

The Roots to Chicago's Tree Ambassador Program



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CHICAGO REGION
TREES INITIATIVE



ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES DAY

The Genesis of the Tree Ambassador Program...



Our Roots Chicago



- \$46 million, 5-year program to plant 75,000 trees
- Equitably increase public urban tree canopy
- Prioritize historically disinvested and under-canopied South and West side communities
- Deliver public health, environmental, economic, social & climate co-benefits

<https://chicago.gov/OurRoots>

Photos courtesy of the City of Chicago.



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One Health is the idea that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

If **one** is vulnerable, we **all** are vulnerable.

When we protect **one**, we help protect **all**.



<https://www.cdc.gov/one-health>

Graphic edited, courtesy of CDC.



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Tree Equity Data

Tree data complements on the ground community experience

- Allocate trees in communities where the co-benefits of trees are most needed.
- It depends on points in time of data; ground truthing is important.

Tree canopy + public health, environmental, social & economic indicators

- Prioritize tree planting at the neighborhood level.

CHICAGO REGION TREES INITIATIVE Our Trees. Our Communities. Our Future.

Our Impact Maps Programs Events Resources Get Involved

Using data to target priority areas

Trees improve quality of life. To identify which areas have the most needs, we combined canopy cover, surface temperature, air quality, flood risk, health, and social vulnerability data into maps. See your community's canopy cover and how it impacts your neighborhood.

Tree Canopy Temperature Flood Risk Air Quality Vulnerable Populations **Priority Areas**

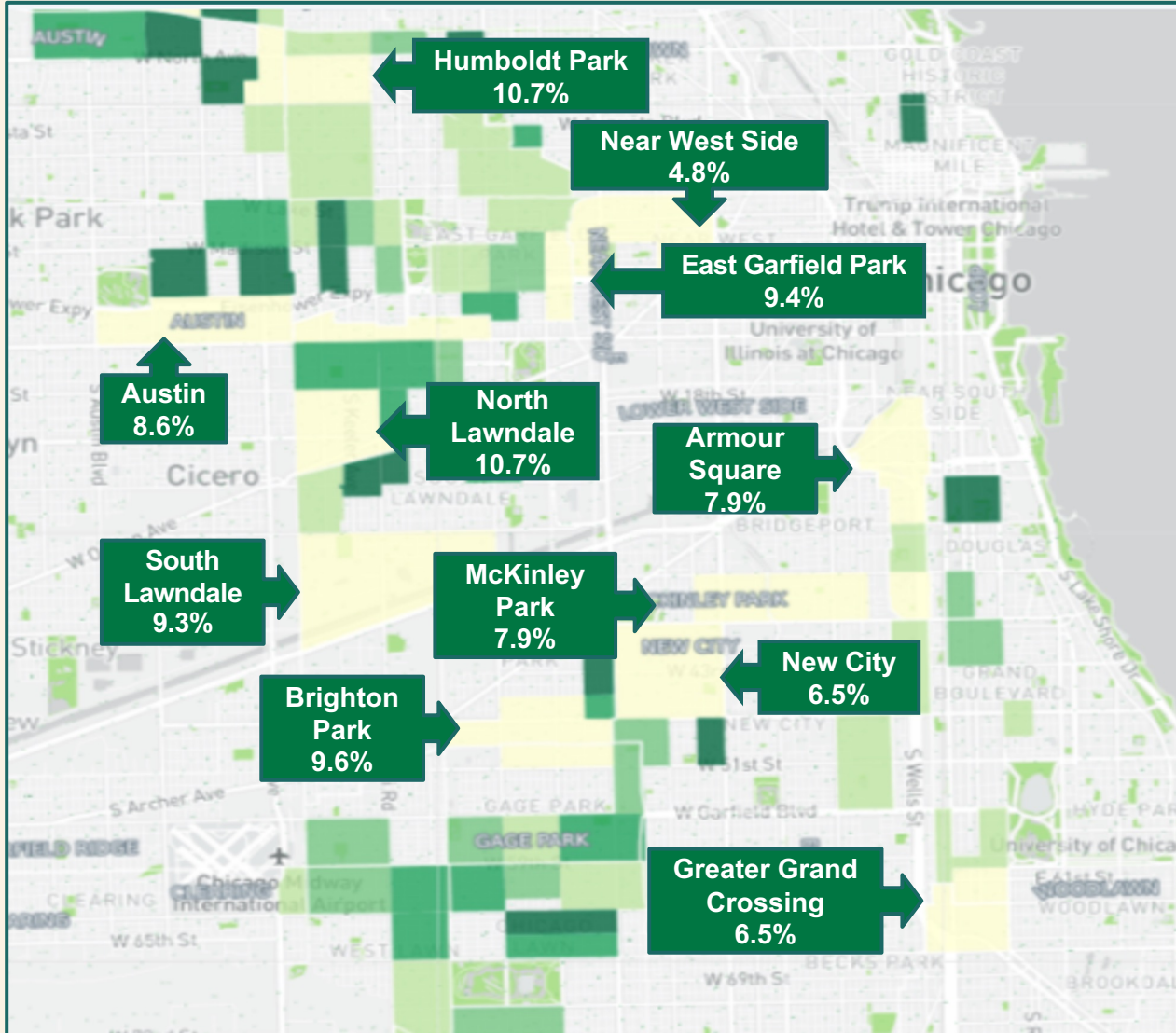
<https://gis.mortonarb.org/portal/apps/dashboards/eb5f0e3bd0d24f4bb9fcbf950ef72f90>

Web clip courtesy of CRTI.



