

Trees Knoxville 2021 Annual Report



2021 Board of Directors

The Trees Knoxville board completed more than 400 volunteer hours this year, working to plan and expand programs and maintain projects with an estimated value of \$11,492. Trees Knoxville has become more experienced in truly fulfilling its mission: 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 on how to plant and care for trees.

2021 Board members included: Karin Beuerlein, Joyce Feld, Michael Fowler, Kasey Krouse, David Lee, Michael Pauley, Bradley Pruitt, Paul Ries, Axel Ringe, Kerstin Sisco, Caesar Stair, Mark Stanfill, and Tom Welborn.

2021 Partners and Collaborations

Native Plant Rescue Squad
Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum
Keep Knoxville Beautiful
Dogwood Outdoor Coalition
Elmington Capital Group
Ijams
Legacy Parks
Knoxville Re-animation Coalition, Inc
City of Knoxville Urban Forestry
UT/TSU Knox County Extension

From the Board Chair....

With the completion of the Urban Trees Assessment for Knox County and Knoxville, Trees Knoxville has accomplished a major milestone in its sixth year. We partnered with the Tennessee Division of Forestry, the City of Knoxville, Knox County, TVA, KUB, and the Knoxville Garden Club. We sincerely thank them for their support and would not have been able to complete the project without their help and support. As we move into the new year, I can report that Trees Knoxville continues to support the benefits and value of our tree canopy and as the assessment has shown our community has been fortunate in maintaining our forest cover. Although changes have occurred with some areas gaining trees and other losing trees, no major change was noted during the assessed years with around 40% or more of the land use remaining in trees. A significant amount of data was developed in the review and more information can be found on the websites of Trees Knoxville and the City of Knoxville Urban Forestry Program.

Covid continued to limit our ability to accomplish some of the projects that we hoped to conduct this past year but we were able to meet most of the goals that had been set for 2021. As you read the results in our annual report, we think you will agree that we had a successful year. Trees Knoxville was able to hold tree plantings, tree giveaways, tree walks, and internet outreach education programs. We were also able to again hold our volunteer forester training programs with the successful graduation of more trained volunteers. As we start 2022, Trees Knoxville will continue to follow the recommendation of health professionals and looks forward to resuming our volunteer and public events on a more normal schedule in 2022.

In 2022 with the leadership of a dedicated board, Trees Knoxville will start the process to create a master plan. Trees Knoxville has initiated discussions with the City of Knoxville and Knox County and other partners to develop a master plan to set goals and objectives for the future of our urban forest canopy. Although our board membership has seen many changes this past year and will be under new leadership this coming year, I feel that Trees Knoxville will make great strides in improving our natural resources and expanding our urban canopy. I hope that all of you will work with us to make this come true and make trees a major part of our future. Thank you for your continued support.

Tom Welborn, 2021 Trees Knoxville Board Chair

2021 Accomplishments



Tree Plantings: 98 trees were planted with 114 volunteers:

- Planted 5 replacement trees at Sequoyah Elementary School and the Knoxville Botanical Garden, supported by KUB and private donations.
- In partnership with the Legacy Parks, 42 native trees were planted at Collier Preserve by 48 volunteers
- In cooperation with the City of Knoxville and Elmington Development Corporation, 14 volunteers planted 10 trees in the Sam Duff Memorial Park

Tree Giveaways: Trees Knoxville gave away 1000 seedlings in 2021, 500 red mulberry, and 500 wild plums were given to Knox County citizens. Thousands of seedlings were handed out by Trees Knoxville and Knoxville Botanical Garden's volunteers during the regional distribution for the Tennessee Tree Day sponsored by TN Environmental Council.



Tree Talks: After Covid-19 imposed social distancing, Trees Knoxville offered virtual Tree Talks again in 2021, and Trees Knoxville partnered with the City of Knoxville's Tree Board to promote their monthly virtual educational series. A total of 101 participants joined these online educational presentations in 2021. Information is available on the Trees Knoxville website on how to view these archived presentations. Trees Knoxville presented information on our canopy assessment report at the virtual conference of the TN Urban Forestry Council to 44 participants across the state. Trees Knoxville held a virtual meeting with interested groups from Chattanooga and Soddy Daisy to provide information on the formation of a tree board and a nonprofit to support urban forestry.

