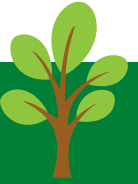




# Speak for the Trees

## Boston

### ANNUAL REPORT 2020



## OUR MISSION

Speak For The Trees was founded in 2018, and though the world changed drastically in 2020 we continue to pursue our mission of improving the equity, health, and size of Boston's urban forest. This year saw many changes in our day-to-day operations, but the core of our work remained the same: community outreach and education, tree plantings and giveaways, public advocacy, and ongoing research into Boston's urban environment.

## 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



75 in East Boston



75 in Hyde Park

In 2020 we distributed over 600 trees!



100 trees mailed



400+ seedlings given



5,000+ trees inventoried



15 teens hired



5 community stories



12 volunTREEs



100+ volunteer hours



120 trees saved

## 2021 GOALS



Distribute and plant 1,000 trees



Hire and train 20 teens in urban forestry



Educate 750 BPS students



Engage 750 residents



Train 50 new volunTREEs

Follow us to stay up to date on our work



[treeboston.org](https://treeboston.org)



@Trees\_Boston

# TEEN URBAN TREE CORPS

While this past year was more digital than anyone anticipated, we are excited to report the success of our 2020 Teen Urban Tree Corps program! Over the summer, we hired 15 teens from the Boston area and asked them to explore five community forests in Boston. In the process of learning about the distinct urban environments of North Dorchester, South Dorchester, Hyde Park, West Roxbury, and Roslindale, the teens took walks, learned how to interview neighbors, and developed multimedia stories and written reports to share their findings. Four of the teens stayed on with us into the fall to continue their work.



My goal... is to go back to school to get a masters degree in forestry and dedicate myself to that career path. Deciding forestry is where I want to spend my life was a huge realization for me. I would have never discovered it without Speak for the Trees.



-Logan Simmons  
TUTC Team Leader

## NEIGHBORHOOD STORIES

Last summer, 15 Boston teens explored the past, present, and future of 5 of Boston's community forests and wrote reports and created videos based on what they learned. See their work online at [treeboston.org/teen-urban-tree-corps-2020/](https://treeboston.org/teen-urban-tree-corps-2020/)



### North Dorchester

"The amount of green space in North Dorchester bears a striking resemblance to the minority population percentages ... which can be traced back to the history of redlining in Boston"



### South Dorchester

"We interviewed community residents and leaders to get a better understanding of what residents experience and how people can then take action from there."



### Roslindale

"Roslindale is one of the few neighborhoods in Boston with enough trees to lower summer temperatures and reduce air pollution well enough to provide health benefits to its residents"



### Hyde Park

"Without the benefits of a substantial tree canopy, many African-American residents continue to live without shade and filtered air."



### West Roxbury

"With the neighborhood's tree lined streets & plentiful green spaces, West Roxbury & its residents continue to benefit from its mature urban forest."



# ADVOCACY

## The Trees of Melnea Cass Boulevard

The 370 trees lining Melnea Cass Blvd in Lower Roxbury have long been threatened by a looming reconstruction project. When the threat became imminent this past summer, SFTT joined forces with residents and The Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard (FMCB) to advocate for the trees. Residents and community members joined together to insist that their health matters and that their voices must be heard. Through a sustained advocacy campaign, the city paused and then agreed to stop the project. Today the city and the FMCB are working closely together to develop a new greenway that will be designed and informed by a community-led process.



Melnea Cass Boulevard — and its trees — stand as a testament to the power of a community coming together to preserve public health

Melissa Hoffer,  
Chief of Energy and  
Environment Bureau of the  
Attorney General's office

We live in times when we have to keep all the trees we have. The trees are essential to us.

Yvonne Lalyre  
Roxbury Resident and  
member of Friends of Melnea  
Cass Boulevard





# TREE GIVEAWAYS

In 2020, we gave away 150 5-gallon trees to Boston residents

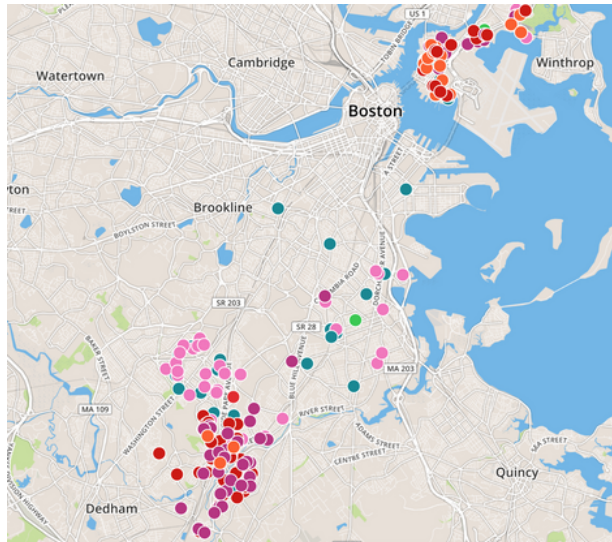
## HYDE PARK

At our Hyde Park tree giveaway in May we gave away over 75 trees. We followed up with the new tree owners in the months after the giveaway to ensure the longevity of the trees. We gave away Eastern Redbud, Yoshino Cherry, and Northern Red Oak trees at this giveaway.



