

# Tree Equity Working Group Year-End Report

December 13, 2022





# Report Agenda

## 2022 Year in Review

- Tree Equity & the Tree Equity Tool
- Community Partners
- Tree Planting Operations
  - 3 New City Foresters & Expanded Tree Trimming Operations
  - 2022 Tree Planting
- Tree Ambassador Program
- Tree Trimming
- Ash Tree Update

## 2023 Look Ahead





# Tree Equity

- Equitably increase the City's public urban tree canopy
- Deliver the public health, environmental, economic, societal and climate co-benefits
- Prioritize historically marginalized, disinvested, and under-canopied communities on the South and West sides.





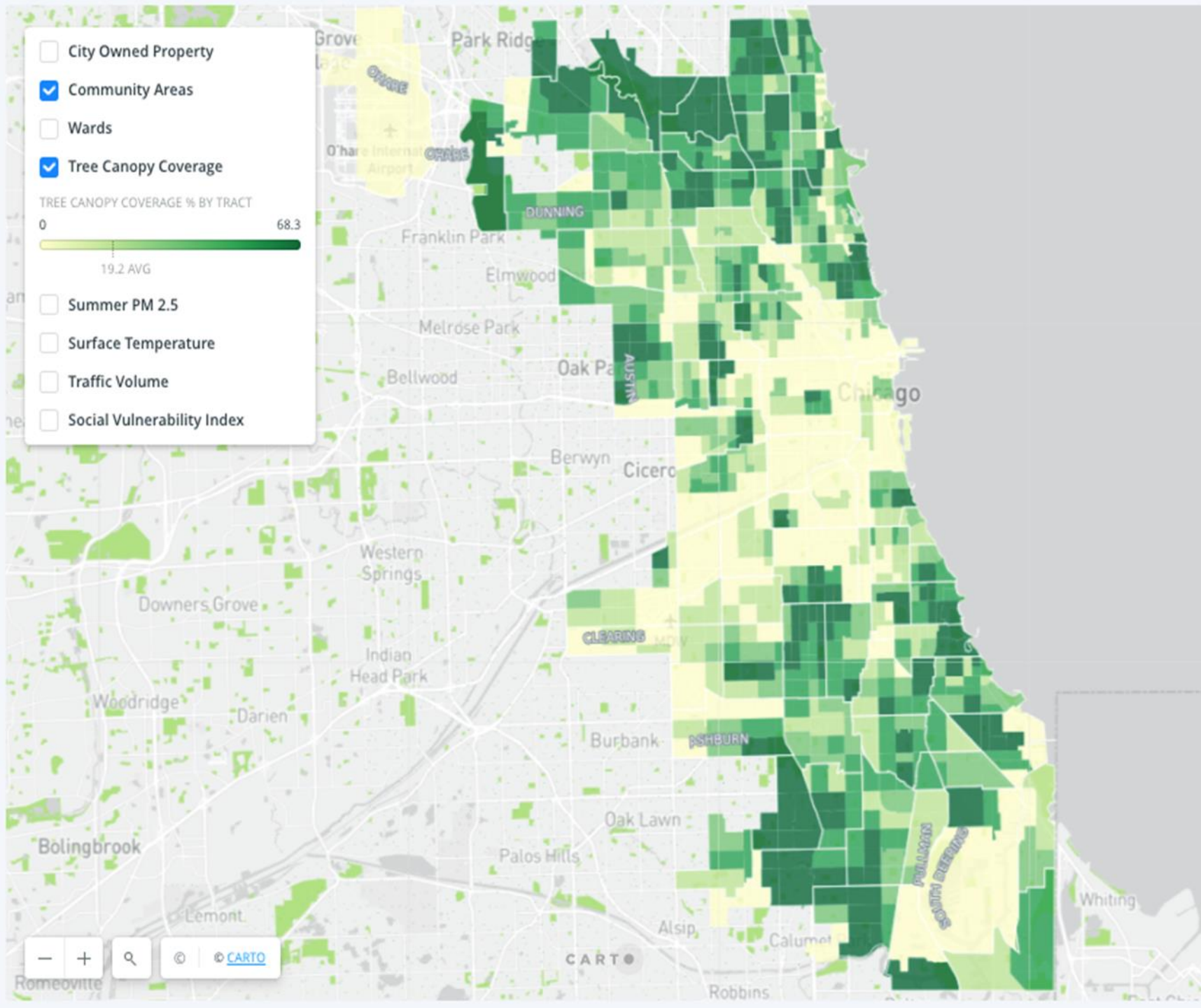
# ★ Tree Equity Tool

Tree data visualization tool **complements on the ground community experience** to prioritize the planting of trees in areas of Chicago where the benefits of trees are most needed.

By looking at tree canopy coverage and overlaying public health indicators with surface temperature, and air quality data, the City is further able to analyze and prioritize tree planting at the census tract level.