Tree Canopy Coverage by Neighborhood

(citywide average was 16%)



Priority Communities

- Highest social vulnerability (CDC)
- +
- Worst flooding susceptibility (CMAP)
- +
- Most severe economic hardship (Calculated)
- +
- Air quality (EPA)
- +
- Highest traffic volumes (IDOT)
- +
- Most age-adjusted asthma cases (IDPH)
- +
- Highest surface temperatures (NASA)
- +
- Lowest tree canopy coverage (2010, CRTI)
- =
- Equity Tree Planting**



Web clip compiled data from open sources by the University of Chicago Healthy Regions and Policies Lab, with support from the Partnership for Healthy Cities—a global network supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, in partnership with the World Health Organization and Vital Strategies—in partnership with the University of Chicago Center for Spatial Data Science and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH). Edited by CDPH.

Study Date

July 28th, 2023

228 mi²
Study Area

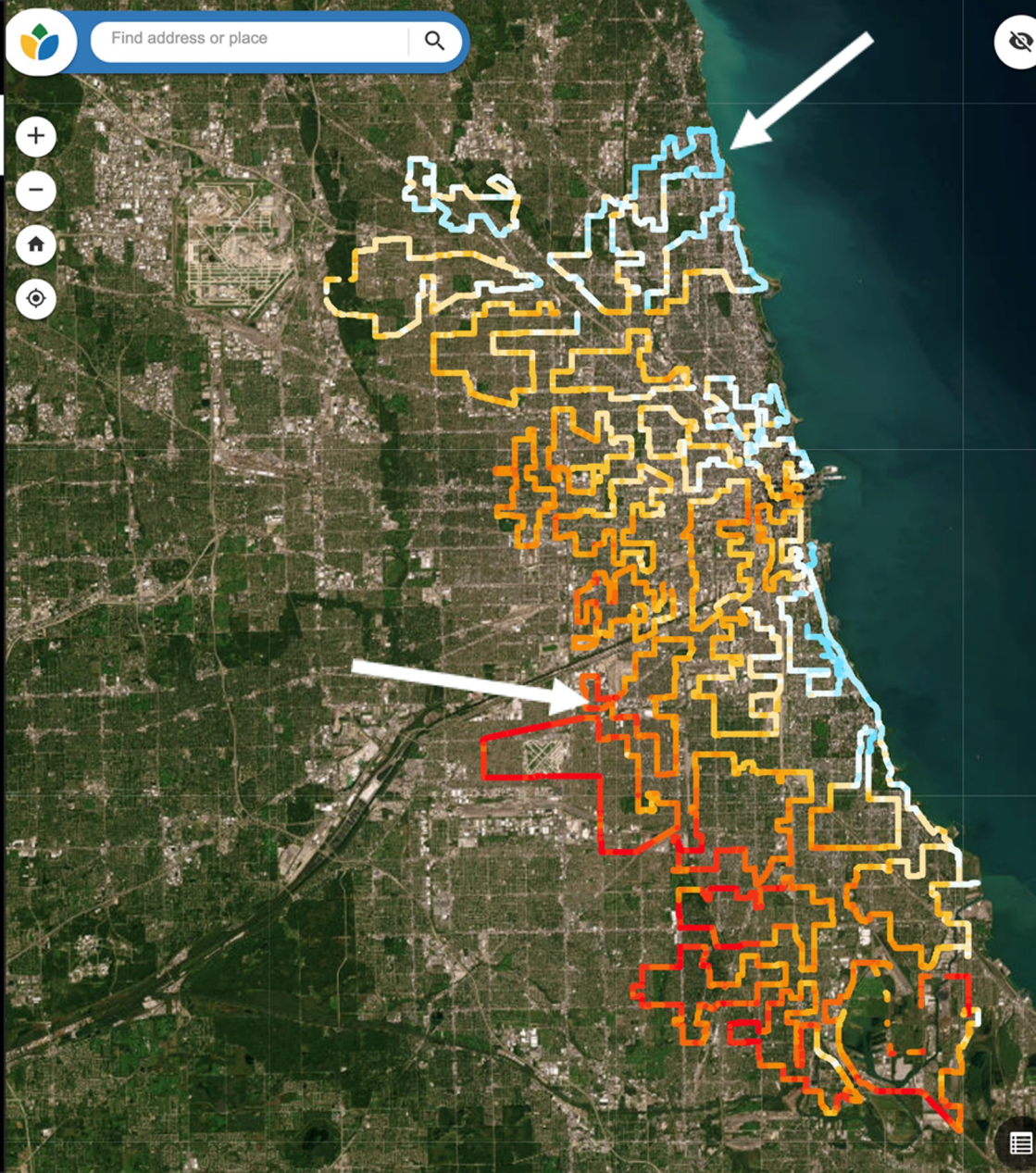
100
Volunteers

29
Routes

139,433
Measurements

99.1°
Max Temperature

22°
Max Temperature
Differential



Varied Temperatures of Afternoon Measurements

- Afternoon reading at 3:51 PM of 99.1 degrees (F) occurred in Archer Heights
- Afternoon readings at 3:27 PM of 77.1 degrees (F) occurred in Rogers Park
- Note the many difference across all 77 Community Areas

