

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

2024 CONFERENCE



Washington, DC

Youth Tree Ambassadors: *Why, Where, and How*



PRESENTED BY:

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PRESENTED BY:

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AGENDA

About our Orgs Casey Trees SCA	Why— Program Goals	Where— Serving Southeast DC	How— Program Model	Challenges and Learnings	Looking towards 2025
Mission	Tree Conservation DC Free Trees Program Youth Workforce Development Partnerships	DC Wards 7 & 8 to increase the tree canopy	High School Crew Weekend service days Training and projects Environmental Justice	Recruitment Community partnership Program model	Partnership building Updated goals Target outcomes

Melinda Peters
Casey Trees

Restore, Enhance and, Protect DC's tree canopy



- Tree planting – Home, school, community space
- Youth and community education – Schools and community spaces
- Advocate – Testify to council and work with neighborhood advisory groups
- Conserve land – Preserve land under conservation easements
- Farm – Sustainable tree production facility

Raisa Barrera
The Student Conservation Association

Empowering the next generation of conservation leaders



- Youth and young adult conservation field crews
- Impacting work in National Parks, community natural spaces, and local waterways
- Members gain experience in diverse areas – Environmental education, urban forestry, trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, and more
- Professional development – Technical and soft skills, exposure to green collar conservation careers
- High school programs throughout the year

Why

Preserve/Restore Urban Canopy and Activate Youth Voice

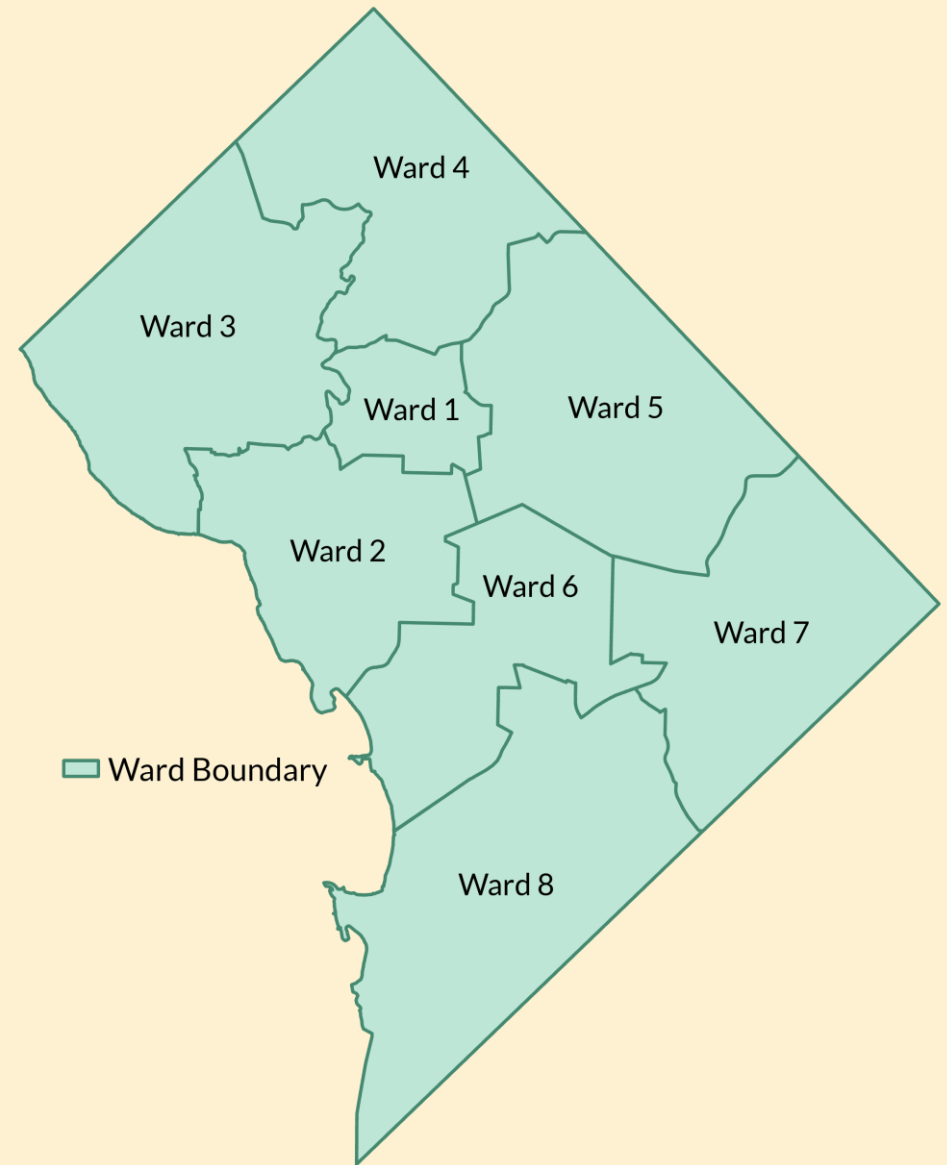
- Tree Conservation
- DC Free Trees Program
- Youth Workforce Development
- Strengthening Partnerships