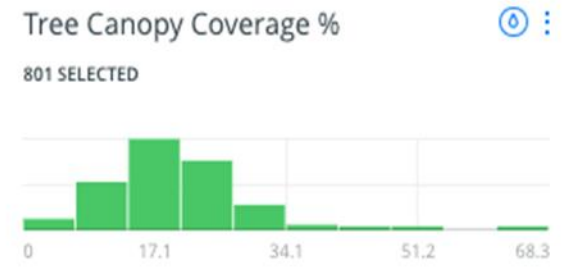


- City Owned Property
  - Community Areas
  - Wards
  - Tree Canopy Coverage
- TREE CANOPY COVERAGE % BY TRACT
- 0 68.3
- 
- 19.2 AVG
- Summer PM 2.5
  - Surface Temperature
  - Traffic Volume
  - Social Vulnerability Index



Population  
2,741,193

Trees  
1,710,860



Community

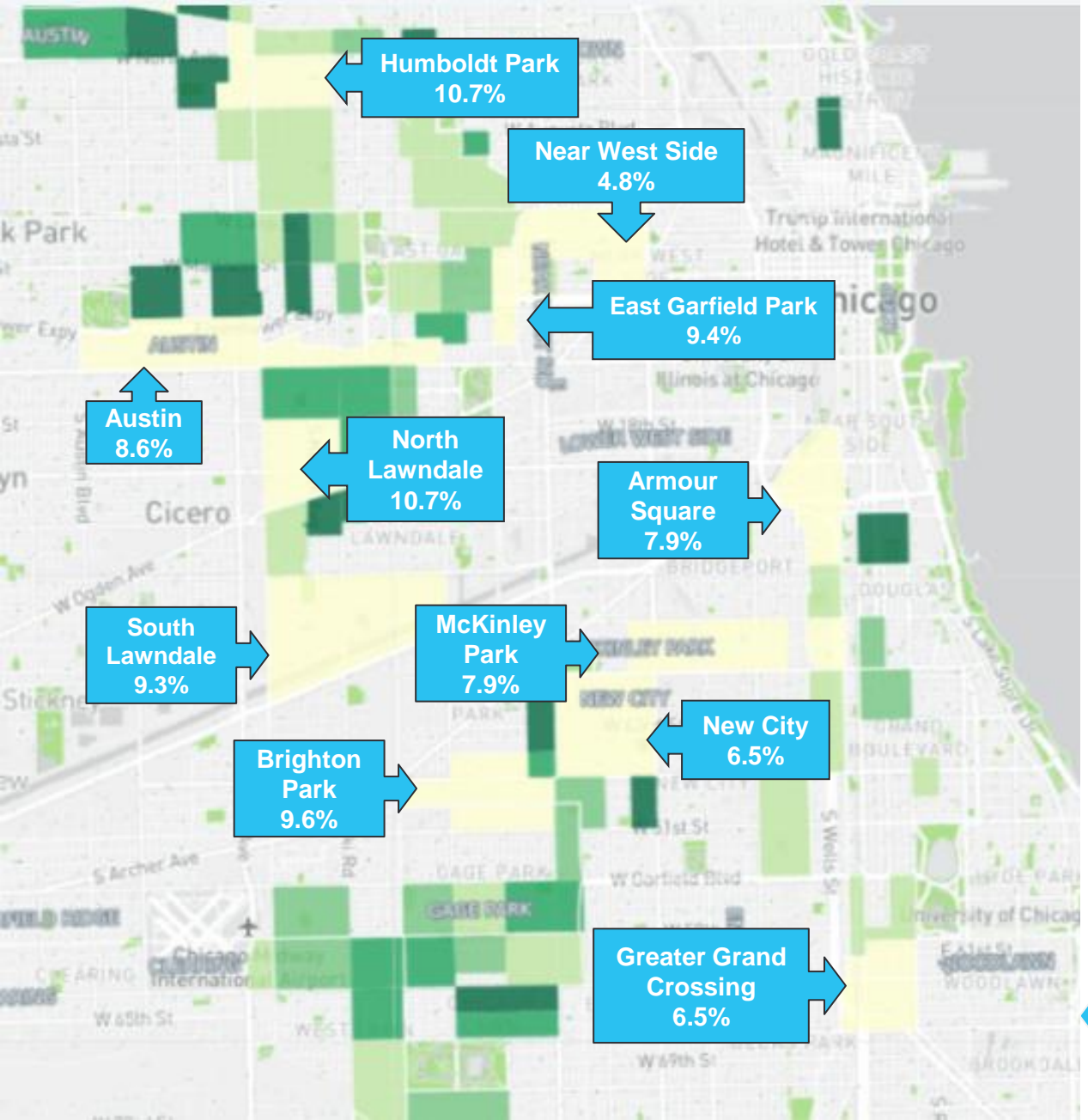
ALL SELECTED

LAKE VIEW	34
WEST TOWN	31
LOGAN SQUARE	27
AUSTIN	24
LINCOLN PARK	20
OTHER	665

SEARCH IN 77 CATEGORIES

# Tree Canopy Coverage by Neighborhood

(citywide average is 16%)



# Community Tree Equity

Highest social vulnerability

+

Worst flooding susceptibility

+

Most severe economic hardship

+

Highest traffic volumes

+

Most age-adjusted asthma cases

+

Highest surface temperatures

+

Lowest tree canopy coverage

=

**Priority communities for equity tree planting, maintenance & community engagement**



# Community Partners





# **Community Tree Equity Working Group**

**American Forests**

**Blacks in Green**

**Bloomberg Associates**

**Chicago Department of  
Public Health**

**Chicago Department of Streets and  
Sanitation Bureau of Forestry**

**Chicago Department of  
Transportation**

**City of Chicago Mayor's Office**

**Chicago Park District**

**Chicago Sustainability Office**

**Chicago Muslims Green Team**

**Chicago Region Trees Initiative**

**Chicago Wilderness**

**Coalition for a Better Chinese  
American Community**

**Equitable Resilience &  
Sustainability, LLC**

**Galewood Neighbors, Inc.**

**I Am Able Center**

**Illinois Environmental Council**

**Imani Village**

**Latinos Progresando**

**Lincoln Park Zoo**

**LUCHA**

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation  
District of Greater Chicago**