<https://chicago.gov/CoolChi>

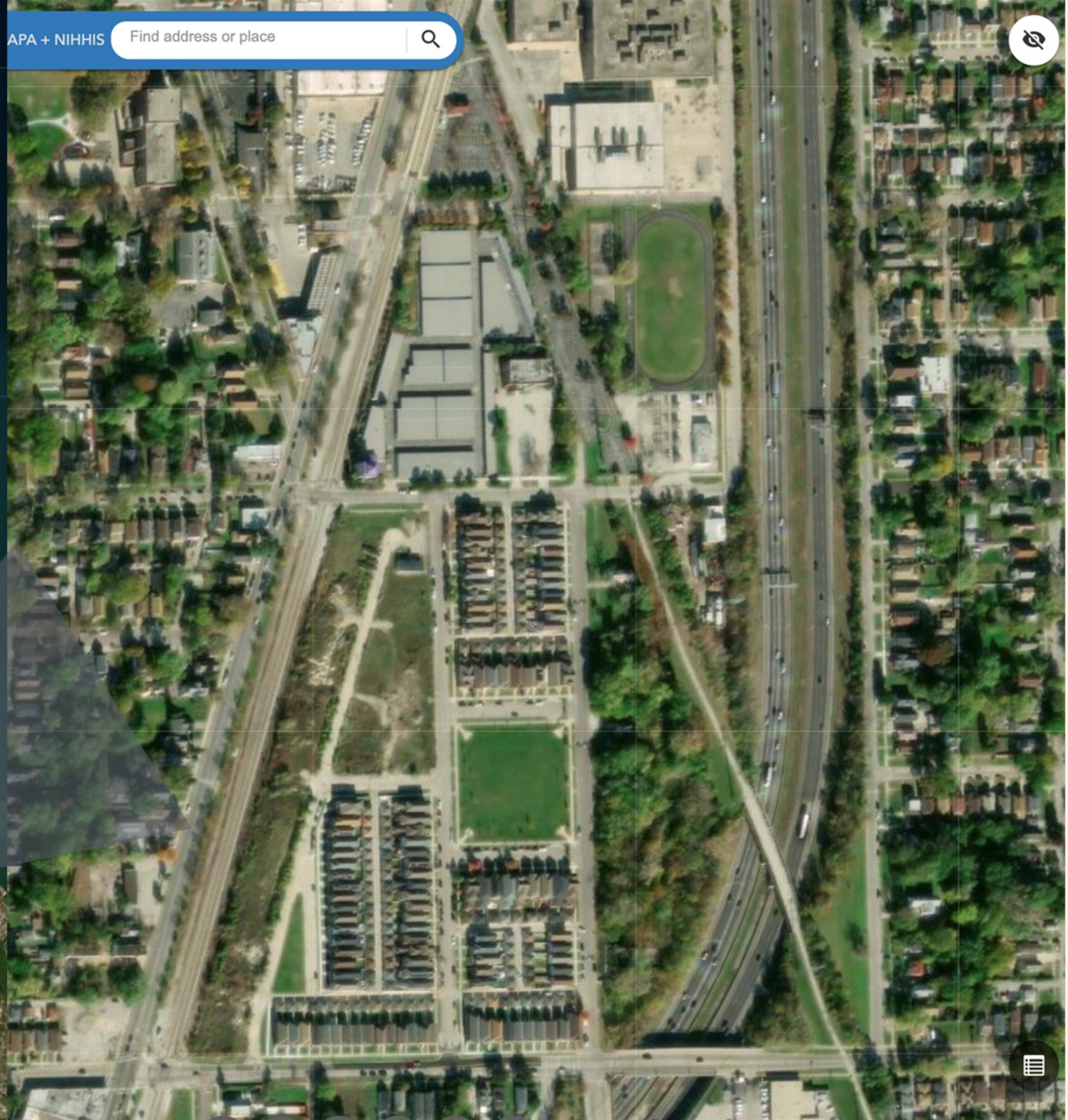