Where and Why

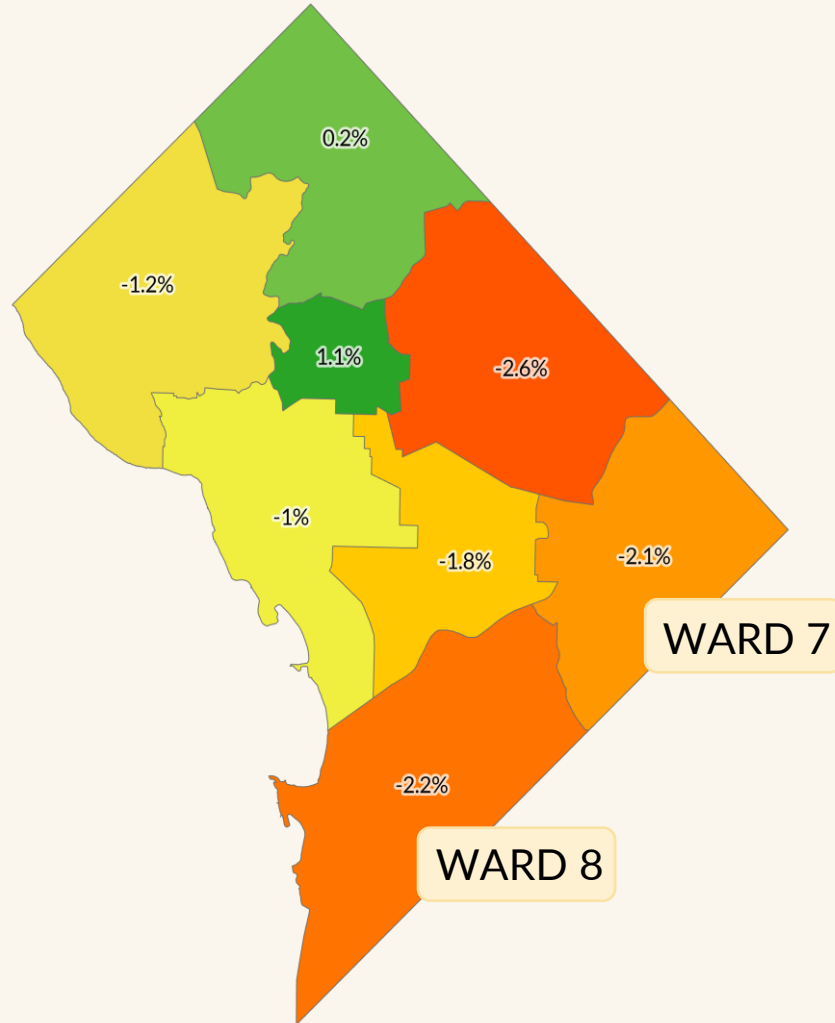
Washington, DC – Wards 7 & 8

- *Air pollution*