**Mi Villita Neighbors**

**Nordson Green Earth Foundation**

**North Lawndale Greening**

**Committee**

**North Lawndale Community**

**Coordinating Council's Greening**

**Open Space Water Soil and**

**Sustainability (NLCCC/GROWSS)**

**Openlands**

**Rush University Medical Center**

**Sacred Roots**

**Save Your Ash**

**St. Agatha's Church**

**Stone Temple Missionary Baptist  
Church**

**The Climate Reality Project Chicago  
Metro Chapter**

**The Nature Conservancy**

**The Nature, Culture, and Human  
Health**

**The Partnership for Healthy Cities**

**The Southwest Collective**

**The Student Conservation  
Association**

**The Trust for Public Land**

**University of Illinois Chicago**

**US Forest Service**

**Walder Foundation**

**West Chesterfield Community  
Association**

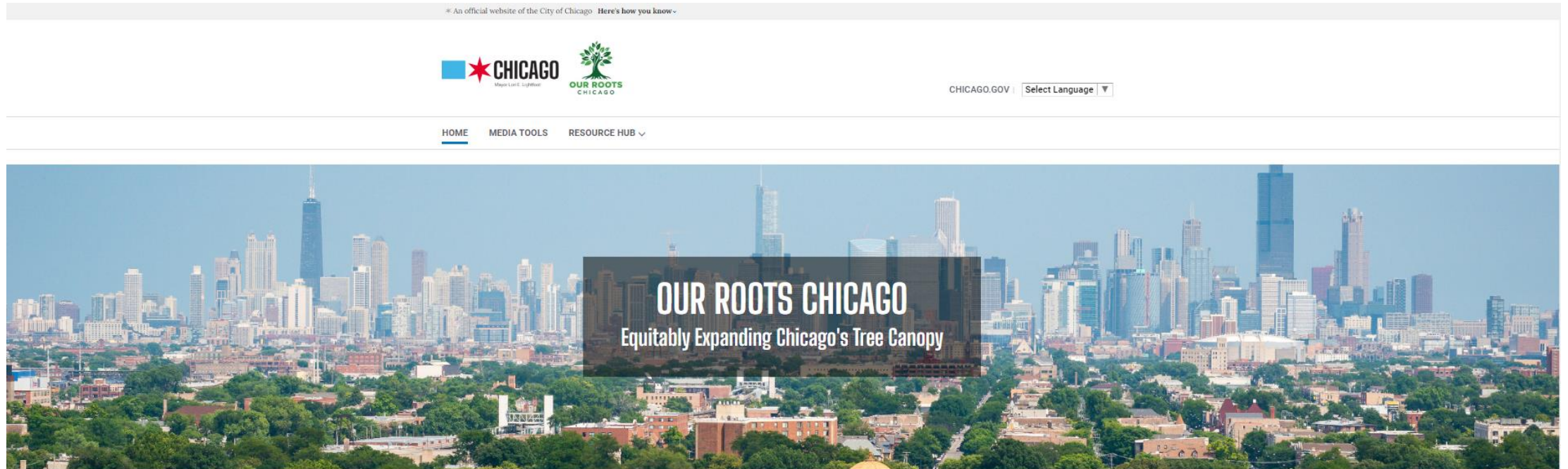
**Young Men's Network Association**



■ ★ **Community Led Logo Design**



# ★ Community-Driven Content: Website



## PURPOSE



Chicago continues to work toward creating resilient and sustainable communities across the city. Joining 96 cities around the world, the City of Chicago has updated its Climate Action Plan to reflect the bold action needed to protect and strengthen communities-locally and globally.

With historic investments coming in 2022, Chicago is ready to strengthen partnerships and programs across the city to expand access to green space, reduce carbon emissions, and connect residents to meaningful resources and services.

One of the ways we are carrying out our Climate Action Plan here in Chicago is through Our Roots Chicago project. Our goal is to expand the tree canopy in Chicago through an equitable approach to every neighborhood in Chicago leaving no neighborhood behind.

# Community-Driven Content: Tools & Door Hangers

## MEDIA TOOLS

**LET'S TALK ABOUT TREES!**

Let's get the record straight on the common thinking about trees and talk about the facts!

**I've heard...**

- Trees break and crack sidewalks and curbs along streets.
- Trees are high and costly to maintain.
- Planting more trees will change our environment.
- Trees are dangerous for homes. They can damage property.

**Let's Talk About It!**

- Tree roots do not break pipes, but rather, broken pipes attract tree roots due to moisture in the pipes.
- It is the location that tree roots seek out, not the pipe.
- There are no scientific studies that prove that trees increase crime. Studies actually show that tree lined streets have lower crime rates.
- Taking care of trees takes time and money. The best way to get your business and home a landscape that requires maintenance, care, etc. is not necessarily.
- The City will cut your parking tree at no cost to you. You can request a tree to be cut by the City. You can also request a tree to be cut by the City. You can also request a tree to be cut by the City.
- Trees provide oxygen, improve air quality, help keep soil in place, and absorb water which prevents flooding.
- Trees also absorb carbon and attract a lot of wildlife such as birds that feed on insects like mosquitoes.
- Trees that are not properly maintained can be dangerous for homes.
- Trees can protect your home from flooding.
- They can also keep your air conditioning costs by providing shade and lowering air temperatures. Trees can block cold winds in the winter lowering your heating costs.