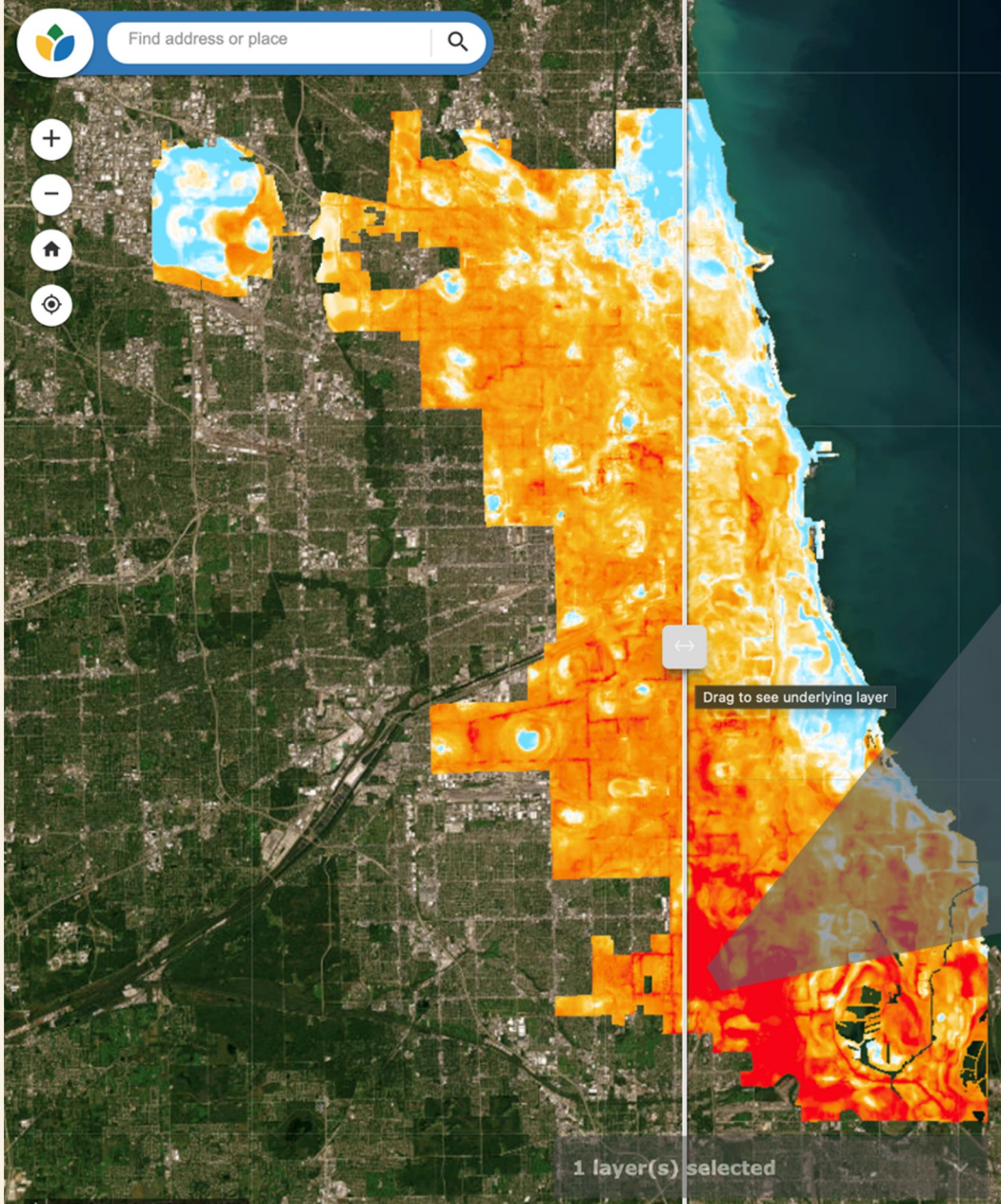


