

# PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

## 2024 CONFERENCE



# BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CANOPY THROUGH COMMUNITY: ABQ NEIGHBORWOODS



PRESENTED BY:

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Tree New Mexico

# ABOUT US

Tree New Mexico is dedicated to helping communities plant and care for trees in urban areas — large and small — throughout The Land of Enchantment.





# What is ABQ Neighbor- Woods?





What is ABQ NWoods?

# Building Canopy One Neighborhood at a Time

Planting 100 trees in chosen  
neighborhood

Giving away 100 more trees in same  
neighborhood

Providing tree education to tree  
adopters





55

Neighborhoods Planted

Since 2017

9,388

**Trees added to the canopy**

Since 2017

Why ABQ NWoods?

**“Albuquerque faces a crisis where a majority of the shade-producing tree canopy could be lost over the next decade.”**

- The Nature Conservancy's *Climate Ready Trees* Report

canopy age are major factors in the decline. Climate change is amplifying the UHI effects with increasing temperatures and altered precipitation patterns, which will greatly affect Albuquerque's urban trees. Tree species that practitioners have been planting for years are no longer viable options. Sun scorch, drought stress, new pests, disease and other tree health problems are increasingly prevalent.

The last major tree planting campaign in New Mexico took place nearly a century ago. Many of the largest shade trees in Albuquerque today are the Siberian elms (*Ulmus pumila*, now considered an invasive species) planted during that campaign that alone account for 25% of Albuquerque's canopy cover.<sup>1</sup> Roughly 60% of Albuquerque's trees are younger or smaller stature trees with a trunk diameter of six inches or less that contribute limited shade.

**Albuquerque faces a crisis where a majority of the shade-producing tree canopy could be lost over the next decade.**

The Nature Conservancy is part of a concerted



Why ABQ NWoods?

# 85% of plant-able space is located on private land

1930's: last major tree planting effort

~60% of trees are less than 6" in diameter

Climate change, Urban Heat Index, and heat waves are a reality already affecting New Mexican communities

"Zero"-scaping is commonplace





Why ABQ NWoods?

**85% of plant-able space is located on**





















The need for more tree canopy is clear.

# We can't create a sustainable urban canopy without engaging our community.

Community  
buy-in  
leads to:

Proper tree  
placement  
and planting

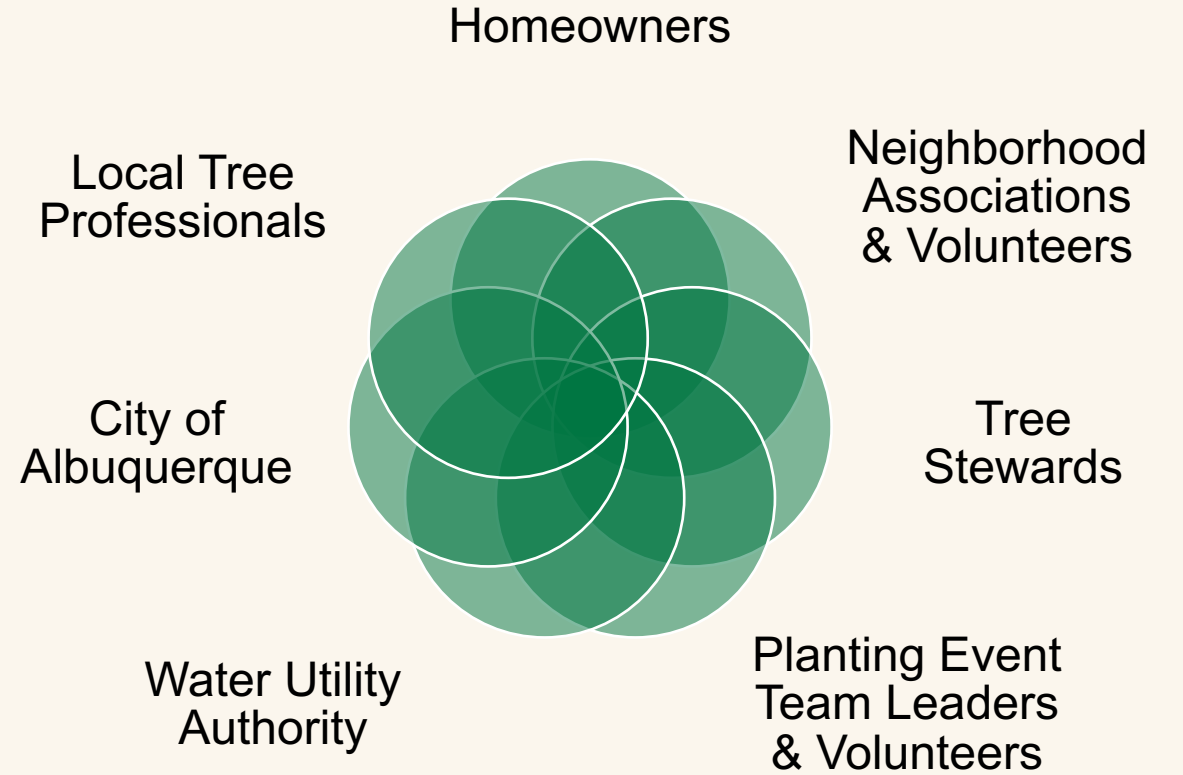
Post-planting  
education and  
follow up







