

Trees for Seattle Volunteer Program

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City of Seattle

Urban Forestry in Seattle

- Interdepartmental leadership: 9 departments
- Trees for Seattle supports all
- Protect and grow our vital urban canopy: stormwater, cooling, air quality and more



**Seattle
Public
Utilities**



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment



Seattle
Parks & Recreation
healthy people healthy environment strong communities



SDOT
Seattle Department of Transportation



**Seattle
City Light**



City of Seattle



Trees for Seattle's Top 5

1

Grow Seattle's canopy in residential areas to increase the many benefits trees provide.

2

We support residents in Tree Care skills; increasing the health of Seattle's forest.

3

We engage Seattleites in stewardship of Seattle's forest.

4

We communicate important Urban Forestry messages to residents.

5

We support Urban Forestry efforts across departments and with program partners.

Seattle's Forest in 2022



- 28.1% canopy cover in 2021
- About 70% located on residential land
- Canopy is not equitably distributed

Trees for Neighborhoods

- Plant 1000 free trees with residents
 - 250+ street trees
 - 300 power-line approved trees funded by Seattle City Light
- Provide tree and site selection assistance
- Street tree permit assistance
- Supply watering bags & mulch



Tree Care Education

- Right Tree, Right Place Training
- Planting Workshops
- Pruning Workshops
- Partner Organization Presentations
- Tree care skill building at all events
- Stewardship events*
- Ask an Expert*



Interdepartmental Messaging for Residents

- [Seattle.gov/trees](https://seattle.gov/trees)
- Trees for Seattle monthly newsletter
- @TreesforSeattle
- Tree Walk App
- Over 700 Public Inquiries*
- Media Requests
- External presentations
- Internal cross-departmental support

Hi trees for Seattle! I got a river birch through the trees for neighborhoods program, and I'm hoping someone can help me troubleshoot!

It looks like something has been eating it, any advice??



Volunteer Stewardship

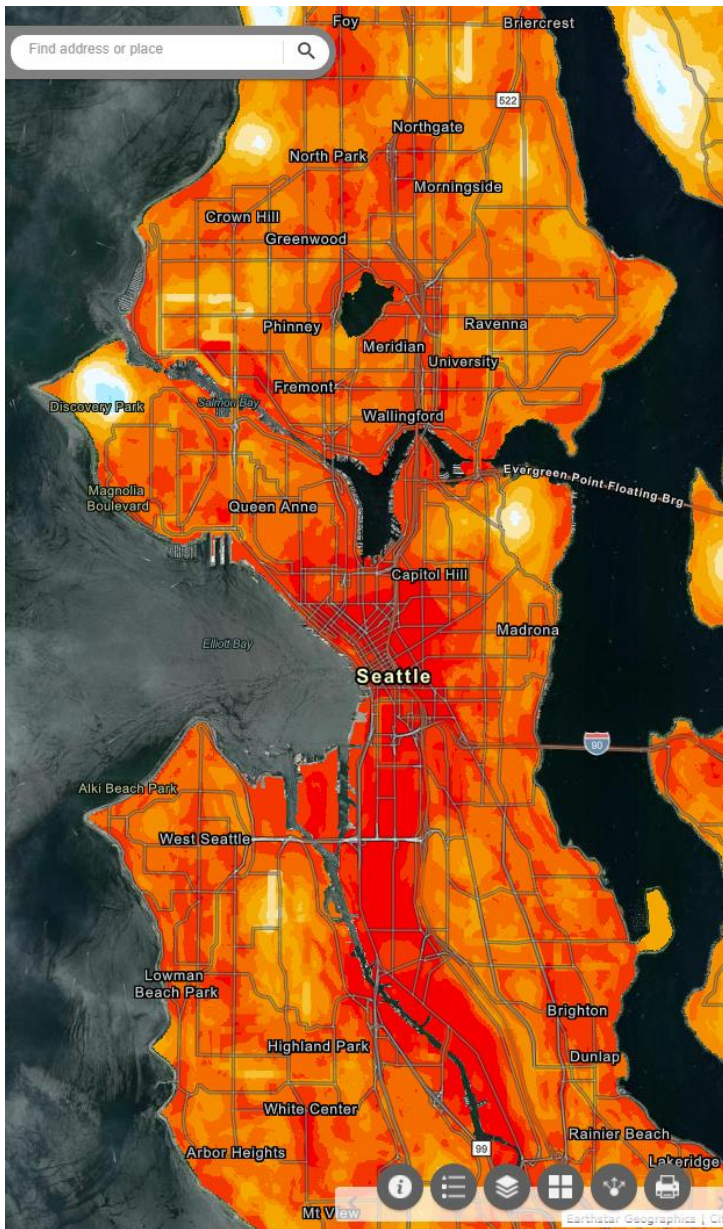
... improves the health of Seattle's forest by partnering with community-based organizations to care for trees while helping residents gain hands-on experience and centering equity.