## EAST BOSTON

At our East Boston tree giveaway in October, we gave away or planted over 75 trees. This giveaway was drive up style so residents could come by and pick a tree. We followed up with the proud new tree owners in the months after the giveaway.



Over the next 20 years these trees will

Save



25,381 kWh of  
electricity

Sequester



20,615 lbs of  
carbon

Prevent



122,033 gal of  
storm runoff

Remove



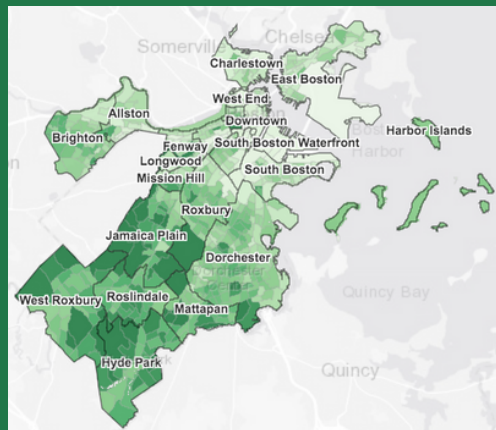
122 lbs of  
pollutants

Provide

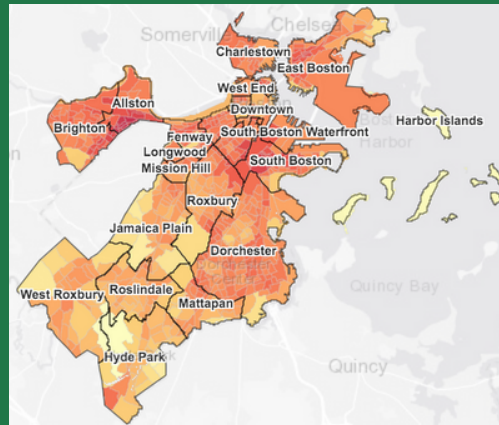


\$19,394 in  
energy and  
CO2 savings

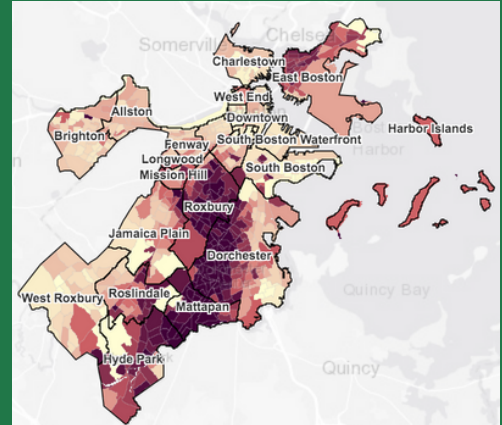
# NEW PERSPECTIVES: TREE EQUITY MAPS



Tree Canopy in Boston

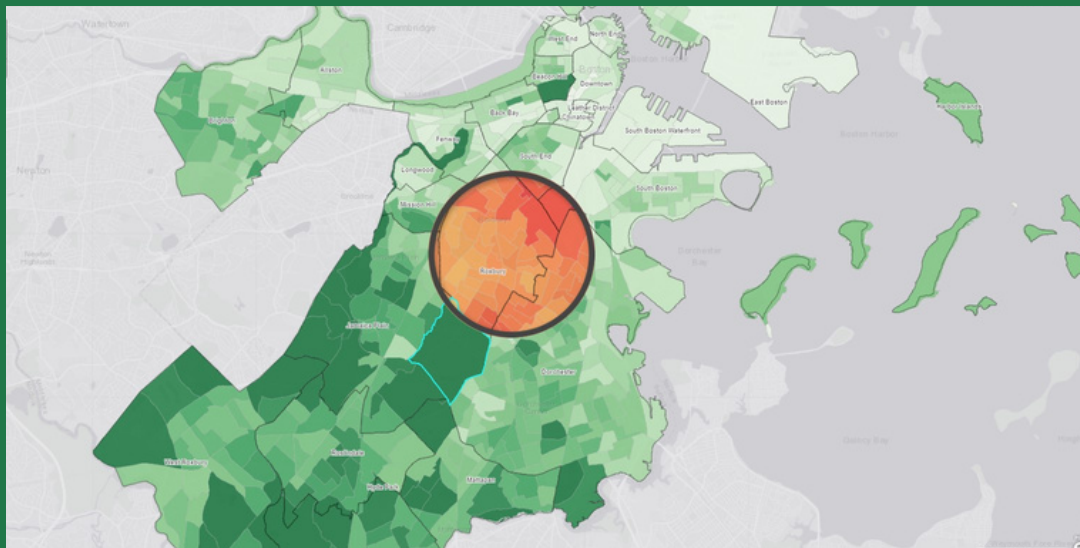


Heat map of Boston



Percent Minority Distribution

In collaboration with Boston University's URBAN program, we created a series of Tree Equity Maps depicting tree canopy coverage, environmental stressors, population demographics, and the spatial relationships between these factors across the city of Boston. The maps can be found at [treeboston.org/tree-equity/](https://treeboston.org/tree-equity/) and are an interactive way to learn about environmental threats to public health and how they disproportionately affect marginalized and under-canopied neighborhoods of Boston.