Photo courtesy CDPH.



Graphic and map courtesy of CAPA and NOAA HeatWatch Chicago Report for CDPH.

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Map courtesy of CAPA and NOAA HeatWatch
Chicago Report for CDPH

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES DAY

Variation in estimates of heat-related mortality reduction due to tree cover in U.S. cities



Photo courtesy of USFS.

Increasing tree cover by 10% reduced estimated heat-related mortality in cities significantly. In Chicago, it would:

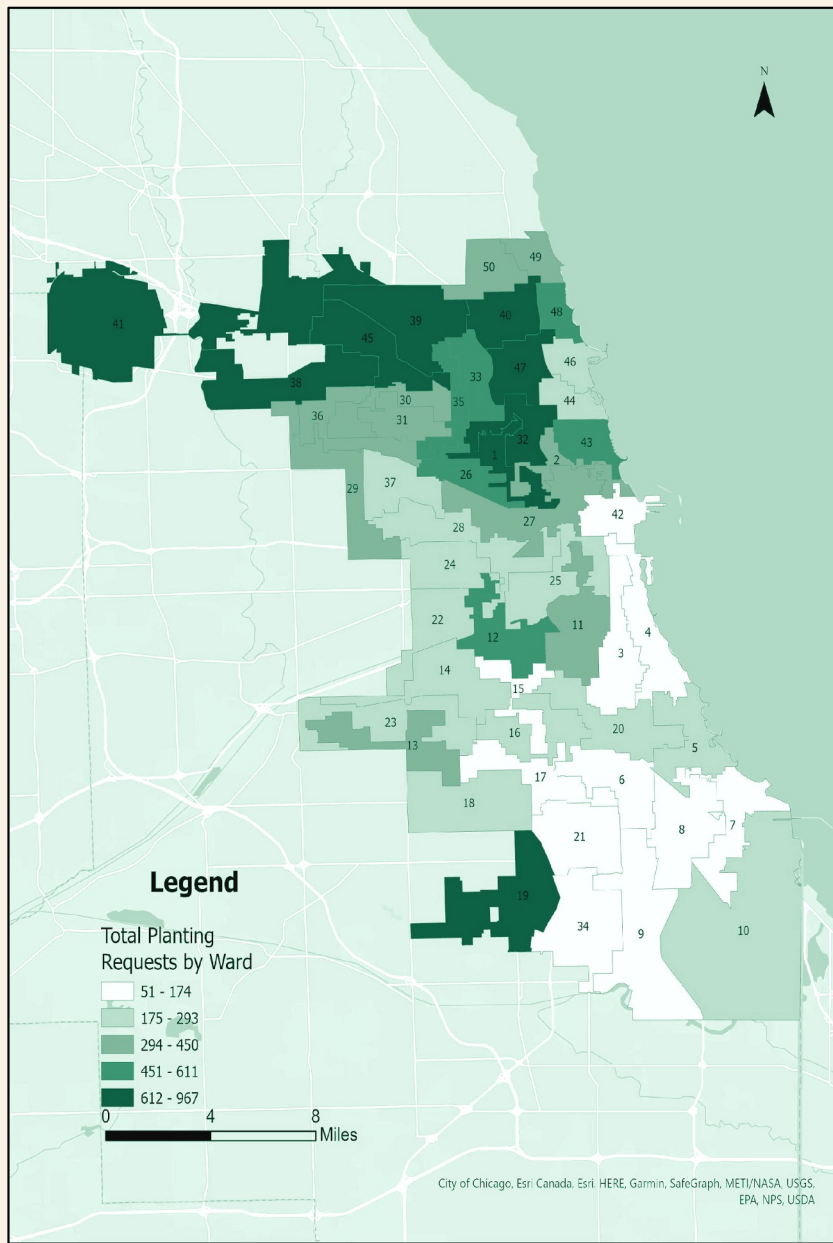
- Save **835 lives annually** on average
- Save over **\$9.8 billion in associated monetary impacts**
- Public stakeholders can also use these impact estimates for advocacy

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2021.113751>



Tree Planting Requests - Predominant Focus on 311

- **311 service requests were not evenly made across all Chicago's neighborhoods.**
 - Tree requests for planting pre-Our Roots Chicago were concentrated on northside and not replacing on southside
- **Planting requests just from residents was still not sufficient to meet new annual planting goal of 15,000 trees to be planted equitably.**
 - ~3,300 planting requests/year on average, far below the new Our Roots Chicago goal of 15,000/year
- **Interviewed CBOs, spoke with conservation organizations & advocates on capacity to plant in priority communities.**
 - No bandwidth to plant on that kind of volume.
- **Need to develop a process of driving requests from community by community:**
 - To shape the character of their neighborhood
 - Lower barriers to participation, entry for workforce development
 - Fund their time
 - Provide support



Map courtesy of BA and DSS.

Over 180 Member Tree Equity Working Group

Advocate Aurora Health
American Forests
Blacks in Green
Bush Community Children's Garden of Hope, Trees for Chicago
Chicago Park District
Chicago Department of Environment
Chicago Department of Public Health
Chicago Department of Public Health Community Safety Coordination Center
Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation Bureau of Forestry
Chicago Department of Transportation
Chicago Business Affairs and Consumer Protection
City of Chicago Mayor's Office
Chicago Muslims Green Team
Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Chicago Recycling Coalition
Chicago Wilderness
Citizens' Climate Lobby Chicago
Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community
Davey Resource Group, Inc.
DePaul University
El Paseo Community Garden
Elevated Chicago
Environmental Protection and Energy Committee
Equitable Resilience & Sustainability, LLC
Golden Gate Homeowners Association
Greater Chatham Initiative
Greencorps Chicago
Grow Greater Englewood
Growing Home

I Am Able Center
Forest Preserves of Cook County
Friends for a Natural South Chicago
Friends of the Chicago River
Friends of the Forest Preserves
Galewood Neighbors, Inc.
Illinois Environmental Council
Illinois Health and Hospital Association
Imani Village
Keep Every Citizen Safe (KECS) Block Club
Latinos Progresando
Lincoln Park Zoo
LOS Youth Center
LUCHA
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Mi Villita Neighbors (MVN)
Neighbor Space
Nordson Green Earth Foundation
North Lawndale Greening Committee
North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council's Greening Open Space Water Soil and Sustainability (NLCCC GROWSS) TREEmendous
North River Commission
Albany Park Chamber of Commerce
Northwestern University, Department of Anthropology, and Nature, Culture, and Human Health Network
Openlands
People for Community Recovery
Puerto Rican Cultural Center
Project Vision

Purdue University
Riverdale Community Association
Rush University Medical Center
Save Jackson Park
Save Your Ash Chicago
Sisters of Islam
Southeast Environmental Task Force
South Shore QLP Community Beautification/Stewardship
Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church (NLCCC GROWWS)
The Climate Reality Project Chicago Metro Chapter
The Morton Arboretum
The Nature Conservancy Illinois
The Nature Conservancy
The Partnership for Healthy Cities, Vital Strategies
The People's Council of Southeast Chicago
The Southwest Collective
The Student Conservation Association
The Trust for Public Land
Universidad Popular
University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health
US Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Regional Health Operations, Region 5
US Forest Service
Village of Oak Park Office of Sustainability & Resilience
Walder Foundation
Wayfinding, LLC
West Chesterfield Community Association
Working Family Solidarity
Women for Green Spaces (Mujeres por Espacios Verdes)
Young Men's Network Association





Photos courtesy of CDPH.