Racial Equity Toolkit



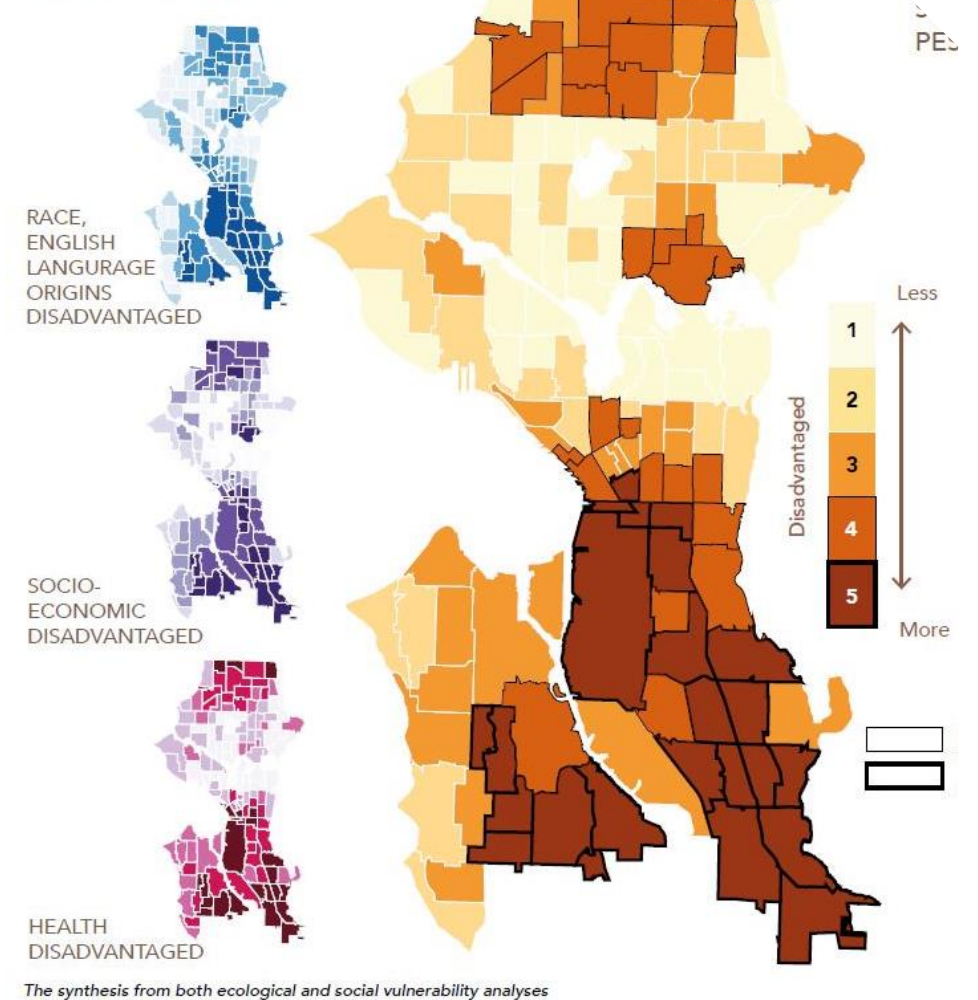
Heat Islands



Vulnerable Communities

GIS VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

RACIAL & SOCIAL EQUITY COMPOSITE INDEX



The synthesis from both ecological and social vulnerability analyses

Insights from the toolkit process:

- Trees require investment – this creates barriers.
- Prioritize school-based canopy – equity and cooling.
- Some residential right of way tree maintenance falls on residents and is a barrier to health of sites.



Insights from the toolkit process:



- There is a desire for job pathways and paid stewardship opportunities; this will reduce barriers.
- There is a desire for community participation in Trees for Seattle at all scales – not just volunteer stewardship

Agreed upon action items:

Support trees in
priority
neighborhoods

Support SPU asset
lands and SDOT
ROW in these
neighborhoods.

