



## 2016 Annual Report

Trees Knoxville reaches for a vibrant urban forest within Knoxville and throughout Knox County. We are a team of advocates and tree professionals, brought together by our deep respect for the beauty and value of trees and the importance of a healthy tree canopy for the well-being of our community.

Our mission is to preserve and increase the urban tree canopy on the private and public land of Knoxville and Knox County. We share the goal of many great cities across the country to grow a vital and healthy urban forest. Trees Knoxville supports the efforts of our partner organizations, teams with city and county governments, and engages citizens, civic groups, and businesses to succeed in maintaining and expanding our community's tree canopy.

Trees Knoxville established itself in 2016. Our newly minted board of tree advocates and professionals developed and adopted its bylaws and then filed its charter with the State of Tennessee. Legacy Parks Foundation agreed to act as our fiscal sponsor until Trees Knoxville became its own independent nonprofit organization.

By July we started making Trees Knoxville known in Knoxville and Knox County by introducing Trees Knoxville to different groups associated with our board members and to government agencies. We also reached out to tree organizations in other cities to learn more about how best to fulfill our similar missions.



In December, Trees Knoxville had its first tree planting event. Sixty-five volunteers planted 54 street trees throughout the Habitat for Humanity Silver

Leaf subdivision in East Knoxville, a development that was largely bare of trees. Partners in the Silver Leaf tree planting event included Knoxville Habitat for Humanity, the City of Knoxville urban forestry program, Keep Knoxville Beautiful, and Earthadelic, a landscaping construction firm based in Knoxville.



More than 150 Knoxville and Knox County residents took home more than 300 trees to plant in their yards. As folks lined up to receive their trees, they received instructions how to plant a tree. Residents could pick two from the offered selection: Shumard oak, sugar maple, yellow poplar, and redbud. The remaining 200 trees were given to county schools and other tree planting events. Many thanks to the Knoxville Botanical Garden, Alliance for Community Trees and CSX Foundation for giving us the opportunity to grow our community's tree canopy.

Trees Knoxville also got its advocacy feet wet as well. We submitted comments to the MPC and City Council on its proposed parking lot landscaping ordinance. Trees Knoxville also joined an amicus brief to prevent billboards along interstates.

Trees Knoxville ended its first year with a great board of directors and a well-organized organization. And it got experience in truly fulfilling its purpose: engaging the community in planting trees, putting trees into the hands of people and businesses wanting to grow trees on their land, and educating people how to plant and care for trees.

## Trees Knoxville Board of Directors



*From left to right:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Tom Welborn</b> , Chair (Knoxville Tree Board) | <b>Patience Melnik</b> (Keep Knoxville Beautiful)                       |
| <b>Joyce Feld</b> (Scenic Knoxville)              | <b>Gordon Coker</b> (U.S. Green Building Council and Benefield Richter) |
| <b>Rachel Beasley</b> (Hedstrom Design)           | <b>Jim Cortese</b> (Consulting Arborist, and President of TIPCO)        |
| <b>Joe Castleman</b> (KUB)                        | <b>Louise Gorenflo</b> (Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light)             |
| <b>Axel Ringe</b> (Sierra Club)                   | <b>Kasey Krouse</b> , ex-officio (City of Knoxville Urban Forester)     |
| <b>Ben Nanny</b> (Ijams Nature Center)            | Not pictured: <b>Jim Richards</b> (Knoxville Botanical Garden)          |

## 2016 Donors

Joyce Feld    Louise Gorenflo  
 Patience Melnick    Tom Welborn  
 Alliance for Community Trees    CSX Foundation

## Trees Knoxville

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