

Accelerating Climate Resilience Case Study: Strategic Tree Planting Initiative in Beverly

Project Snapshot

Project Lead	City of Beverly
Project Partner	Bartlett Tree Experts
Grant Round	FY21
Grant Funding	\$75,000

ACR Program Priorities



Nature-based solutions for climate resilience such as reducing urban heat island



Improvements to social resiliency or cohesion

Through this program, 70 trees across a range of species were planted trees in the City of Beverly, addressing urban heat island.

The Strategic Tree Planting Initiative in Beverly planted 70 trees in targeted neighborhoods to mitigate urban heat islands. Utilizing satellite hotspot data and the MAPC Climate Smart Cities decision-support tool, the project strategically expanded the urban canopy cover. Tree species from small, hardy crabapple trees for confined areas under power lines to regal maples with expansive tree canopy were selected and took root in April 2021. Community engagement included educational events such as the Beverly Earth Fest with Green Beverly and other efforts in partnership with Change is Simple. This initiative not only advanced the city's climate action goals but also established a foundation for ongoing urban forestry and community involvement in sustainability efforts.

This project advanced climate resiliency efforts by:

- **Expanding community engagement** with organized educational events, such as Earth Fest and school programs to raise awareness about climate change and the importance of nature-based solutions.
- **Creating long-term impact** by incorporating urban heat considerations into the city's climate and resilience planning and prioritizing high-heat areas with native tree species.



Tree planting site in Beverly

Project Outcomes

- 70** Trees of various species were planted
- 1000+** Community members attended the Beverly Earth Fest
- 300+** Emails collected from event, expanding the cities reach

Lessons Learned



The project highlighted the need for early planning, particularly around Arbor Day.



The importance of engaging with the community through events and educational activities.

Tips & Tricks



Utilize analytical tools like GIS for decision-making in urban forestry.



Ensure collaboration with local stakeholders for more effective implementation of urban trees.

Looking Forward

The Strategic Tree Planting Initiative continues to address challenges on scaling a tree planting programs by hosting several discussions between executive leadership and Forest and Grounds staff to identify opportunities and funding sources. Incentivization of 'greening' and prioritizing trees in new private development areas will be implemented through forthcoming design standards that will initially apply to limited ROW space available for trees. The City eagerly anticipates the significant impact of trees and their growing canopies in reducing hot spots over the coming years.