ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES DAY

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY CONFERENCE 2026

Jack McDonnell
SavATree
ISA Certified Arborist MW-6253A

BEYOND HOUSING

Strengthening families and transforming communities to create a stronger, more equitable, and prosperous St. Louis—*once and for all.*



Addressing a comprehensive range of needs

Addressing needs holistically

Working in close partnership with the community

Creating lasting change

Where We Work: The 24:1 Community



Population: 36,000+

Median household income: $34,738

Percentage of households living in poverty: 29%

Percentage of children living in poverty: 47%

Highest rates of respiratory illness in St. Louis County



Beyond Housing's Forestry and Community Conservation Department

- Department with five full time employees and one intern
- Technician team to perform long term stewardship of Ecological Sites
- Plant, Water and Maintain Over 550 Trees a Year
- Serve as the community foresters and municipal arborists for the region.
- Assist with grant and project management for ecological work for municipalities and organizations in the 24:1

Overview of Forestry and Community Conservation Programs



For Municipalities and Organizations:

Funding, Project Planning & Management, Labor, and Technical Expertise

Forestry Management

Natural Resource Management

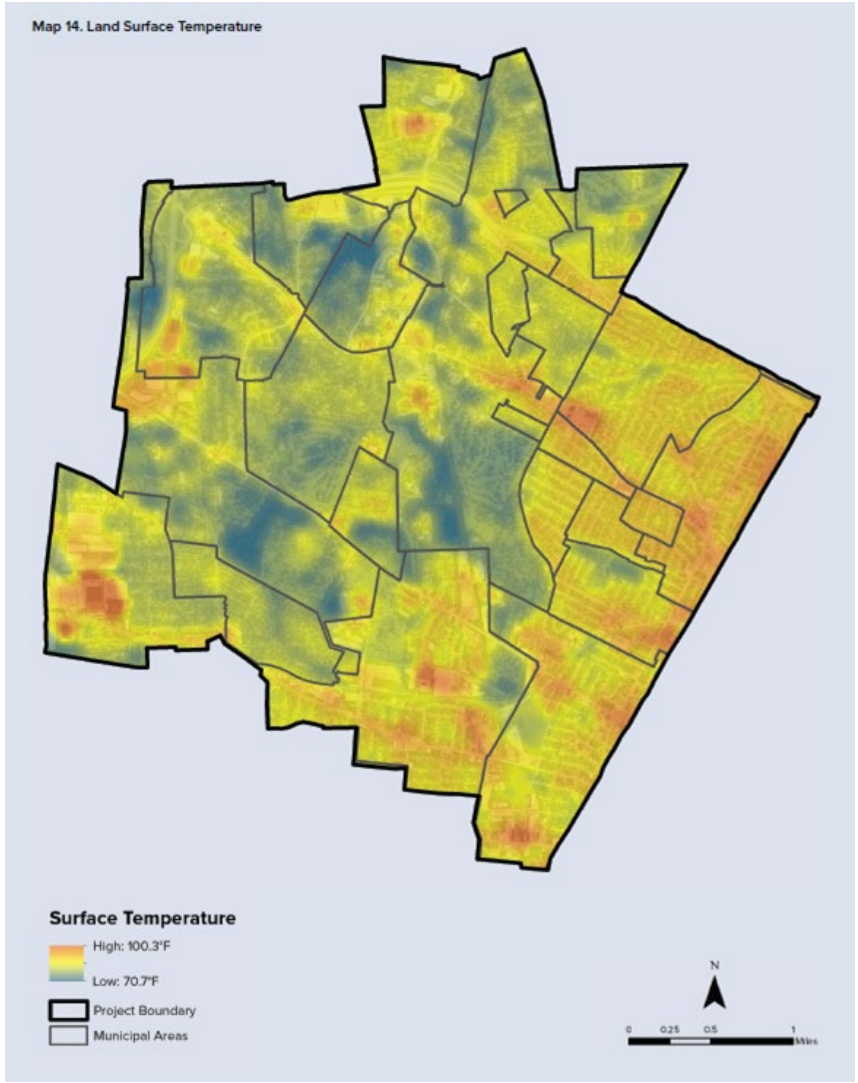


For Residents

Tree and Native Plant Guidance: Support Community Groups with Tree Planting and Native Plant Gardens

Free Trees and Shrubs!