Now that you know the facts, find more information on how you can request a free parkway tree by visiting [chicago.gov/OurRoots](http://chicago.gov/OurRoots).

### FAQ One-Sheet:

### Let's Talk About Trees!

#### Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

Polish | Spanish

Date: 5/4/2022

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

**PLANT A TREE.** Together we can create a sustainable future.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.\*

\*restrictions apply

Available on the **CHICAGO** mobile app.

#### Social Media:

### Plant a tree

#### Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

Polish | Spanish

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

**Do it for HYDE PARK.** Plant a tree and help our community grow.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.\*

\*restrictions apply

#### Social Media:

### Do it for (your community)

Find the graphic for your community:

"Do it for..." Social Media Community package (.zip)

Date: 4/28/2022

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

**Planting trees help our communities grow.**

- Improve air quality
- Increase property value
- Save money on air conditioning
- Reduce flooding
- Improve health and wellbeing

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.\*

\*restrictions apply

Available on the **CHICAGO** mobile app.

#### Social Media:

### Planting trees help our community grow

#### Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

Polish | Spanish

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

**It begins with one tree.** Plant a tree, make a positive impact.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.\*

\*restrictions apply

#### Social Media:

### It begins with one tree

Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

Polish | Spanish

Updated: 5/6/2022

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

More healthy trees means healthier communities.

Planting trees improves air quality, provides shade and cool air, and reduces stress.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.\*

\*restrictions apply

Available on the **CHICAGO** mobile app.

#### Social Media:

### Our Roots Chicago

#### Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

Polish | Spanish

**LET'S TALK ABOUT TREES!**

Setting the record straight on what I've heard about trees.

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

[chicago.gov/OurRoots](http://chicago.gov/OurRoots)

#### Social Media:

### Let's Talk About Trees!

Languages:

• English

Date: 4/27/2022

**I've heard...** Trees create plumbing issues

**What actually happens...** Tree roots do not break underground pipes, but rather, broken drain pipes can attract tree roots seeking moisture. Did you know that tree roots only go down 2-3 feet?

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

[chicago.gov/OurRoots](http://chicago.gov/OurRoots)

#### Social Media:

### I've Heard... Trees Create Plumbing Issues

#### Languages:

• English

Date: 4/27/2022

**I've heard...** Trees increase crime

**Actually...** There are no scientific studies that prove that trees increase crime. Studies actually show that tree lined streets have lower crime rates.

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

[chicago.gov/OurRoots](http://chicago.gov/OurRoots)

#### Social Media:

### I've Heard... Trees Increase Crime

Languages:

• English

Date: 4/27/2022

**I've heard...** Trees are dangerous for homes. They can damage property.

**The facts are...** Trees can lower your air conditioning costs by providing shade and lowering air temperatures. Trees can block cold winds in the winter lowering your heating costs. Trees that aren't properly maintained may have weaker limbs. The City will trim your parkway tree at no cost to you. Visit [311.chicago.gov](http://311.chicago.gov) to request service.

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

[chicago.gov/OurRoots](http://chicago.gov/OurRoots)

#### Social Media:

### I've Heard... Trees Are Dangerous For Homes

#### Languages:

• English

Date: 4/27/2022

**I've heard...** Planting more trees will disrupt our natural ecosystem

**The fact is...** Trees provide oxygen, improve air quality, help keep soil in place, and absorb water which prevents flooding. Trees also absorb carbon and attract a lot of wildlife such as birds that feed on insects like mosquitoes.

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

[chicago.gov/OurRoots](http://chicago.gov/OurRoots)

#### Social Media:

### I've Heard... Planting More Trees Will Disrupt Our Natural Ecosystem

Languages:

• English

Date: 4/27/2022

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

**It begins with one tree.** Plant a tree, make a positive impact.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.\*

\*restrictions apply

Available on the **CHICAGO** mobile app.

#### Social Media:

### It Begins With One Tree

#### Languages:

• English

Date: 4/27/2022

**CHICAGO**  
Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

311 Service Request Number: \_\_\_\_\_

A New Tree Is Coming Soon! A tree planting site(s) has been approved in the public parkway in front of your home/business. The complete tree planting service (site prep, planting, mulching, and 2 years of maintenance) is being provided free of charge as part of the city's **Our Roots Chicago** program.

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO** has the goal of planting 75,000 parkway trees across Chicago by 2026. More healthy trees means healthier communities. Making these investments today will provide benefits to Chicago's neighborhoods for years to come.

#### TREES DO:

- Improve air quality
- Reduce flooding
- Increase property values
- Provide shade
- Save money on air conditioning
- Lower stress levels

#### TREES DO NOT:

- Break underground pipes; broken drain pipes can attract tree roots seeking moisture
- Increase crime; tree lined streets have lower crime rates!
- Cause danger or damage property (if properly maintained)

For more info on **Our Roots Chicago**, please visit [Chicago.Gov/OurRoots](http://Chicago.Gov/OurRoots)

If you do not want a tree planted, or if you want to request a particular species, please call 311 within 60 days to cancel/modify the service request (number included above).