# Who is our community?







# Collaborating with City of ABQ and Water Authority

## City of Albuquerque

- Parks & Rec and City Councilors fund the program
- Urban Forestry Department helps with tree placement approvals

## Water Utility Authority

- Provides 'Treebates' to homeowners





# Engaging Neighborhoods and Homeowners

## Neighborhoods

- Residents can ask for the program to come to their neighborhood.
- Volunteers from the neighborhoods help with canvassing and signing up their own neighbors

## Homeowners

- Get a choice in the trees and where they go in their yard
  - This helps with tree survivability!





# Collaborating with Local Tree Experts

## Arborists

- Planting
- Education

## Tree Care Companies

- Providing Mulch
- Digging Holes Pre-planting

## Landscape Architects

- Approving Tree Placements

## Tree Nurseries

- Providing TreeNM with 400+ trees every season





# Engaging Planting Volunteers

**We make it as easy as possible for our volunteers!**

- No tree planting experience needed
- Holes are pre-dug
- Trees are delivered pre-planting
- Each team is only planting 5-7 trees
- Only 2-3 hours on a Saturday morning



**65-80+**

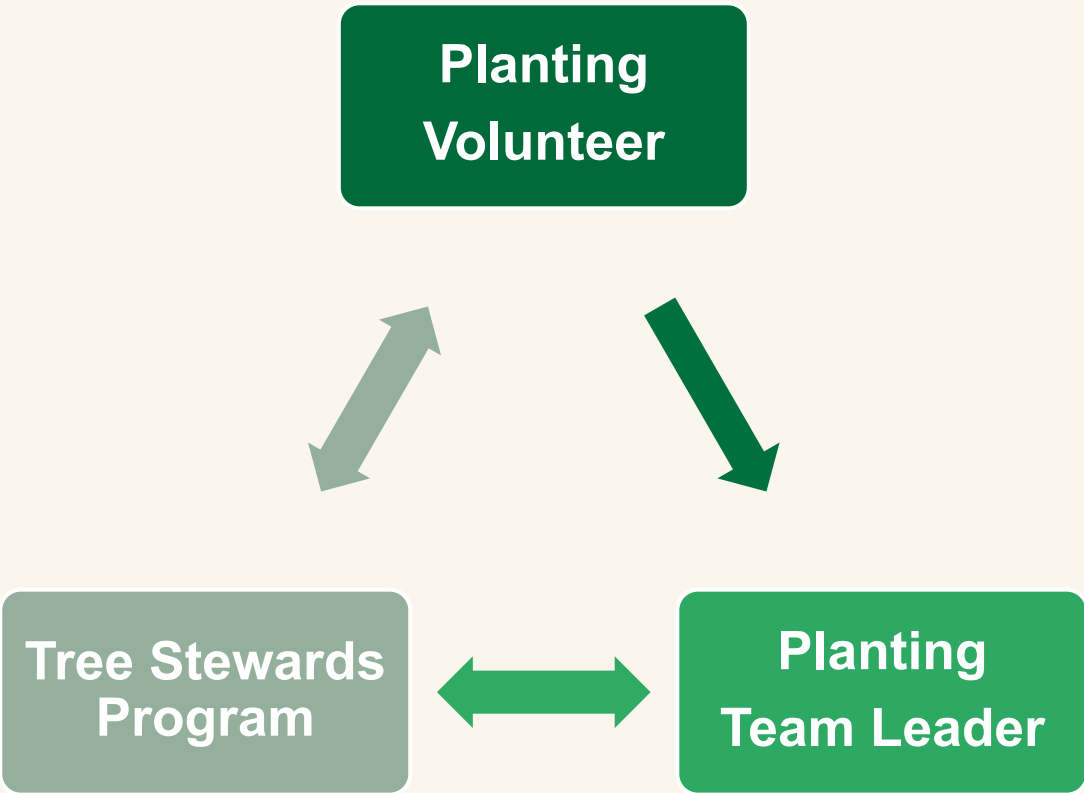
**Tree Planting Volunteers**

Per planting





# Increasing Involvement







# Cultivating Team Leaders

## Team Leaders ensure all our trees are planted correctly

- Complete three classes to ensure they are ready to plant
- Lead groups of 3-5 planting volunteers
- Many have been with us 3+ years



