



TREES

louisville

ANNUAL REPORT
2024/2025

LETTER FROM CINDI

This is the Executive Director's letter I wrote for an impact report after our first year of operation:

"I had the fortune of growing up in an environment rich in greenness. I am sure that is part of the reason that my career path has followed its course of community development through gardening and greening. I have said a number of times that I have spent my entire career preparing for this position as Executive Director of TreesLouisville.

I have studied the science of horticulture for decades. I have experienced the art that this same field inspires. I have spent the majority of my working life communicating to a broad audience about the value of green infrastructure.

A healthy community forest is not an amenity; it is not a part of a plan that comes at the end of a project. It is a living utility. It is as valuable a part of our built environment as storm drains and roads. It is where the elements of a sustainable community intersect. It is not possible to have a healthy and sustainable community without the environmental, economic, health, and social benefits that trees provide."

Today, ten years in, I am still saying the same things! Yes, and (as an improv performer would say) we now have an Urban Forest Master Plan to guide our work, Louisville Metro Urban Forestry is conducting a Tree Inventory, and will have an Urban Forest Management Plan soon to steer their work.

We are doing what we set out to do when we were organized by our civic leaders: we are institutionalizing effective urban and community forestry in Louisville. And that is thanks to all of you that have believed in our mission and supported us. For now, and for decades more to come.