**DSS**  
Department of Streets and Sanitation

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

**CHICAGO**  
Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot

A NEW TREE has been planted for your neighborhood! Mayor Lightfoot's **Our Roots Chicago** has the goal of planting 75,000 parkway trees across Chicago by 2026. More healthy trees = healthier communities. Making these investments today will provide increasing benefits to Chicago's neighborhoods for years to come.

The DSS Bureau of Forestry has planted a tree on the parkway adjacent to your home. We kindly ask that you water the tree on a weekly basis during the first year of planting. Please allow the hose to trickle for 25-30 minutes on the tree roots to ensure the water can soak deeply into the roots. During dry periods, the tree may need watering every three days. Cost for watering is minimal to the resident (around \$6 per year, \$3 for seniors).

Please do not remove the wood mulch from around the base of the tree. The mulch was placed there to keep the roots cool and moist in the summer, and to protect the tree from cold in the winter.

And like any good neighbor, please look out for the new tree. Protect it from vandalism, lawn mowers, weed whips and vehicles.

For more information on caring for the new tree, please contact the DSS Bureau of Forestry at 312-746-5254.

To learn more about **Our Roots Chicago**, please visit [Chicago.Gov/OurRoots](http://Chicago.Gov/OurRoots).

**DSS**  
Department of Streets and Sanitation

**OUR ROOTS CHICAGO**

# ★ Community-Driven Content: Misinformation



## WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT TREES

I've heard that...

Trees break and crack sidewalks and create plumbing issues

—

Tree roots do not break pipes; rather, broken pipes attract tree roots due to moisture in the pipes.

Did you know that tree roots only go down 2-3 feet?

Trees increase crime

+

Trees are high maintenance and costly to maintain

+

Planting more trees will disrupt our natural ecosystem

+

Trees are dangerous for homes. They can damage property

+





# ★ Our Roots Chicago Kickoff: Arbor Day 2022



# ★ 18,000 Trees Later – December 1, 2022





# New City Foresters & Tree Trimming Plan

Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation Bureau of Forestry (BoF)