~35

## Trained Team Leaders

That help throughout our season





# Tree Stewards Program

## A 12-week course for people who:

- love trees
- love their community
- want to support the healthy growth of both

## Topics covered include:

- Tree anatomy
- Soil science
- Tree ID
- Urban Forestry
- Tree Diagnostics
- Tree Planting and pruning

## Continuing Education

- After the program is finished, more continuing education classes are offered





# Tree Stewards volunteer with us in every aspect of our program!

Monitoring Planted Trees

Canvassing Neighborhoods

Teaching Tree Education Classes

Tree 'House Calls'

Planting Team Leader

Watering trees at nursery





# We stay engaged with the community after planting.

## Tree Care Resources

- Detailed Care Instructions
- Tree Steward House Calls

## Tree Care Classes

- Tree care class is offered in the neighborhood after planting and giveaway
- Library classes





# We follow the planted trees for the first 3 years.

## Homeowners receive tips on how to better care for their trees

- Watering
- Staking
- Pruning

## Data collected informs future decisions

- Tree species selection
- Tree placements
- Areas to better educate



# 78.2%

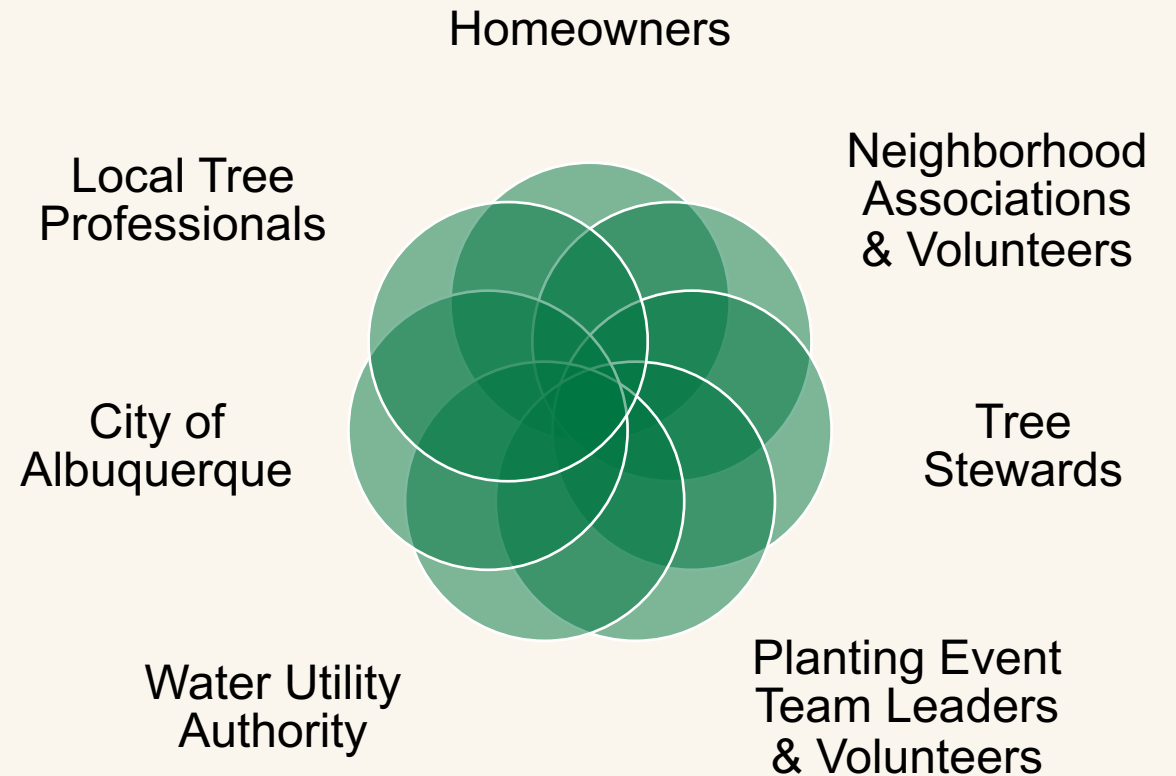
## Survival Rate

Trees from 2017-2021 with 3-year audit completed





# We couldn't do it without all these people!







# Thank you.

**Ray Hendrix**

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ABQ NeighborWoods Program

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