Tree Walks: These walks educate the general public about a wide variety of tree topics like identification, tree management, and tree history. Walks are followed by a social time making it a fun way of promoting Trees Knoxville and getting to know our supporters. In 2021, Trees Knoxville had three community Tree Walks: 4th and Gill Neighborhood with 19 participants, Holston River Park with 12 participants, and Downtown Knoxville with 26 participants.





Volunteer Foresters: Trained Trees Knoxville Volunteer Foresters work with other Trees Knoxville volunteers during planting events and also help manage trees already planted. Trees Knoxville trained 47 Level I Volunteer Foresters during 2021.



Advocacy: Trees Knoxville advocacy effort included working with the city to maintain and increase trees during proposed work at the Cradle of Country Music Park. Working with the Lakeshore Park Tree Commission to implement its master plan while maintaining and expanding the forest cover in the park. Provided comments to the Knox County Commission concerning tree protection and the removal of a billboard at the county park on Magnolia Avenue. Trees Knoxville supported the addition of the tree mitigation bank and other changes to the tree protection ordinance.

Arboretum: Trees Knoxville provided technical support to the 4th and Gill Neighborhood in the development of a neighborhood arboretum. Trees Knoxville helped the North Hills Arboretum with its certification through ArbNet which is associated with the Morton Arboretum.



Volunteers: Trees Knoxville depends upon its volunteers. In 2021, 180 individuals volunteered for a total of 407 hours, which has a national value of over \$11,000. Trees Knoxville could not have done what it accomplished without the support of its volunteers. Trees Knoxville partnered with several organizations to assist with invasives removal at historic Eastport Cemetery led by the Knoxville Re-animation Coalition. Trees Knoxville volunteers provided maintenance including watering at many of its past planting sites over the summer.



2021 Individual Donors

Ambassador & Mrs. Victor Ashe
Karen Beuerlein
William & Heather Fulghum
Louise Gorenflo & Dennis Gregg
Nancy Howell
David & Judy Lee
Kasey Krouse
Maureen & Neil McBride
Bradley McIlwain
Vincent Neary
Michael Pauley
Bob Richards
Axel Ringe
Paul Ries
Caesar & Dorothy Stair
Kerstin Sisco
Mark Stanfill
Pierce Story
Barbara Weinstein
Paula & Tom Welborn

2021 Public, Corporate, and Foundation Support

Amazon Smile
CEMEX Foundation
City of Knoxville
Clayton Homes, Appalachia
Davey Trees/Cortese Tree Specialist
Dixie Highway Garden Club
Earthadelic
Elmington Development Corporation/
Jim Shepard
Knoxville Utility Board
Knox County
Kroger Community Rewards
Imaging Technology Consulting, Inc./
Michael Shaw & Lynne Mills
Mainstream Conservation Trust, Inc.
Tennessee Division of Forestry

Partner with Trees Knoxville in 2022!

Your involvement and support of Trees Knoxville is critical to our success. Please take the time to consider how you might be able to financially support Trees Knoxville at this time. Your individual donation of \$50, \$100, \$500, or \$1000 will go a long way towards helping us build stability in the face of these challenging times and move forward with our mission of promoting the urban forest health of Knoxville and Knox County while building community and planting trees.

Business Sponsorship Opportunities

Oak Level - \$10,000

- Sponsorship of our tree planting season
- Social media recognition
- Business link and logo recognition on our website
- Event signage recognition

Tulip Poplar Level - \$5,000

- Sponsorship of multiple tree planting or tree give-away events
- Social media recognition
- Logo recognition on our website

Dogwood Level - \$1,000

- Sponsorship of a single tree planting event or elementary school planting
- Social media recognition