

*Increasing canopy cover on private property by increasing residents' awareness of the urban forest and engaging residents in urban forest management.*

## BACKGROUND

Trees provide important benefits to Seattle, such as mitigating storm water runoff, reducing erosion, reducing air pollution, making our communities more walkable, increasing the health of Seattle's residents, and much more. Seattle currently has 23% canopy cover and a goal to reach 30% cover by 2037. Strategies to meet this goal are outlined in the City's Urban Forest Stewardship Plan.

reLeaf seeks to increase residents' engagement with our urban forest, and to increase public participation in planting and maintaining trees on private property.

## Interdepartmental Policy and Planning

Seattle reLeaf plays a major role in the City's urban forestry interdepartmental team. Current interdepartmental projects include:

- Implementation of the 2013 Urban Forest Stewardship Plan
- Cooperation with the public Urban Forest Commission
- Coordination of interdepartmental outreach efforts in Rainier Beach and the Greater Duwamish area
- Oversight of interdepartmental events including Park(ing) Day and Arbor Day

## Outreach

reLeaf website

- [www.Seattle.gov/trees](http://www.Seattle.gov/trees)
- Approximately 10,000 visitors per year
- Highlights recent tree issues affecting the public, including regulatory updates, storm response, volunteer opportunities, and City progress reports



- Provides information on tree benefits, selection, planting, and care
- Questions for the Expert portal for public questions to City arborists

#### Educational materials

- Brochures on conifers, ivy removal, City resources, and tree planting are available for outreach events

### TREE AMBASSADOR

The Tree Ambassador project empowers residents to become stewards of the urban forest and serve as resources for their local community. Tree Ambassadors are trained to take on one or more specific projects: Tree Walks, street tree stewardships, or landscape renewal.



Recent volunteer projects include:

- Developing self-guided Tree Walks throughout Seattle.
- Free public walks lead by volunteers occur once a month.
- Street tree mulching and care work parties in Rainier Valley
- Invasive species removal and landscape renewal work on SDOT rights of way, including projects in Beacon Hill, Wallingford, and West Seattle

Tree Ambassador is a collaborative project between Seattle reLeaf, Seattle Department of Transportation, and Forterra.

### TREES FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

The Trees for Neighborhoods project builds a healthier, greener Seattle by engaging residents in planting trees on private residential property. Participants receive free trees, watering bags, and support in tree selection and placement. All tree recipients go through a tree planting workshop prior to receiving their trees. Participants receive watering and care reminders for the first few years of their tree's life, and are offered a free pruning workshop.



Trees provided through the program include natives, evergreen trees, conifers, fruit trees, and species appropriate under power lines. Since 2009, Trees for Neighborhoods has planted 5,300 trees with over 2,100 households throughout Seattle.