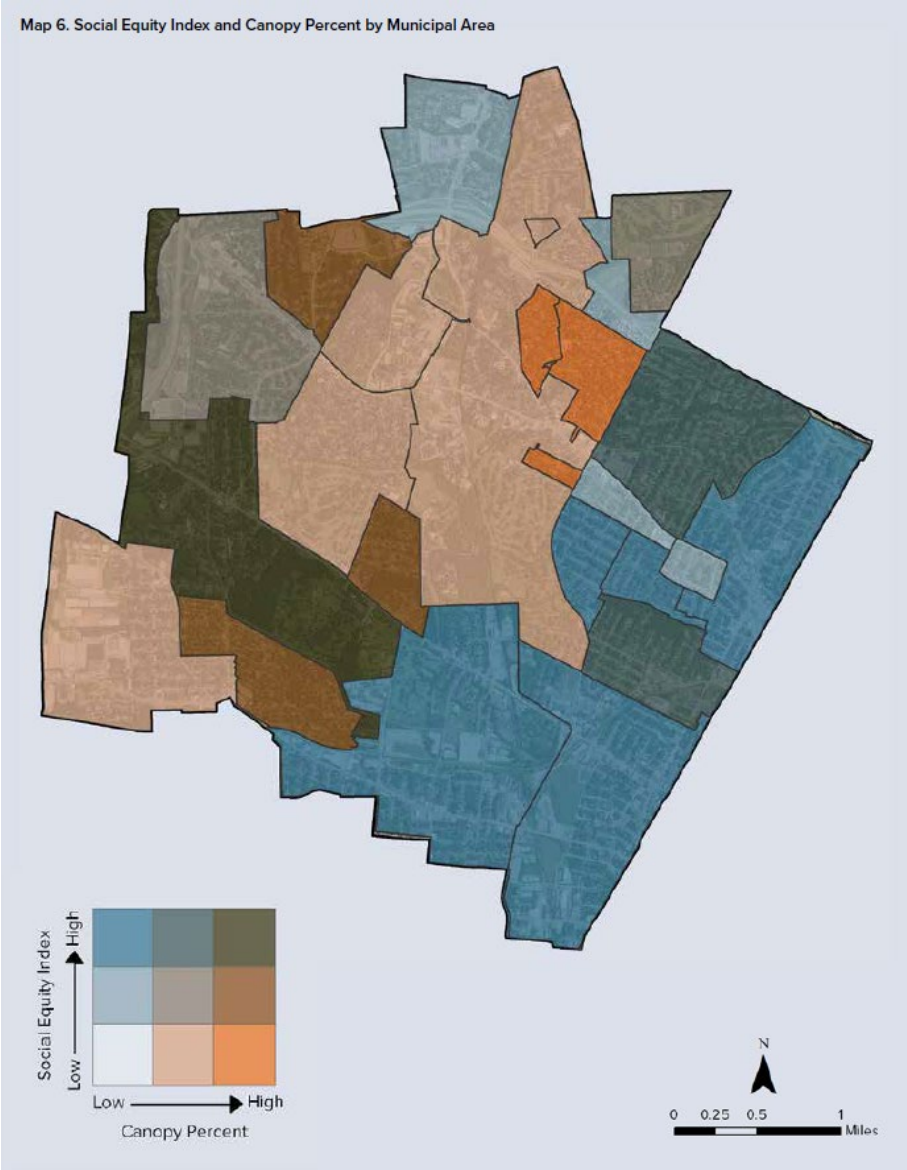
Treesilience: Removal and Mitigation of Hazardous Trees on Private Property



State of the 24:1 Canopy

•In 2021 we completed a Tree Canopy Assessment Study in partnership with the EPA, MDC, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri and Davey Resource Group