- *Flooding*
- *Urban heat island*

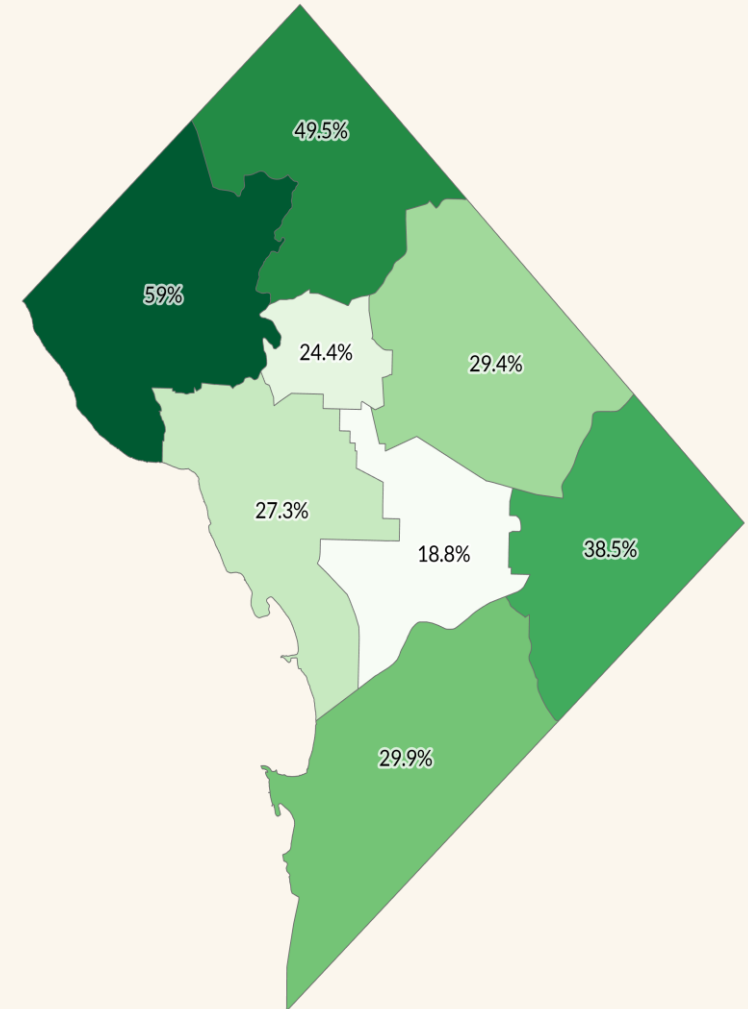


CANOPY COVER