- Sarah Holding
- Jared Shaffer

Chicago Department of Transportation

- Allison Preble

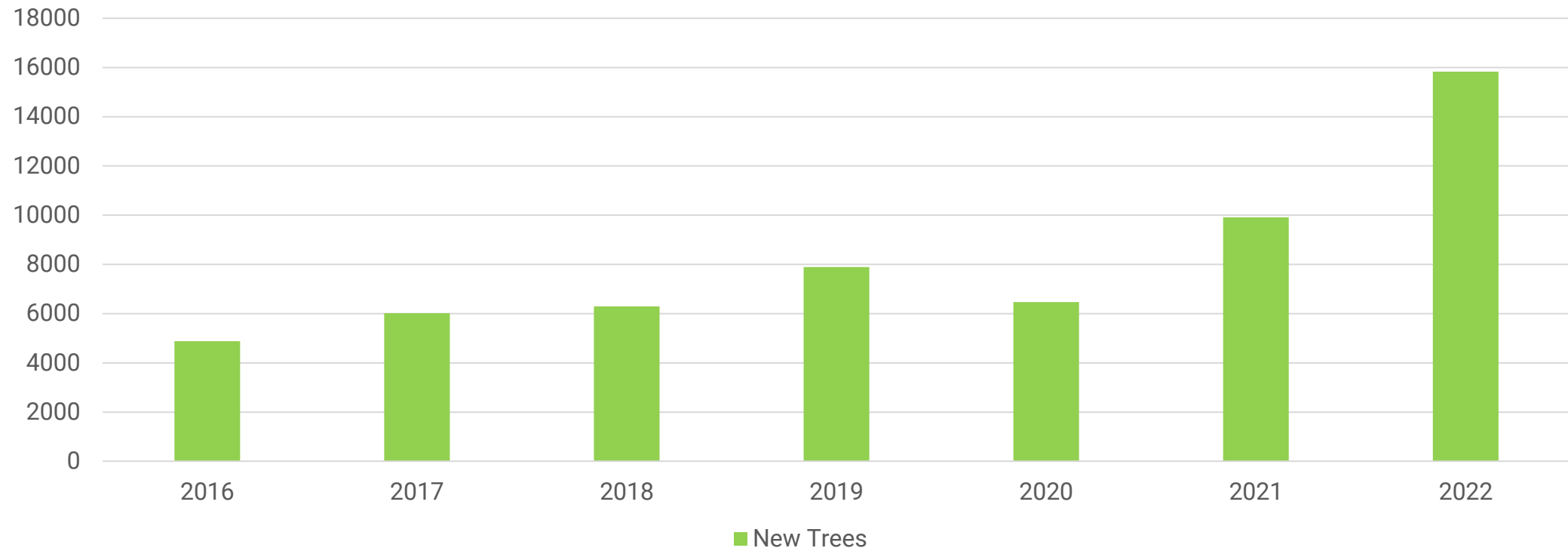
Bureau of Forestry

- Doubled the number of Tree Trimmer crews, from 14 to 30, including equipment



# Tree Planting - Previous Years

## New Trees in Public Parkways



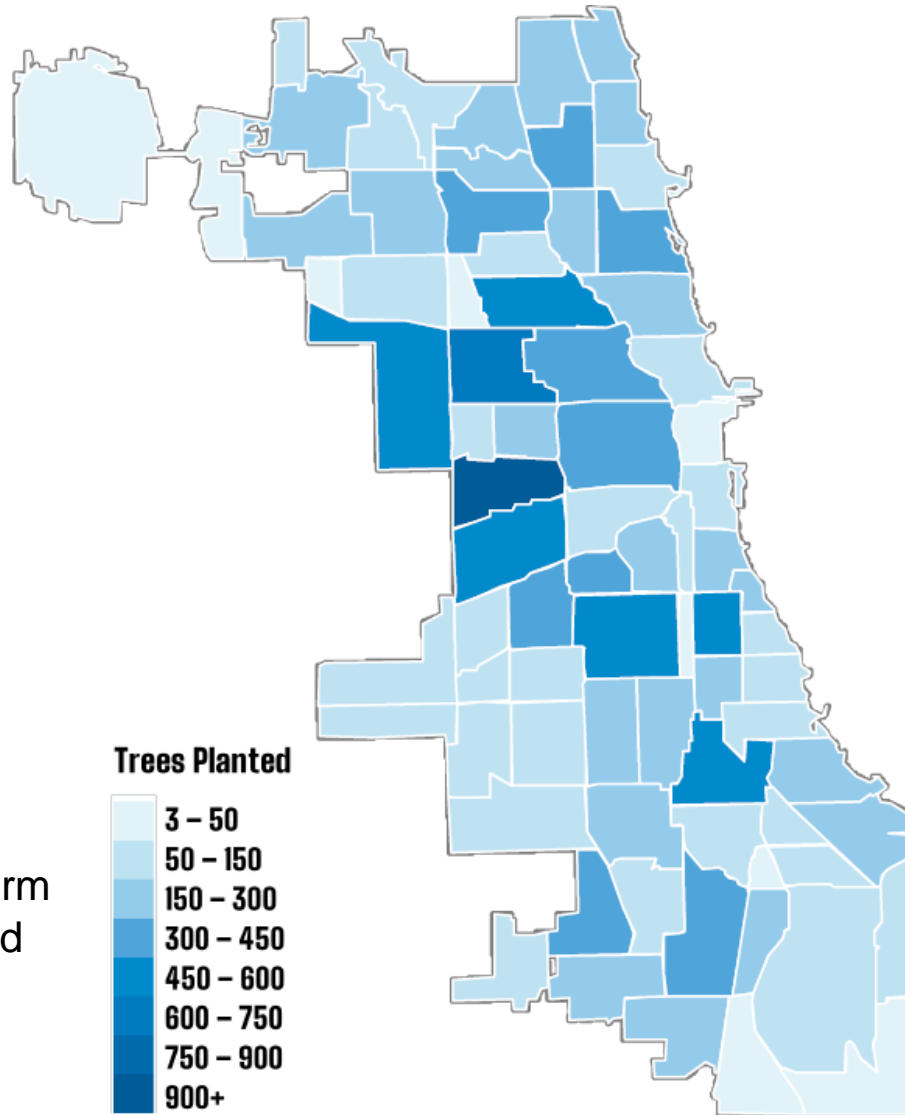




# 2022 Tree Plantings

Total 18,728 (as of December 3):

- DSS 10,654
- CDOT 5,174
- Parks 2,900
- Efficiencies in Planting Requests
- 33% went to 11 priority communities
- 3 Year Backlog for Tree Requests Fulfilled
- Removed 11,358 (combination of storm damaged, diseased, dead, DWM, and Aldermanic requests)
- 2022 Baseline for years to come to prioritize equity areas



Map shows tree plantings on arterial & residential streets in 2022

Community	Trees Planted	Percent of Planting
1. North Lawndale (TA Pilot)	957	6%
2. Humboldt Park	695	4%
3. New City	553	3%
5. South Lawndale (TA Pilot)	529	3%
6. Austin	462	3%
7. Greater Grand Crossing	460	3%
10. Near West Side	435	3%
12. McKinley Park	394	2%
13. Brighton Park	393	2%
23. East Garfield Park	257	2%
57. Armour Square	87	1%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,222</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Total City-Wide</b>	<b>15,882</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Community Tree Ambassadors





# Tree Ambassadors Training

Created for CBOs to increase parkway tree planting through a modified CHI311 mobile app entry to speed planting in priority neighborhoods while they engage residents on the benefits of trees.

## **TRAINED TO:**

Survey based on City Landscape Ordinance to submit potential tree planting sites in their communities on behalf of residents that agree to a free City tree planting warranted for 2 years using 311 App/Online

## **COMMUNITY DRIVEN TREE EDUCATION:**

They develop their own culturally relevant tree care and education materials with the help of either the City and/or Conservation Partners if needed (e.g., marketing, workshops, conversations, storytelling to residents, etc.)

## **TREE AMBASSADORS ARE NOT TRAINED TO:**

Plant, Mulch, Trim, ID Trees Species, Study Plant Biophysiology, Soil, or ID Pathogens





# Train the Trainers: Class





# Train the Trainers: Field





# Tree Ambassadors

Number of Tree Ambassadors - **60**

Number of Trainings – **5 (June, 2 in July, September, November)**

Number of 311 Requested for Community Areas – **380 Requests for 416 Trees**

## PILOTS

Mi Villita Neighbors: 2 TAs, 237 Trees, 4 months, \$14K City Grant

TREEmendous in North Lawndale: 3 TAs, 113 Trees in 2 months, \$40K USFS Resiliency Grant

St. Agatha Catholic Church

Stone Temple Baptist Church

Young Men's Network Association (YMEN)