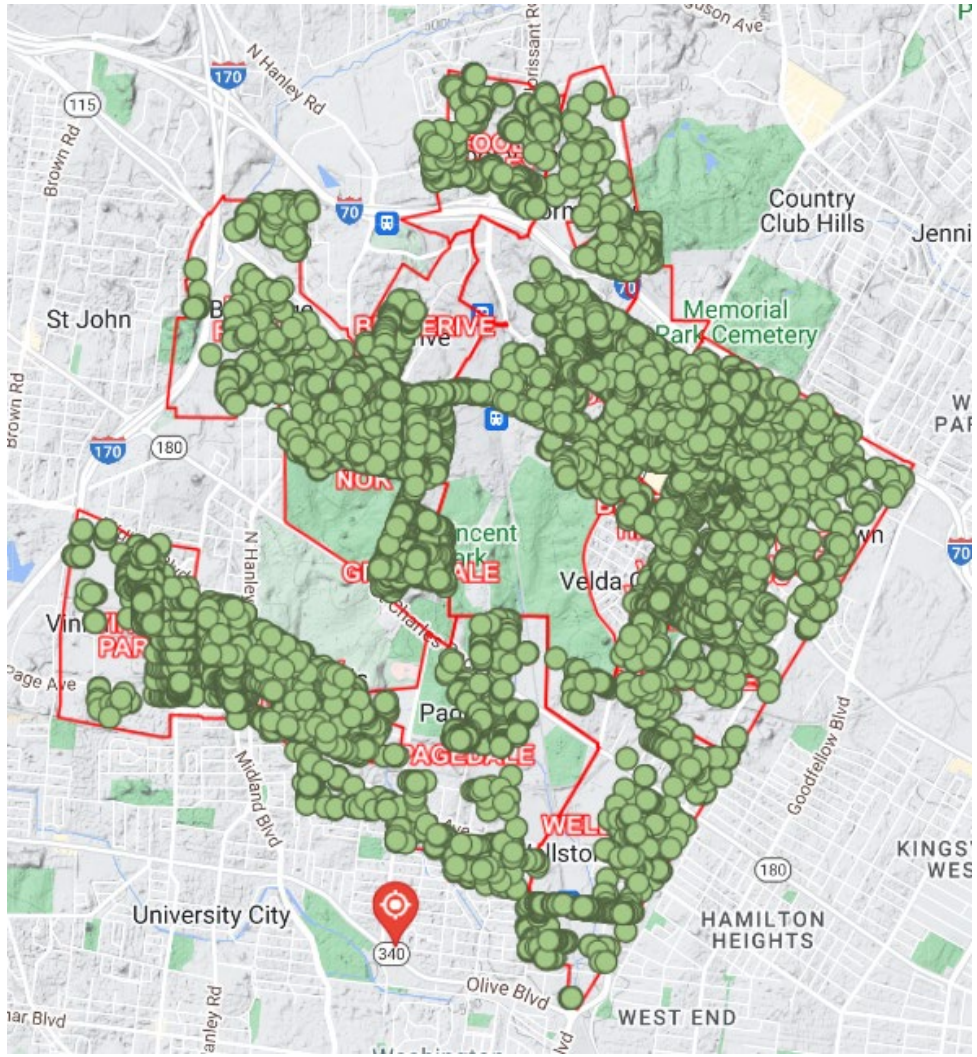
- 30% Canopy Coverage Over all
- Estimated $1.2 Million in Benefits
- Comprehensive analysis of tree planting priority based on social equity, stormwater mitigation, and heat island zones.
- Created canopy reestablishment goals that resulted in increasing our tree replanting goals by over 750%