Cindi Sullivan
Executive Director

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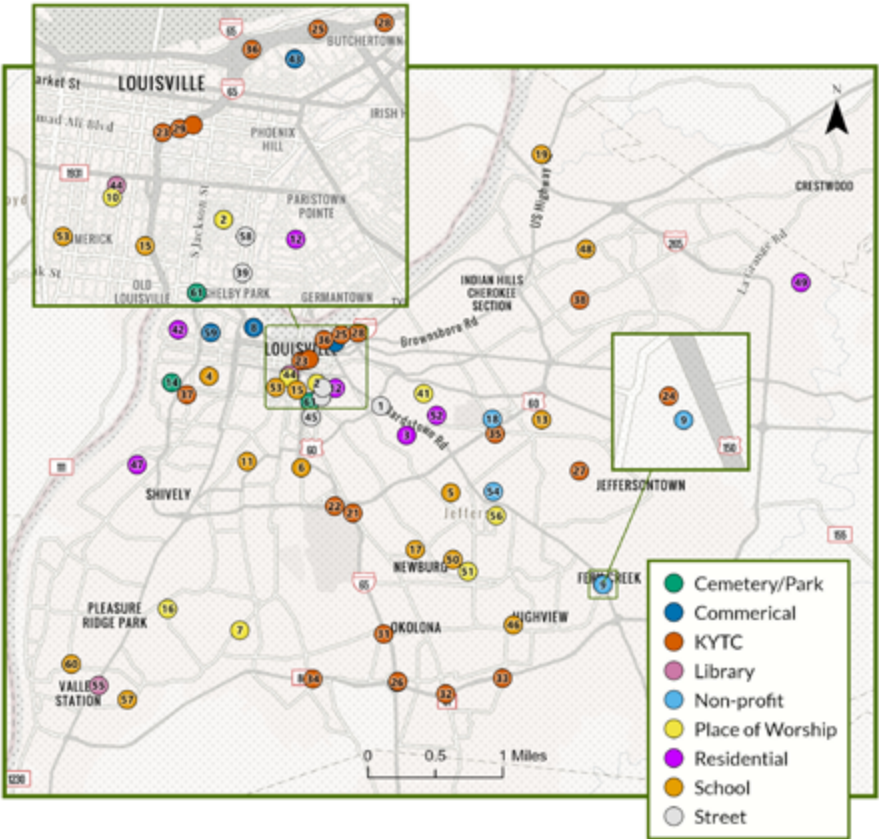
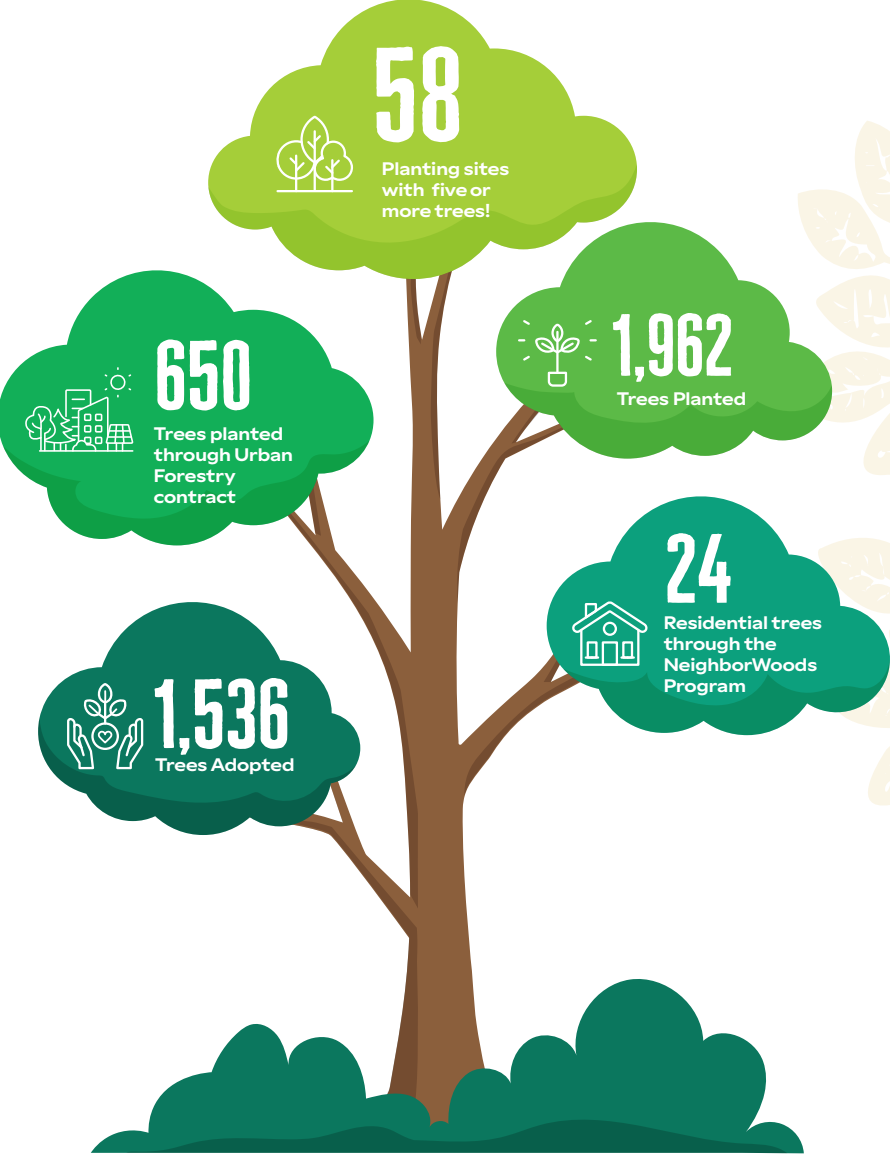
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Project photo credits to Mike Hayman and Morgan Grubbs

PROJECTS

In 2024–2025, TreesLouisville advanced its mission across Louisville, planting, educating, and partnering to create healthier, greener neighborhoods. At nearly 2,000 trees planted by volunteers, staff, and contractors this was our largest season yet!



1	Bardstown Rd	1	20	265/65'	20	41	Louisville Presbyterian Seminary	34
2	Bates Memorial Church	21	21	Airport/65'	25	42	Love Our Block-Shawnee	7
3	Belknap Neighborhood	9	22	Airport/264'	17	43	Lynn Family Stadium	31
4	Brandeis Elementary	11	23	Ali & Brook'	42	44	Main Library	3
5	Champions Trace Ln	126	24	Beulah Church'	5	45	Meriwether Ave	75
6	Churchill Park School	4	25	Bridges'	23	46	Moore High School	8
7	Faith Lutheran Church	21	26	Dixie'	3	47	NeighborWoods	20
8	Falls Art Foundary	3	27	Hurstbourne Ln'	3	48	Norton Elementary	40
9	Fern Creek Community Center	5	28	Impound Lot'	9	49	Old Henry Rd	12
10	First Unitarian Church	2	29	Jewish Hospital Parking'	17	50	Rangeland Elementary	51
11	Fraser Elementary	43	30	KY Lions Eye Center'	4	51	Rangeland Orchard	12
12	German/Paristown Neighborhood	25	31	Outerloop'	6	52	Seneca Gardens	6
13	Greathouse/Shryock Elementary	35	32	Preston/Snyder'	10	53	Simmons College	18
14	Greenwood Cemetery	14	33	Smyrna'	13	54	Southeast YMCA	18
15	Heuser Hearing Institute	5	34	Synder/National Turnpike'	12	55	Southwest Regional Library	8
16	Hope City Church	51	35	Taylorsville Rd'	4	56	St. Bartholomew Church	44
17	Indian Trail Elementary	43	36	Spaghetti Junction'	18	57	Stuart Academy	48
18	Jewish Community Center	18	37	West End School'	5	58	TreesLouisville Office	4
19	KLA School	13	38	Westport Rd'	37	59	Westonia Park/Playground	49
			39	Logan/Shelby Sidewalk Cuts'	98	60	Wilkinson Elementary	75
			40	Logan/Shelby Verges'	155	61	Olmsted	15

