

Tree Nursery: Lessons Learned

PRESENTED BY:



Mark Cassini

Executive Director, Community Greening

Kyle Derr

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Nursery Manager, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri

Megan Palomo

Heritage Nursery Director, Tree Pittsburgh



Community Greening Tree Nursery



PRESENTED BY:

Mark Cassini

Executive Director/Co-Founder | Community Greening

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Community Greening Tree Nursery

- **Located in Boca Raton, FL**
(Long-term lease w/ nonprofit property owner)
- **Nursery started in 2021**
(Community Greening founded in 2016)
- **Nursery is primary operations hub;**
serves as Staff HQ and primary location for volunteer events.



BEFORE



AFTER



Nursery History & Numbers

Founded in 2020 and first used as a “holding facility” due a large tree planting contract with Brightline

Volunteer events began in 2022

Avg. 50 volunteer nursery events per year.

14,000 trees of varying sizes from liners to 25-gallon (60 species)

Future Growth: *Tito’s Urban Orchard, Tree Showcase, Mobile Office Trailer*



Volunteer Programming

**Family-friendly volunteer events
assisting on various nursery projects**

*Sowing seeds, potting-up saplings, weeding, staking,
loading for events, general maintenance.*

Tree Education

Discuss importance of tree planting.

Volunteer Groups

Schools, Corporations, Nonprofits, General Public.

50 Nursery Events Per Year

Approximately 1,600 volunteer hours.

Experiential Focus

*All supplies and snacks/drinks provided. Music.
Multiple activities. Heat precaution (shade/timing).*



Funding Partners

- **State Funding**
Florida Forest Service
- **Corporate Grants**
Tito's Vodka Block-to-Block Urban Orchard
- **Family Foundations**
Carl Angus DeSantis Foundation
- **Nonprofit Supporters**
Grass River Garden Club



Forest ReLeaf

OF MISSOURI



“Planting trees and
enriching communities”

“Forest ReLeaf Nursery and Arboretum
utilizes volunteers to grow native trees
for community based projects”



Jake Roeckle

Nursery Manager

Jake@moreleaf.org



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Forest ReLeaf Nursery and Arboretum

- Founded in 1993
- At current location since 2007
 - 8 acres inside a St. Louis County Park
- 60+ unique species - mostly MO natives
- Container grown trees from bare root stock
 - 3g, 7g, and 15g pots
- Experimenting with growing from seed



Infrastructure

- Hoop house
- Potting table
- Irrigation system
 - Overhead for smaller pots
 - Drip for 15g pot-in-pot



Forest ReLeaf

OF MISSOURI



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Forest ReLeaf

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Forest ReLeaf Nursery and Arboretum

Staff

- Full-time nursery manager
- Part-time nursery specialist
- Volunteer coordinator





Volunteers!

- How we do what we do!
- “Regular” volunteer days twice a week 8:00 a.m. - noon
- Group/ corporate volunteers





Funding

- Around \$180,000 per year in expenses
- Funded mostly by grants/donations
- About \$20,000 per year in tree sales











Casey Tree Farm

Berryville, Va
Kyle Derr, Nursery Manager



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Casey Tree Farm: Berryville, VA



Restore, enhance, and protect the tree canopy of our nation's capital



- 100 acre production
- ~40k trees
- 7 Full-time staff
- 5 Seasonal staff
- ~45 species



- Began in 2010 as a B&B Nursery with around 3,000 trees
- Transitioned to 18" in ground fabric rootbags in 2018
- Currently around 40k in production in 2024





- 2" Caliper (+/- 0.5")
- In ground fabric bags
- Native soil
- Finer root system with less circling roots





- Over 200 trees on a tractor trailer load
- Harvesting ~8.5k trees annually
(~5k internally, ~3.5k externally)
- Bobcat skid steer digs, pickup, and loads all trees





TREE PITTSBURGH

Protecting and Growing our Urban Forest

Tree Pittsburgh Heritage Nursery



Pittsburgh, Pa
Megan Palomo, Nursery Director



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About:

- Program of Tree Pittsburgh
- Started in 2010
- 2.5 acre production site on urban brownfield
- Containerized trees and shrubs
- 30,000 2-3 gallon finished plants produced per year
- 110 species of trees and shrubs grown from locally collected seed.