Establishing Priority Areas and Planting Goals based on Canopy Study

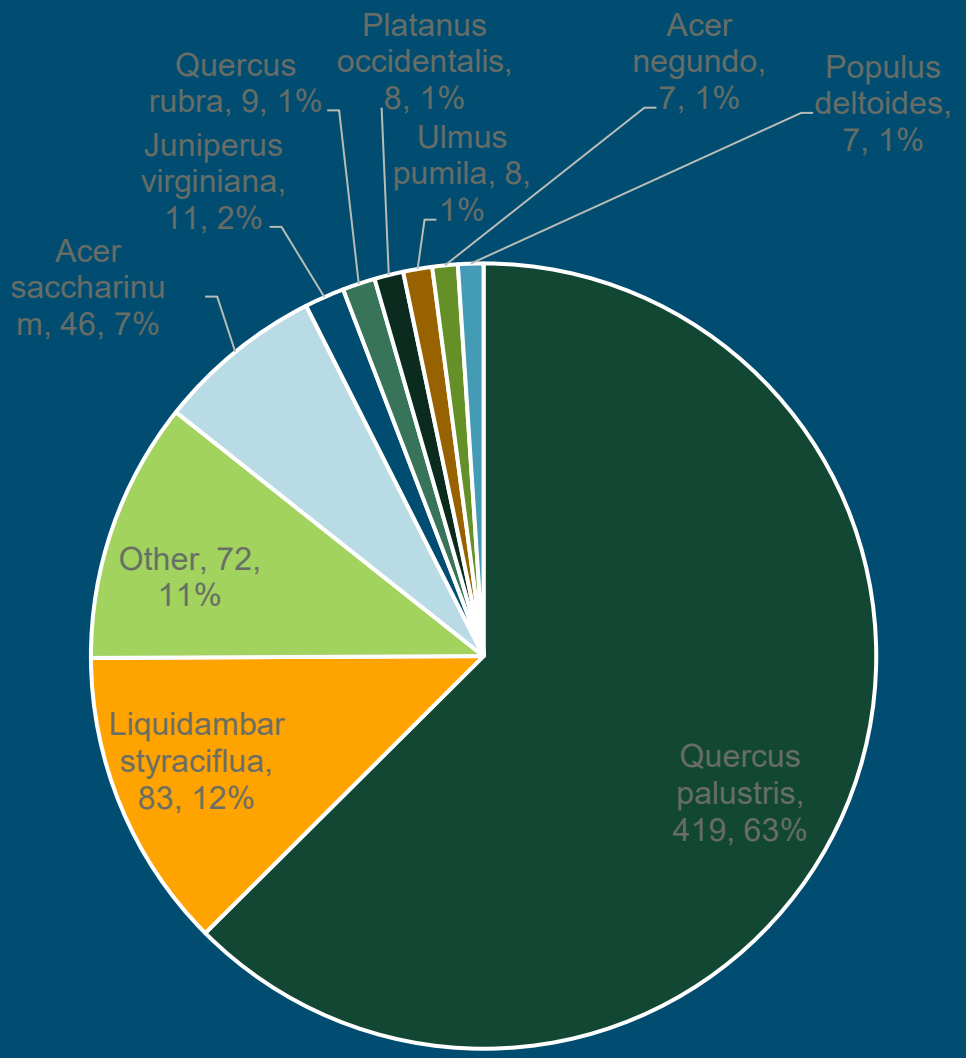
Table 14. Scenario Scope for Ten Years

	Scenario 1: Natural Mortality	Scenario 2: Linear Trend	Scenario 3: High and Very High locations planted	Scenario 4: All available planting locations planted
Method	Assumed Natural Mortality (2.5%), No Planting	Canopy Trend Same as last 10 Years (+0.8%)	Planting + Natural Mortality	Planting + Natural Mortality
Trees Planted Annually	0	397	4,891	10,751
Acres Lost Over 10 years	55	0	55	55
Acres Planted Over 10 years	0	60	741	1,629
Trees Planted Over 10 years	0	3,968	48,906	107,514
Resulting Canopy at Year 10 (Acres)	2,162	2,278	2,904	3,792
Resulting Canopy at Year 10 (Percent)	28.8%	30.3%	38.6%	50%
Annual Planting Costs	$0	$190,442	$2,347,488	$5,160,672
Total Planting Costs	$0	$1,904,417	$23,474,880	$51,606,720



MUNICIPAL FORESTRY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Complete Municipal Tree Inventories of 21 Municipalities. Soon to include all 24:1 Municipalities
- Perform Annual Level 1 Tree Risk Assessments of all Municipally Owned Trees in Public Areas.
- Require High-Quality Work Specifications.
- Provide Recommendations to Municipalities for Pruning and Removal Work
- Facilitate and Perform Tree Planting Targeted at Storm Water, Air Quality and Heat Island Mitigation
- Collaborative Bidding Process that Maximizes Buying Power



Species Composition of Street Trees in Hanley Hills

Building a Culture of Community Forestry

Craft Forestry Management Plans for Partners Based on Their Needs and Capacity

Facilitate 14 Municipal Tree Boards and Tree City USA Certifications

Host a Collaborative Arbor Day Celebration which serves as a Field Day for Normandy Schools Collaborative Students

Passed the First Long Term Forestry Strategic Plan in the 24:1

Facilitate Tree Board Led Tree Planting Events



Facilitating Treesilience Inspired Programs

City of Pine Lawn allocated $50,000 for a Treesilience Program of their own

Beyond Housing provided tree risk inspection reports to the municipality and held the bid process

Will install the replacement trees at no cost to the city

Vacant Lot and Woodland Remediation Program

Our Native Stewardship Team currently manages 12 acres of woodland restorations and prairie reconstructions

Provides substantial ecological benefits.

Reduces labor required by municipal public works from mowing.

Replaces overgrown sites with high quality woodland restorations





SUMMER 2023



WINTER 2023-2024



SUMMER 2025



Invasive Mitigation and Habitat Restoration in the 24:1

- In 2024 we began working with municipalities and organizations for invasive plant management.
- Collaborating with MDC, we secured funding to mitigate 9.5 Acres infested with invasive plants like bush honeysuckle, wintercreeper, and kudzu
- Beginning of our woodland restoration stewardship program
- Lead the 24:1 Kudzu Coalition
- Hosted multiple workshops for 24:1 public works employees regarding safe pesticide use and invasive plant ID

What Has Worked For Us

"Ask, Align, Act"

Maintain a Comprehensive Set of Services in a Small Footprint

Be the Liaison of Other Organizations to Do Great Things

Recognize the Limitations of Those You Are Trying to Assist

- If you want to meet them where they are, take the time to learn exactly where that is.

Make Sure it's Sustainable

- Do we have a plan in place that will result in positive outcomes after 5 years? 10 years?

Always be Looking For More Partnerships