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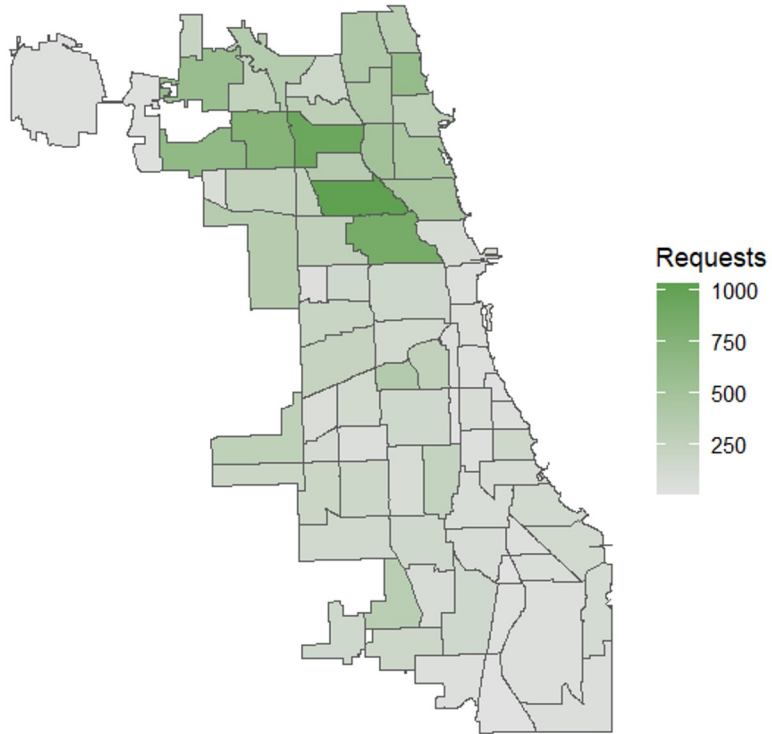


Photos courtesy of CDPH.

