvements including high tunnels and material bay construction.

Heritage Nursery & Community Forestry TREE PITTSBURGH

Year In Review 2022

12,401 Trees and Shrubs Sold
38% Increase Over 2021
105 Species of Trees & Shrubs
10,000 New Seedlings Grown
378 Volunteers
1,388 Volunteer Hours

New Tree Canopy Data

With the support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation and PA DCNR, Tree Pittsburgh analyzed newly available urban tree canopy data assessing canopy change from 2015-2020. This analysis showed 4 net acres of growth in the City of Pittsburgh, but a net loss of 4,116 acres in Allegheny County. The findings from this data will inform Tree Pittsburgh’s work with planting partners across the region.

Tree Adoptions Bigger Than Ever

Our Tree Adoption Program continued to grow in 2022. At 33 events, 6,095 trees were distributed to over 2,300 households across Allegheny County! Many of the Tree Adoption Events were held alongside existing community events, providing Tree Pittsburgh staff with the chance to connect with event attendees and share our work to protect and grow the urban forest. Some tree adoptions were held in communities with the lowest tree canopy in our area in an effort to create a more equitable distribution of trees and the benefits they provide.

We also held a tree adoption event in the South Side with partners WQED and Columbia Gas. A continued relationship with UPMC provided employees of three UPMC hospitals with trees for their backyards. Relationships like these allow us to reach more people and grow the urban forest.

Allegheny County Tree Adoptions 2022

6,095 Trees Distributed
2,323 Households
33 Events

Tree Pittsburgh is an environmental non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing community vitality by restoring and protecting the urban forest through tree planting and care, education, advocacy, and land conservation. Tree Pittsburgh is a registered 501(c)3.

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Maureen Matlock, Vice-Chair
Michael Zimmerman, Treasurer
Isabela Cajo-Angeletti, MD, Secretary
Justin Berk
Kris Cummings
Darla Cenciola
Anne Francis
Tony Igwe
Arielle Massillon
Matthew Pecito, AIA, ASLA
Mary Ellen Ramage
Executive Director
Danielle Crumrine

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One Tree Per Child

One of the most significant projects of 2022 was the restoration of a hillside on Negley Run Boulevard in Highland Park. This project was three-fold, beginning with volunteers working to clear invasive species and overgrowth at the planting site. Then in partnership with Allegheny GoatScape, goats spent weeks doing what they do best: eating remaining vegetation that can threaten young trees as they grow. Finally, students from nearby schools along with volunteers from Larimer and across the region planted 365 restoration trees on the hillside. This will restore natural beauty to the park and help prevent potential landslide damage as the young trees grow and stabilize the hillside with their strong roots.

Summer Tree Care and Reforestation Crew

Young trees across our region received care thanks to the Summer Tree Care and Reforestation Crew, sponsored by Peoples Gas. Two crew members joined Tree Pittsburgh staff to weed, water, and provide additional TLC to trees planted by Tree Pittsburgh and other partners throughout the region. One crew member has continued to work with Tree Pittsburgh, from tree plantings to adoption events, and now as a member of the Winter Pruning Crew.

Partner Spotlight: Peoples Gas

In addition to supporting our Summer Tree Care and Reforestation Crew, Peoples Gas spent volunteer hours helping to plant and care for young trees in the city and our Heritage Nursery. They also helped to remediate flooding damage in the nursery caused by a nearby water main break, providing materials and staff to shore up our material storage area.

In recognition of their continued support, Peoples Gas was named our 2022 Corporate Volunteer of the Year.

Adapted Education

We continued some of our most popular adult education opportunities, including Tree ID Walks. These walks take place once a season across the region and empower attendees with the knowledge to identify trees by their bark, leaf shape and spacing, and more.

Tree Pittsburgh staff led 10 Tree Tenders Courses in 2022 for homeowners, partners, and municipal employees.

Spotted Lanternfly Education

Spotted Lanternfly continues to be a threat to plants in our region, and Tree Pittsburgh rose to the occasion to educate residents on the importance of controlling this invasive pest. Through videos, social media, and in-person trainings, we shared vital information for the containment and prevention of the spotted lanternfly.

Sapling Saturdays

Tree Pittsburgh expanded its educational offerings to the youngest of urban foresters. A series of “Sapling Saturdays” provided children with hands-on activities, storytimes, and walks to explore nature around our campus. The edible ornaments, for feeding wildlife in the winter, was a popular activity for learners of all ages.