## VolunTREEers

Our VolunTREEers do so much to grow and nurture Boston's forest. They plant trees, call residents, and have inventoried over 5,000 trees and empty planting sites in Boston. That's 10% of Boston's street tree population! We are thankful for the amazing work of our volunteers and help us care for our trees and our residents.

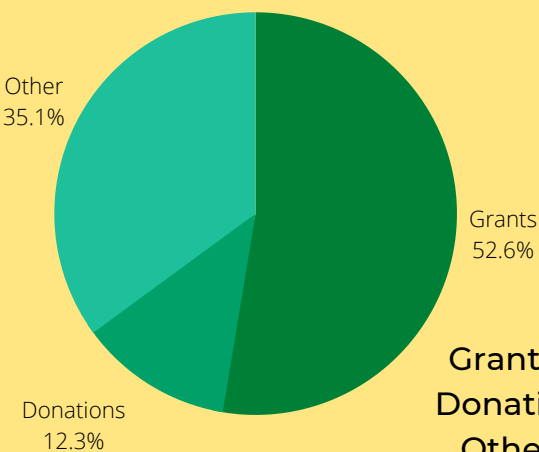
Join the movement and become a VolunTREEer at [treeboston.org/get-involved/voluntreers-program/](https://treeboston.org/get-involved/voluntreers-program/).





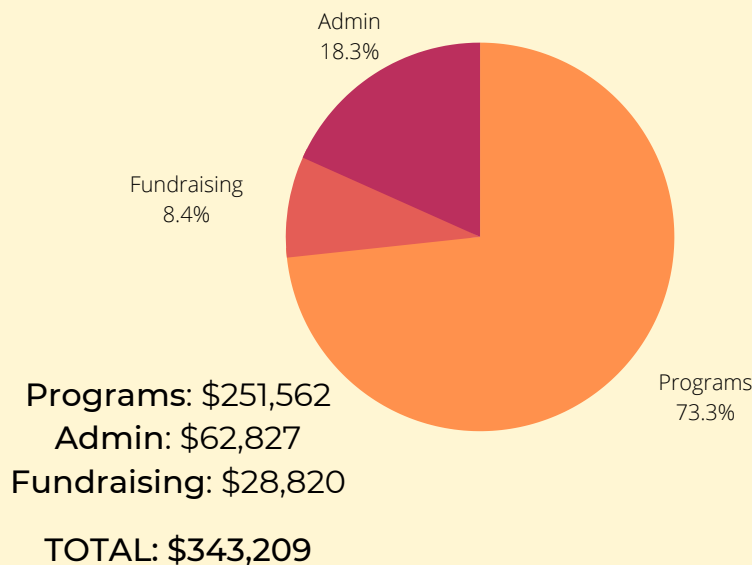
# FINANCIALS

## Revenue



Grants: \$219,255  
 Donations: \$51,311  
 Other: \$146,151  
 (in kind, honorarium)  
**TOTAL: \$416,717**

## Expenses



Programs: \$251,562  
 Admin: \$62,827  
 Fundraising: \$28,820  
**TOTAL: \$343,209**

## Thank You to Our Donors!



### Seedling: Up to \$50

Michitake Aso  
 Carrie Beaulieu  
 Megan Blagden  
 Maximilian Cable  
 Brandon Challenger  
 Sara Cohen  
 Russ Cohen  
 Corey Corcoran  
 Francis Cozza  
 David Curtis  
 Autumn Cutting  
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 Kayla Seikkula  
 Cara Solomon  
 Annie Spitz  
 Soll Sussman  
 April Telles  
 Sonja Tengblad  
 Charles Tilden  
 Karen Worth  
 Maria Zullo



### Tree: \$50-\$250

Joshua Abrams  
 Randall Albright  
 Frank Baker  
 Diane C Baryllick  
 Reena and Tom  
 Bernards & Smerling  
 Carole Berney  
 Judy Bernstein  
 Kenzie Bok  
 Evan Brinkman  
 Mary Burchenal  
 Allison Burson  
 Victoria Cain  
 Prasede Calabi  
 Eric Candela  
 Lara Caralis  
 Erika M Carlson

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 Iris du Pont  
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 Katherine Walsh  
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 Andrew Wellnitz  
 Amy Wipfler



### Forest: Over \$250

Asa Aulin Ahlberg  
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 Elisabeth Baldrige  
 Bob Barney  
 Cindy Baxter  
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 Susan Bernstein  
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 Renata von Tscharnier

\*Special thanks to our monthly sustaining members

We have done our best to list all donors from 2020. If we missed you, our apologies. Please reach out and we can update.