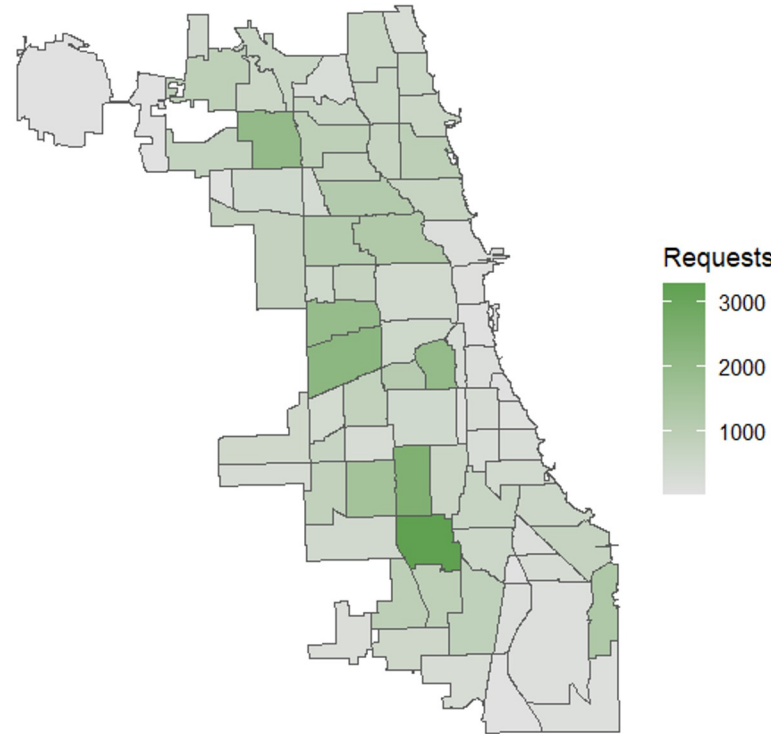


CHI 311 Requests

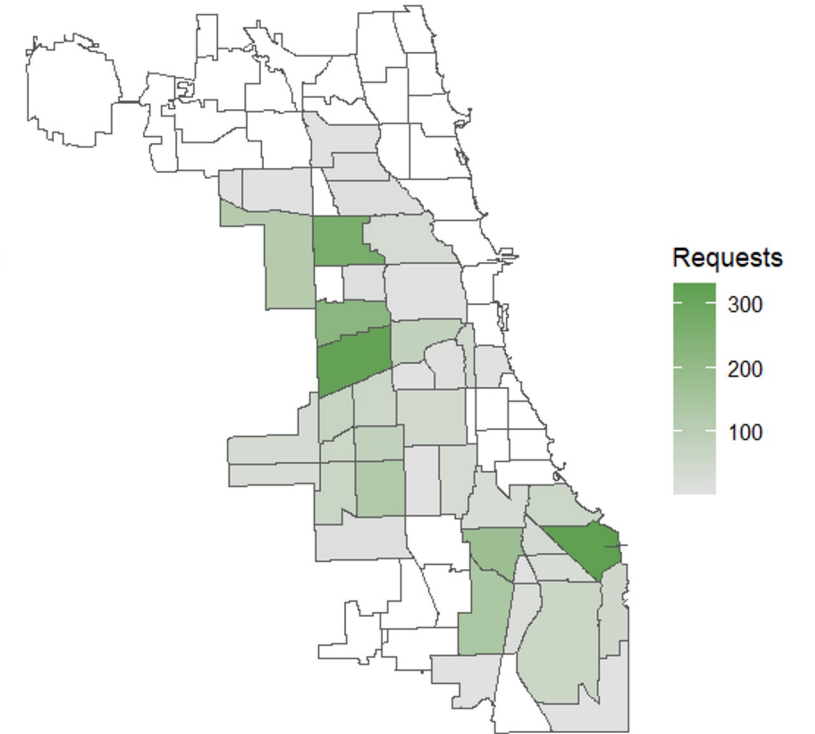
311 Requests Before 2022



311 Requests from 2022 to 2024



Tree Ambassador Requests



Graphics and Analysis of City of Chicago
Open Data Portal courtesy of CRTI .



ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES DAY

Let's take a closer look into the Tree Ambassador Program...





Grow Greater Englewood's Tree Ambassador Program training in August 2023.

Tree Ambassador Program

Goals of the Tree Ambassador Program:

- Increase tree canopy in disadvantaged communities
- Enhance tree advocacy
- Foster engagement in support of trees

Program Partners:

- City of Chicago Department of Public Health
- The Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI)
- City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation
- Community-based organizations



How does it work?



Grow Greater Englewood's (GGE) Tree Ambassador Program training in August 2023



GGE engaging with residents and putting in tree requests in CHI311 App.



Imani Village standing next to one of their newly planted trees.



Key Points

- Grant recipients will lead their own Tree Ambassador trainings
- Grant recipients will host at least two workshops per year
- Grant recipients will identify and locate a minimum of 100 resident approved tree locations
- Grant recipients will receive funding and resources to aid them



Greater Chatham Initiative in the community.



Community Partners...



Approaches By Our Partners

Tree Requests:

- Door knocking in residential areas
- Requesting in mass around vacant lots
- Hosting tabling events

Funding:

- Materials for workshops
- Stipends and salaries
- Transportation for TAP related activities



Above: **Chicago Muslims Green Team** advocating for trees in their community. Right: **Grow Greater Englewood** requesting a tree.



Left: **Friends for a Natural South Chicago** Tree Ambassadors on the field.





**2024 INTERFAITH
TREE AMBASSADOR
TRAINING**

Austin neighborhood
on May 11, 2024
hosted by Mayfield Community
Garden, Third Unitarian Church



Workshops



Workshop by **Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community**



Workshop and sapling giveaway by **Working Family Solidarity**



Workshops

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 7

LOS YOUTH CENTER

JULY

NEWSLETTER

TREE WORKSHOP

This month, we kicked off our tree-tastic workshop at the West Lawn Chicago Public Library. Our youth coordinator Giselle is officially a Tree Ambassador! The youths enjoyed a WALL-E movie night. Followed by a presentation connecting it to the importance of trees and the value they bring to our lives. Make sure to keep up with our socials to see when our next workshop will take place. Also take a look at other activities our youth engaged in!



Overview!
Let's talk about WALL-E, our favorite scenes, memorable scenes, themes.

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY



Left: LOS Youth Center hosting a workshop. Above and Right: Puerto Rican Cultural Center at two of their events.



FREE ENTRY

LOS YOUTH CENTER PRESENTS

MOVIE NIGHT & TREE WORKSHOP

TUESDAY
JULY 30, 2024

10:30AM - 12:30AM

WEST LAWN LIBRARY
4020 W 63rd St
Chicago, IL 60629

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

CHI | CDPH

LATINO ORGANIZATION

LOS

Our tree ambassadors have added 65 TREES to the SW side canopy!

EL PASEO COMMUNITY GARDEN

Do you know of a parkway (between the sidewalk and curb) that could use a FREE tree? Let us know!

bit.ly/epcgtreerequest

CDPH

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

CHICAGO REGION TREES INITIATIVE

The Morton Arboretum

THE CHAMPION OF TREES

Arbor Day Foundation

VECINOS DE LA VILLITA

ESTA PRIMAVERA

!Te invitamos a plantar arboles!

!AYUDALOS!