*Indicates a KYTC Project

ROOTED IN PARTNERSHIP. GROWING FOR THE FUTURE.

This year, TreesLouisville celebrated major milestones and laid the groundwork for a greener future. From transforming city streets and school campuses to expanding community partnerships, our efforts advanced both immediate impact and long-term vision. Crowning these achievements, we launched the Urban Forest Master Plan, a 20-year roadmap to grow an equitable, resilient, and thriving canopy for all of Louisville.



SHELBY & LOGAN ST. GREEN CORRIDOR

Our partnership with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet grew this season with 100 new sidewalk cuts along Shelby and Logan Streets in Smoketown and Shelby Park. As KYTC works to convert these high-traffic one-way roads into safer two-way streets, we collaborated to create Louisville's third walking arboretum. Together, we planted 240 trees, making the corridor cooler, safer, and more enjoyable for the community.



RACING LOUISVILLE'S TREE INITIATIVES

This past season marked our second season partnering with Racing Louisville! Together we have planted at 4 different locations, totaling 130 trees. We had the exciting opportunity in April to plant with players and staff at Lynn Family Stadium! In total we installed 30 new trees on the west side of their facility with the hopes of continuing to plant on the eastern side and their training facility in the future.



CLIMATE CHANGE TRIALS: ASSISTED TREE MIGRATION

TreesLouisville's mission includes planting trees that will thrive for 50–100 years, ensuring future generations benefit from them. With a changing climate, we know Louisville in 2125 may look very different. To prepare, our team has launched Southern and Western Tree Trials, studying species that can withstand future conditions. In summer 2024, we visited nurseries in Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Georgia to learn which trees thrive in warmer climates yet tolerate cold winters. Nearly 50 species and cultivated varieties were collected and planted, including both Kentucky natives and warm-climate varieties that may prove more resilient in the years ahead.



URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN

After a year of collaborating, strategizing and community outreach, TreesLouisville is proud to announce the finalized Urban Forest Master Plan. Through this plan the Louisville community has outlined what we want our urban forest to look like over the next 20 years and beyond. The goals of the Master Plan were set by our Equity Council, and they include access to tree canopy for all residents, aiming for a minimum of 30% canopy in every neighborhood; ensuring that people can walk, bike and take transit without heat stress; creating a mentality that recognizes trees as vital city infrastructure; and ensuring quality and longevity for our urban forest.



100 JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

It only took 10 years, but TreesLouisville officially planted at 100 JCPS campuses! Through the dedication of caring principals, eager teachers, and curious students we have been able to transform nearly tree-bereft campuses into greener and healthier learning environments. As these trees continue to grow they will provide cooler places to play, learning opportunities, and improve students' ability to concentrate and relax.



DID YOU KNOW?!

Many JCPS campuses were built on top of swamp-like landscapes. By selecting tree species that are wet tolerant and able to absorb excess water we are helping to create more outdoor spaces for students and teachers to utilize.



HIGHLIGHTS

First Year with the Dingo!

Thanks to funding from Ford Motor Company, we purchased a Toro Dingo TX1000 Turbo which has made digging, mulching and moving trees a much easier experience.



Gearing Up in Our New Garage

One year after we moved into our new office, our three (Ford) truck garage was officially built and ready for usage. Special thanks to our Board member, Allen Steinbock for outfitting our tool storage and works areas.