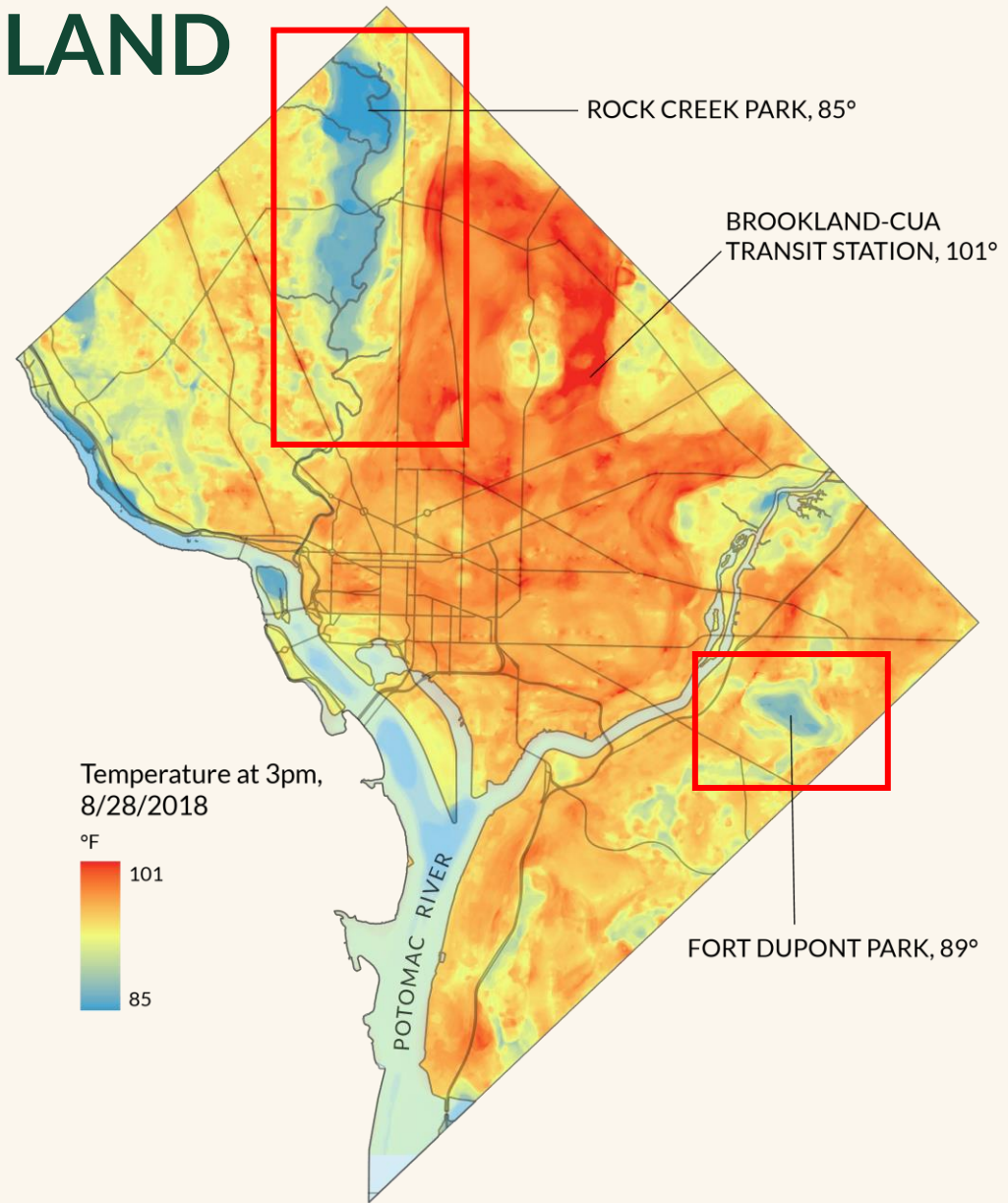
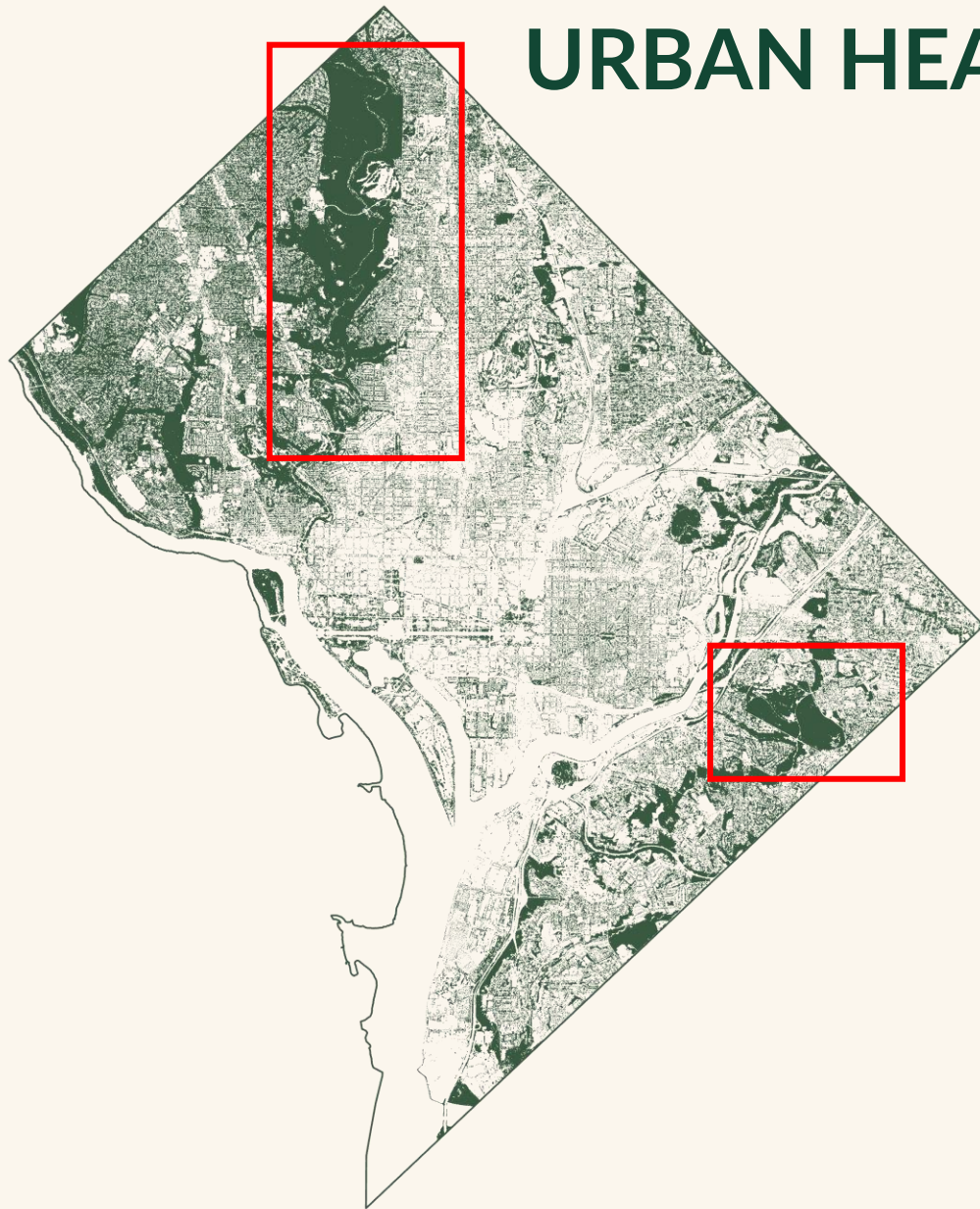
CANOPY CHANGE by WARD, 2015-2020