I Am Able

Roseland West Chesterfield Community Association: 1 TA, 48 Trees, 2 Weeks

Chicago Muslims Green Team

Sacred Roots

CRTI Resiliency Grant - \$350K

Chicago Muslims Green Team

Coalition for a Better Chinese America

Galewood Neighbors

Grow Greater Englewood

Imani Village

Southwest Collective

The Wild Turkey Cut Thru

# ★ Ash Tree Inventory and EAB Competitive Bid

- BoF surveyed approximately 20,000 Emerald Ash trees in 2022 to determine status
- Due to autumn leaf drop, stopped surveying because ash condition is difficult to accurately assess after leaf drop.
- In spring, will resume when and if buds begin to swell

Total Ash Counted	Total Dead	Total Grids	Grids Completed		No Ash Trees in Grid	Active Grids	Percent Completed
19,990 (out of 45k)	378 (<1.9%)	919	357 (51%)		119	800	51.8%

- DSS is also moving forward with the competitive bid process to assess costs for tree inoculation. Awaiting Procurement update.





# Information Technology

- Currently developing a BoF Mobile Application
- Application will be Apple and Android mobile compliant devices
- Application is Salesforce Field Service Lightning
  - Enhanced field operations for efficiency
    - Foresters in the field will enter data workorder and updating tree inventory (no longer on one desktop that one person manages)
    - GPS enabled devices in application for tree locations
- 50 New Tablets purchased for foresters to use in the field – no more paper and manual entry for tree plantings
- This will also help with Tree Inventory





# Tree Planting Contract

Revised Tree Planting Commodity Contract (lowest bidder)

- Contractor required to assess climate conditions for watering
- Responsible for that tree's survival
- 2 Year Warranty remains
- Split city into zones for the first time
- Lessons learned from the procurement process
- Will redo RFP





# 2023 Look Ahead


311 Tree Trimming Requests will be retired December 16th!

- Moving to grided area trimming
- Residents will be notified of schedule in April – BoF will do entire blocks at one time.

Applying for federal funding from Inflation Reduction Act to Amplify Year 1's Progress

- Tree Survey for Parkways and Parks

Formalize Tree Ambassador Program

- Grow program by funding more communities
    - CCA/Accenture to develop a 5-year strategic plan for TA Program
  - Tree Ambassador Funding for 2023
    - US Rep Sean Casten Congressional \$100K Earmark - **Need 10 CBOs**
    - Expand Tree Ambassador Training \$2.85M for 5 Years - **50 CBOs and 1 Full-Time Coordinator**
  - Developing and Applying Heat Vulnerability Index and NOAA Project Building HVI to help guide tree tool and plantings, amongst others
  - Updated Tree Equity Tool Dashboard 2023
  - Tree Community Opinion Survey – IRB Approved
  - Improve Partnership with Tree Equity Working Group
    - The IT Tree Equity Working Group monthly updates on plantings
    - Our Stories Tab – videos community/pictures
    - Community Tree Benefit Flier
  - Strategic Visioning in January 2023 with Bloomberg for entire Our Roots Initiative
- 

