Program Overview

The Duwamish Tree Canopy Enhancement Program (DTCEP), supported by Seattle Parks Foundation donor funding, and previously by the Duwamish River Opportunity Fund, works to increase the tree canopy in neighborhoods surrounding the Duwamish River Valley through reducing barriers for residents to add trees to their yards. The DTCEP, managed by DIRT Corps with outreach and planting assistance from the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps (DVYC), is an integral part of the City of Seattle's larger plan to increase awareness about the importance of urban forestry, and increase healthy tree canopy coverage across Seattle.

Our trees are stored at our "Tree Depot," located at <u>CitySoil Farm</u>. which is a 1.5 acre demonstration farm within the King County Wastewater Treatment Plant site in Renton. DIRT Corps takes care of the trees year-round at the Depot, with as many as 500 trees and shrubs stored at the depot at a time. The trees are raised on recycled water and GroCo compost made from Loop, which boosts plant growth. Our use of this site is in partnership with King County Wastewater Treatment Division, King Conservation District, and Tilth Alliance.



Over the last three planting seasons, the DTCEP has given away a total of 985 free trees to 283 locations including private residences, local businesses, restoration sites, and community properties.

<u>Click here to see a zoomable map of where our trees have been</u> planted over the past three planting seasons.

In the winter and early spring, DTCEP buys bare root and small trees, pots them up, and stores and takes care of them at the Depot.

Each planting season (October - March) DTCEP hosts 10-12 "pop-up" tree giveaway events in locations around the Duwamish Valley to offer residents a chance to learn about and pick out their own trees. The events are held at community centers, food banks, parks, and libraries, and have staff on hand to assist residents with finding the right tree for the right place on their property. In addition to the events, DTCEP also plants trees at businesses and public spaces such as Hamm Creek, South Park Skate Park, Recology, Food Lifeline, and more.

DTCEP supports residents planting trees on their property through a number of avenues including: general tree canopy education, offering planting assistance, supplying a free watering bag with each tree, providing tree information for residents, and following up through our annual tree survivorship study.

DIRT Corps maintains an ID and tracking system for both the trees and the customers of the program. All trees are given a unique ID number and tree tag, which is used to track the trees from the Depot to the location where they are planted All customer information is recorded and entered into our database to track customer information and the locations of each tree, to facilitate tracking tree locations and survivorship data collection. Connect with us at our Facebook page, or contact Andrew Schiffer at 413-219-3013 or bricktree66(a) gmail.com.

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