CANOPY COVERAGE by WARD, 2020



URBAN HEAT ISLAND



How

Youth workforce development

- High School Crew (Youth Ambassadors)
- Weekend service days
- Training and projects
- Environmental Justice





Training

- Community outreach skills
- Local environmental justice
- Tree ID
- Tree planting
- Teambuilding/collaboration

Youth Ambassadors



Tabling/
Canvassing



Tree Planting



Environmental
Justice



Outcomes

200+ Service Hours from
October 2023 – June 2024

12 Training Hours in
hands-on and community
engagement skills

12 Service-learning events

6 High School Youth
engaged

400 Flyers Distributed

Personal growth and reflection



Rose – *"Talking to people about trees"*

Bud – *"Coming together with the Youth Ambassador group next time to share more ideas about outreach and to see how [the various plans] might fit together"*

Thorn - *"The event was moved inside because of weather"*

Challenges and Learnings

- Rebuilding recruitment relationships and partnerships in target communities
- Member attendance
- More dedicated staff support
- More hands-on learning
- More community engagement opportunities





What's next?

- Revitalized recruitment strategy aligned with schoolyear
- Broader geographic range aligned with IRA areas
- Increased training opportunities for youth
- Service learning with new and existing community partners



Thank you.



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CEUs

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Sign-in sheets for Society of American Foresters (SAF) CFE credits are available at the registration desk post conference.

Washington, DC Youth Tree Ambassadors: Why, Where, and How

Speakers:

Melinda Peters & Ray Barrera



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