COMO ELLOS LO HACEN CON NOSOTROS:

Reduce la obesidad y enfermedades cardiacas

Limpian el aire de contaminantes

Reduce posibles inundaciones

Ahorra dinero en calefaccion y refrigeracion

CHICAGO

CHICAGO

En Chicago el alcantarillado, tuberias de agua y gas son profundas. No se preocupe, las raices de los arboles NO rompen las lineas de alcantarillado de su casa

Info: mi.villita.org@gmail.com

2856 S. Millard Ave., Basement, Chicago, IL. 60623

<https://www.facebook.com/mi.villita.90>

<https://www.instagram.com/mivillitamicomunidad/>

(312) 772-5284

IMANI VILLAGE

IMANI GREEN HEALTH ADVOCATES PRESENT

Plant a Tree and Hope for the Future

A chance for you to learn about how trees benefit homeowners and to sign up for a free tree.

From 2-4pm on October 5 at Avalon Branch Library
8148 S Stony Island Ave

Register at Eventbrite
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/724160602857?aff=oddtcreator>

Free Parkway Tree

[Click this link to have the City plant a tree for you!](#)

Friends for a Natural South Chicago is working with Our Roots Chicago to bring free street trees to the southeast side. Renters & homeowners can receive a tree.

The trees will be professionally planted by the City this Spring or Fall 2023.

Trees:

- Improve air quality
- Lower rates of asthma
- Reduce flooding
- Lower stress levels
- Save money on air conditioning

Friends for a Natural South Chicago

CHICAGO REGION TREES INITIATIVE

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

CHICAGO

GALEWOOD NEIGHBORS

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

IT BEGINS WITH ONE TREE

NEED ONE OR TWO IN YOUR PARKWAY?

Galewood Neighbors is one of many neighborhood organizations working with the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (www.chicagortrees.org), The Morton Arboretum, Chicago's Department of Public Health, and Department of Forestry to restore our tree canopy.

Watch for our volunteer tree ambassadors coming to your street. They'll connect with you, evaluate your parkway and get that tree ordered.

Planting trees helps communities grow

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

I SPEAK FOR THE TREES

Ready for a tree? Email us!
Beth - beth@galewoodneighbors.org or Tom - chilstedt@sbcglobal.net

You are invited!

Tree Ambassador Training

Friday, May 5, 2023
4 - 6 PM

Location:
Masjid Al Farooq
8950 S Stony Island Ave, Chicago, IL. 60617

FREE

For more info & to register, visit:
bit.ly/cmgt-tap

or scan here:

City data shows that our urban tree canopy is not equally distributed across Chicago. Let's learn how to help our prioritized neighborhoods enjoy the benefits of trees & improve our quality of life.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "There is none amongst the Muslims who plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird or a person or an animal eats from it, but is regarded as a charitable gift for him." (BUKHARI)

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

CHICAGO

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

CHICAGO

MASJID AL FAROOQ

GALEWOOD TREE WALK

SUNDAY JUNE 2nd
10:00 am - noon

MEET AT THE CORNER OF NATCHEZ AND BLOOMINGDALE

MEET A LICENSED ARBORIST & GALEWOOD'S TREE AMBASSADORS

JOIN US AND LEARN: HOW TO IDENTIFY TREES CARE FOR TREES, YOUNG AND OLD THE IMPACT OF PARKWAY TREES

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT!

TO RSVP, EMAIL:
TOM - CHILSTEDT@SBCGLOBAL.NET
BETH - BETH@GALEWOODNEIGHBORS.ORG

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

CHICAGO

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

CHICAGO

MASJID AL FAROOQ

The Greater Chatham Initiative, and the Morton Arboretum presents

On Saturday, July 27, 2024
10am-11:30 am

Brown Memorial Park,
634 E 86th Street, Chicago, IL 60619

Rain alternative event place is Seaway Self-Help Credit,
639 E 87th Street, Chicago, IL, 60619.

Plant a Tree & Improve Our Future

Learn how you or the City of Chicago can plant trees

Tree care, benefits, and myths

Chatham resident, Dr. Doug Williams, landscape architect and tree specialist will speak and demonstrate tree planting.

Register at Eventbrite, Watch out for tree ambassadors coming to your street. They will connect with you, evaluate your land, and order a tree.

Did you know that trees:

- Reduce flooding
- Improve air quality
- Reduce the heat island effect
- Save money on air conditioning
- Increase property values
- Improve health and well-being

Please register on Eventbrite using the QR code below:

Ready for a tree? Email gerald@galewoodneighbors.org

TREE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

- LIKE TREES, WALKS, & CHATTING?
- VOLUNTEER A COUPLE OF HOURS EACH MONTH
- LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VALUE AND BENEFITS OF TREES
- BRING MORE TREES TO GALEWOOD & AUSTIN

TRAINING:
SAT 4/20 @ 1230-2PM
RUTHERFORD SAYRE PARK

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

CHICAGO

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

CHICAGO

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

A Partnership



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization



GREATER
Chatham
INITIATIVE



CHICAGO REGION
TREES INITIATIVE



ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES DAY

THANK YOU!

Please feel free to connect by sending us
an email at

mescobar@mortonarb.org

and

raed.mansour@cityofchicago.org