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Current Operations:

- 4 full-time staff
- 1 seasonal
- Internships
- Job Corp training
- 200+ volunteers engaged
- 20+ workshops/ tours per year
- 50,000+ seedlings grown per year

Funding Model:

Annual operating budget: \$400,000.00

Grants: \$220,000.00

Tree Sales: \$260,000.00

Total Revenue: \$80,000.00

13% of organization ops budget



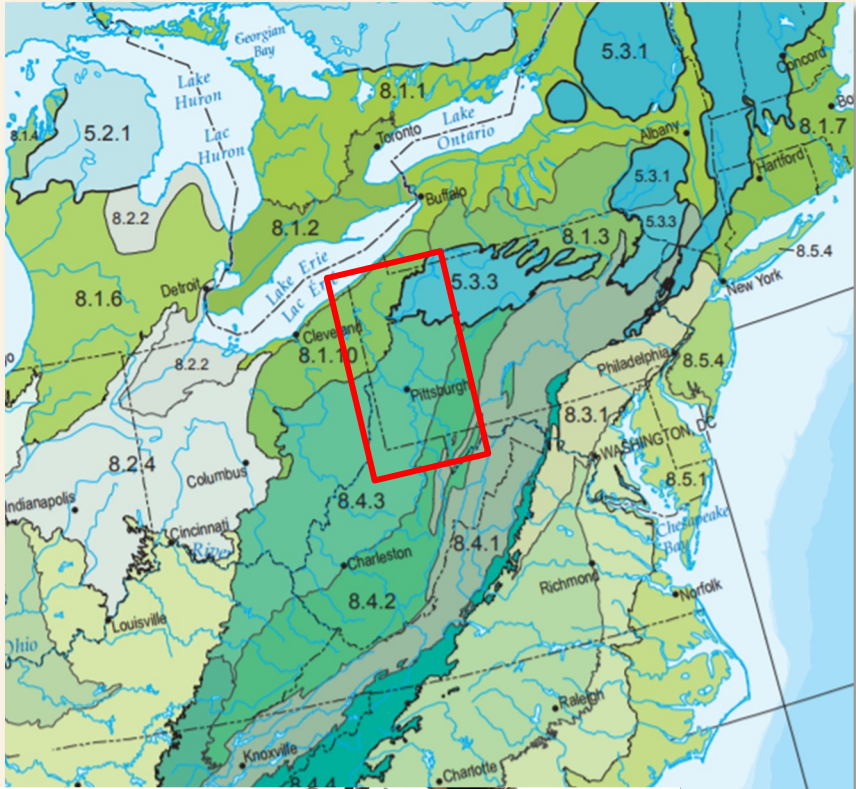


TREE PITTSBURGH

Protecting and Growing our Urban Forest



Seed-Transfer Guidelines for Important Tree Species in the Eastern United States

CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL TREE SPECIES WESTERN ALLEGHENY PLATEAU (SUBREGION 1)



This region's forests will be affected by a changing climate and other stressors during this century. A team of managers and researchers created an assessment that describes the vulnerability of forests in the region ([Butler-Leopold et al. 2018](#)). This report includes information on observed and future climate trends, and also summarizes key vulnerabilities for forested natural communities. The Landscape Change Research Group recently updated the Climate Change Tree Atlas, and this handout summarizes that information. Full Tree Atlas results are available online at www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/. Two climate scenarios are presented to "bracket" a range of possible futures. These future climate projections (2070 to 2099) provide information about how individual tree species may respond to a changing climate. Results for "low" and "high" emissions scenarios can be compared on the reverse side of this handout.

CLIMATE CHANGE CAPABILITY

POOR CAPABILITY

American holly	Pin cherry
Balsam poplar	Pin oak
Bigtooth aspen	Pitch pine
Black ash	Quaking aspen
Black maple	Red pine
Black willow	Serviceberry
Bur oak	Shingle oak
Cucumbertree	Striped maple
Eastern hemlock	Swamp white
Eastern white pine	Sweet birch
Flowering dogwood	White spruce
Jack pine	Yellow birch
Paper birch	

FAIR CAPABILITY

American beech	Sycamore
Boxelder	White ash
Scarlet oak	

GOOD CAPABILITY

American basswood	Northern red oak
American elm	Pignut hickory
Bitternut hickory	Red maple
Black locust	Sassafras
Black oak	Shagbark hickory
Black walnut	Sloppy elm



RNGR REFORESTATION, NURSERIES, & GENETIC RESOURCES

USFS Reforestation Nursery and Genetic Resource (RNGR)
<https://rngr.net/>





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Megan Palomo
megan@treepittsburgh.org



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join the

Non-Profit Nursery Network



First meeting: Dec. 19th
2:00pm EST
Monthly on 3rd Thursday

Zoom meeting code: 851 8808 3367

Pass: Trees

email: megan@treepittsburgh.org for meeting link

All are welcome!

SCAN FOR
REGISTRATION LINK





THANK YOU

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