Upgraded Donor and Volunteer Tracking Systems

Our upgraded systems allow us to engage more meaningfully, operate more efficiently, and better recognize the people who make our work possible.

TREEFEST



Photo Credits: Jess Amburgey

TREEFEST SPONSORS

Schneider Electric, Michter's Distillery, Parks Alliance of Louisville, Louisville Tree Service, Republic Bank

BRANCHING OUT FOR OVER A DECADE

TreesLouisville celebrated 10 years of planting and caring for trees this past season.



TreesLouisville
Founded
2015

JCPS Partnership
Established
2016



2017
Street Tree
Protection
Ordinance
Passed



2019
Canopy Corps
Program
Founded



Parkland Plaza
Project
2021



2022 Hired
GreenTeam



2020
10k Trees for
Rubbertown
Announcement



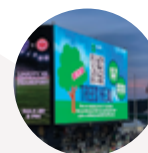
2023
Updated Urban
Tree Canopy
Assessment
Released



2024 Moved into
Smoketown
Office



Urban Forest
Master Plan
Finalized
2025



MORE THAN
25,000
TREES PLANTED
& GIVEN AWAY
SINCE 2015!



VOLUNTEERING



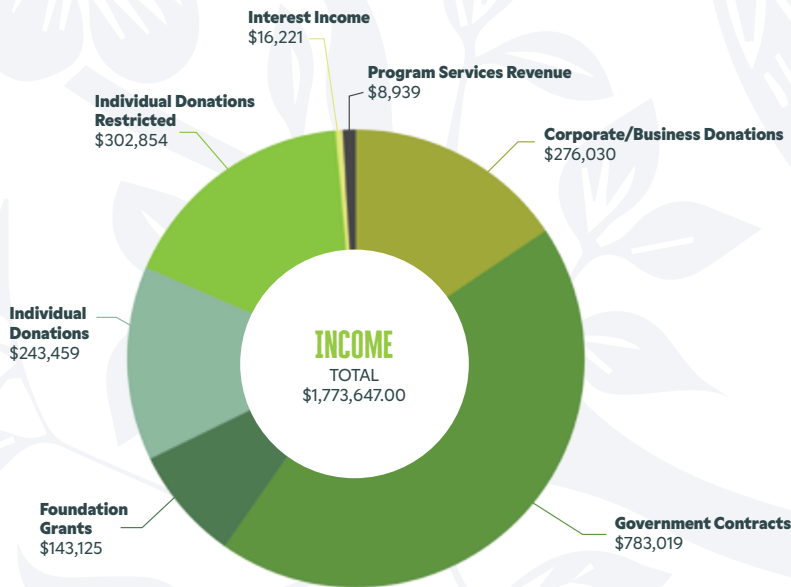
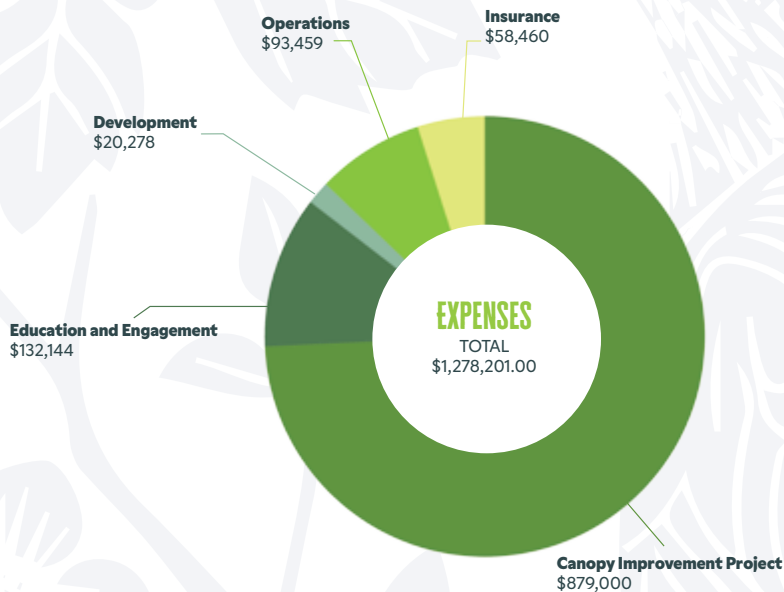
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