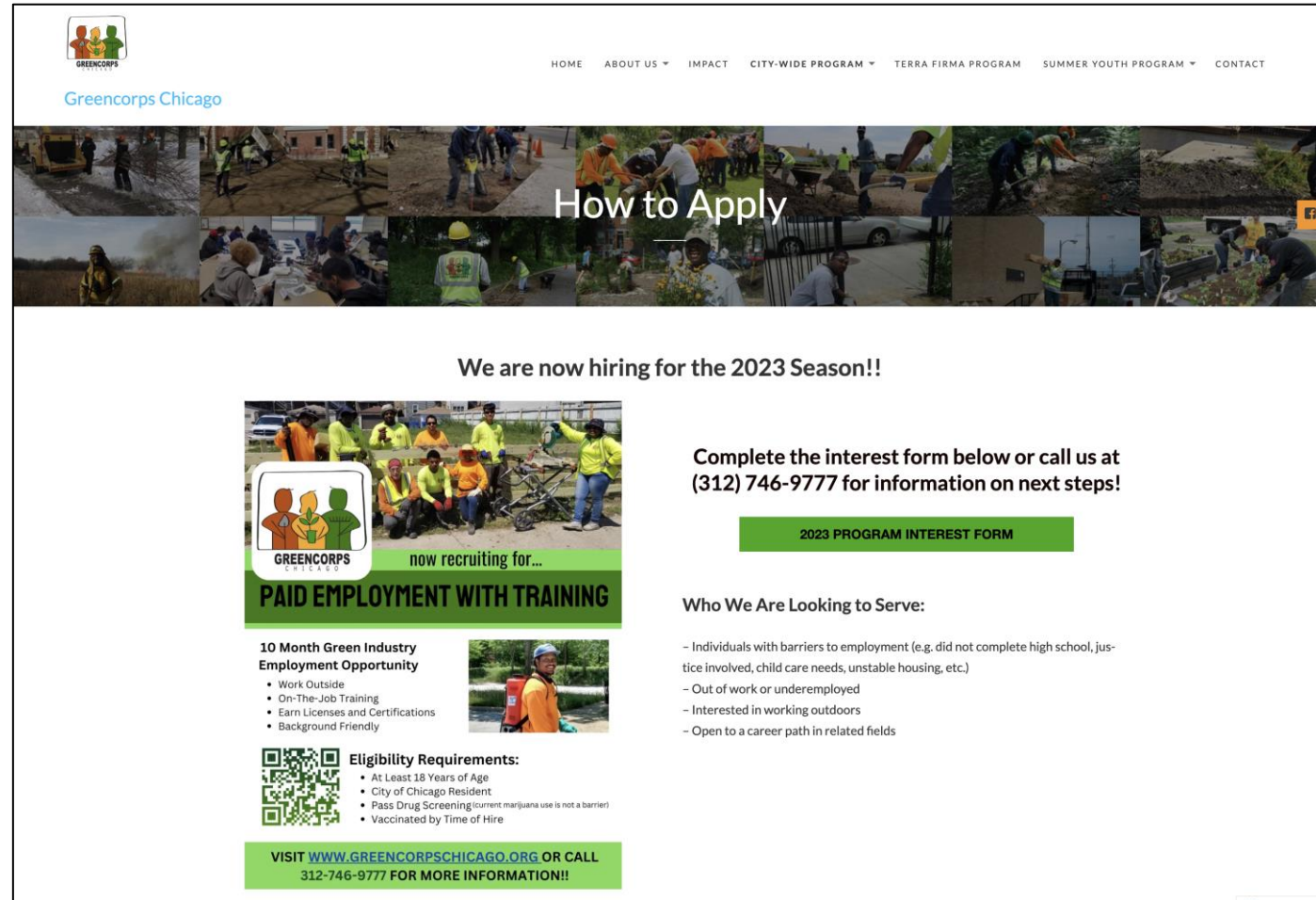
# ★ Greencorps Chicago 2023

Interested in landscaping, construction, or ecological restoration?

Greencorps Chicago is the City's green-industry employment program with on-the-job training for individuals with barriers to employment.

Apply to their 10-month green industry employment opportunity where you will receive training, earn licenses, certifications, and more!

<https://greencorpschicago.org/how-to-apply>



The screenshot shows the Greencorps Chicago website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT US, IMPACT, CITY-WIDE PROGRAM, TERRA FIRMA PROGRAM, SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM, and CONTACT. Below the navigation is a banner with the text "How to Apply" and a collage of images showing workers in various green industry settings. The main content area features a large heading "We are now hiring for the 2023 Season!!" and a call to action: "Complete the interest form below or call us at (312) 746-9777 for information on next steps!". A green button labeled "2023 PROGRAM INTEREST FORM" is prominently displayed. Below this, the text "Who We Are Looking to Serve:" is followed by a list of criteria: "Individuals with barriers to employment (e.g. did not complete high school, justice involved, child care needs, unstable housing, etc.)", "Out of work or underemployed", "Interested in working outdoors", and "Open to a career path in related fields". A section titled "10 Month Green Industry Employment Opportunity" lists benefits such as "Work Outside", "On-The-Job Training", "Earn Licenses and Certifications", and "Background Friendly". A QR code and a list of "Eligibility Requirements" (At Least 18 Years of Age, City of Chicago Resident, Pass Drug Screening, Vaccinated by Time of Hire) are also present. At the bottom, a green bar contains the text "VISIT WWW.GREENCORPSCHICAGO.ORG OR CALL 312-746-9777 FOR MORE INFORMATION!!".

Greencorps Chicago

HOME ABOUT US IMPACT CITY-WIDE PROGRAM TERRA FIRMA PROGRAM SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM CONTACT

How to Apply

We are now hiring for the 2023 Season!!

Complete the interest form below or call us at (312) 746-9777 for information on next steps!

2023 PROGRAM INTEREST FORM

Who We Are Looking to Serve:

- Individuals with barriers to employment (e.g. did not complete high school, justice involved, child care needs, unstable housing, etc.)
- Out of work or underemployed
- Interested in working outdoors
- Open to a career path in related fields

10 Month Green Industry Employment Opportunity

- Work Outside
- On-The-Job Training
- Earn Licenses and Certifications
- Background Friendly


Eligibility Requirements:

- At Least 18 Years of Age
- City of Chicago Resident
- Pass Drug Screening (current marijuana use is not a barrier)
- Vaccinated by Time of Hire


VISIT [WWW.GREENCORPSCHICAGO.ORG](http://WWW.GREENCORPSCHICAGO.ORG) OR CALL 312-746-9777 FOR MORE INFORMATION!!



# Chicago Youth Service Corps 2023

EXPLORE PARTNERS ABOUTJOIN NOW LOG IN

HOME / EXPLORE / CHICAGO YOUTH SERVICE CORPS 2023 APPLICATION



**Chicago Youth Service Corps 2023 Application**  
City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS)

Chicago Youth Service Corps is a year-round program that provides paid opportunities for youth ages 16-24 to engage in community service, project-based learning, and leadership development. Chicago Youth Service Corps celebrates and welcomes diverse backgrounds and encourages you to bring your experience, background, and traditions to your service. Apply today for the 2023 cohort! (Featured)

**Age:** 16–24  
**Cost:** FREE  
**Type:** Online

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[Register Now](#) [Explore Now](#)

**Date + Time**  
Date(s): 07/05/2022 - 12/31/2023  
Time: See Schedule - See Schedule

**Contact**  
Alex Carrillo  
alexandra.carrillo@cityofchicago.org

English >

<https://mychimyfuture.org/workshop-detail?id=121077>

★ Thank You All for Your Dedication, Guidance,  
Partnership and Hard Work!

*“To be without trees would, in the most literal way, to be without our roots.”*  
— Richard Mabey