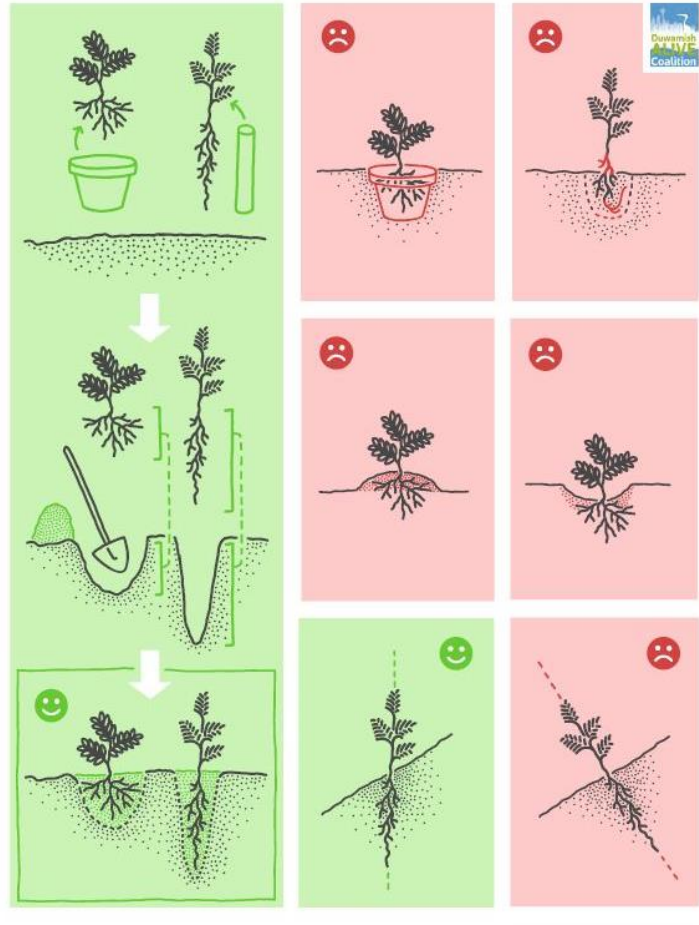
Support Seattle
Public Schools to
grow trees

Engage people in a
variety of ways

	AWARENESS/ EDUCATION <p><i>People need access to good information about how their behaviors impact service delivery, community health, and environmental health.</i></p>	OUTREACH <p><i>People's thoughts and behaviors should inform how they learn and develop effective stewardship behaviors.</i></p>	ENGAGEMENT <p><i>People should be engaged in program design and delivery to ensure the largest, best, and most equitable benefits to service delivery and community and environment health.</i></p>	COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP <p><i>Communities best understand their community and should be able to lead.</i></p>
GOAL	Provide accessible, equitable, and strategic public information on priority stewardship behaviors.	Provide forums for interactive conversation with public that use data and community input to encourage people to adopt priority stewardship behaviors.	Design and deliver community-centered programs that are centered around partnerships and empower people to adopt priority stewardship behaviors.	Empower community-based organizations to lead behavior change work, providing support as requested.

External Communication Actions:

- Create new materials for participants with take home messages
- Create new graphic-based messages including videos for website
- Trees for Seattle Communication Plan



Tree Care Actions:

- Focus on tree appreciation as a “way-in” to care and stewardship
- Host events in priority neighborhoods – connect appreciation to volunteer stewardship
- Co-develop tree appreciation events with priority communities
- Add mulch giveaways in priority neighborhoods



Volunteer Stewardship Actions:

- Support SPU asset lands in priority neighborhoods
- Support new SDOT sites in priority neighborhoods
- Community-requested events



Support Seattle Public Schools to Grow Trees

Volunteer support to:

- Plant new trees support
- Mulch, water, and care for trees
- Protect and prune as needed



Current Trees for Neighborhoods Actions

- Created a model for full-delivery of all trees for all residents
- Offered more planting assistance
- Provided additional support in high-heat neighborhoods
 - Guidance and site visit support piloted in 2022



Future Trees for Seattle ideas

- Guarantee trees for High Heat/Low Canopy Neighborhoods
- Provide additional support in high-heat neighborhoods to all participants
 - Site visits, planting demonstrations
 - Watering support and maintenance
- Neighborhood Steward Program





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