



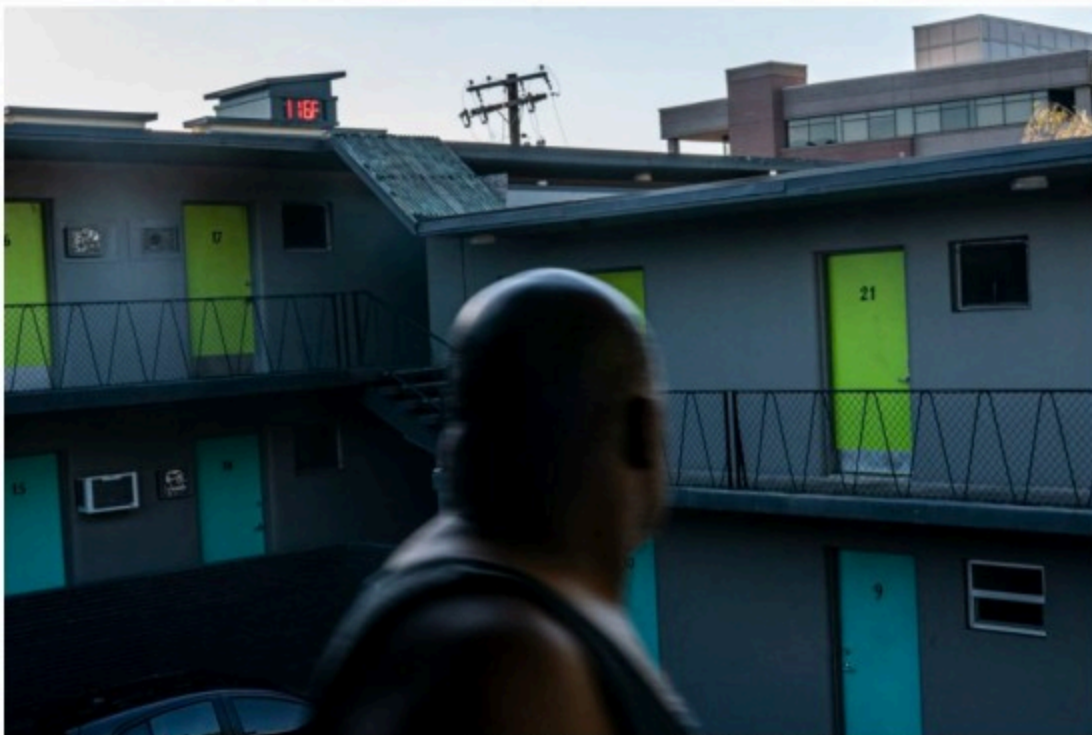
## Today's Globe Editorial: "If only...."

...every city had an organization dedicated to 'speak for the trees.'"

### The heat is on cities — and it's not going away

Increasingly deadly heat waves demand fixes today and solutions for the long term.

By **The Editorial Board** Updated July 20, 2021, 12:45 p.m.



Everett Clayton looks at a digital thermometer on a nearby building that reads 116 degrees while walking to his apartment, on June 27 in Vancouver, Washington. NATHAN HOWARD/GETTY

Today's Boston Globe Editorial, [The heat is on cities -- and it's not going away](#), couldn't be more timely. We're facing hotter summers, and it's not going away. One important solution: preserving and planting trees and growing our urban forest. Thanks for speaking with us, Globe Editorial board!

Won't you join us as we push for Tree Equity in Boston?

## Join us in our dedication to Tree Equity in Boston

Longer term, cities can focus on such simple solutions as [tree-shaded walkways and green spaces](#) — protecting the ones that already exist and creating and expanding them in neighborhoods that are too often urban deserts. Last year's successful effort to [save the canopy of mature trees](#) lining Melnea Cass Boulevard is a recent case in point. **If only every city had an organization dedicated to "speak for the trees."** Some cities around the world are creating [micro-forests](#) to counteract heat waves, while others are investing in community cohesion. Research on the deadly 1995 Chicago heat wave has shown that low-income [neighborhoods where people know each other well](#) and engage in the community (and can therefore rely on their neighbors for help) fare far better in avoiding deaths of vulnerable people during heat waves. Measures like this that would make city living better anyway are well worth the effort.



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