



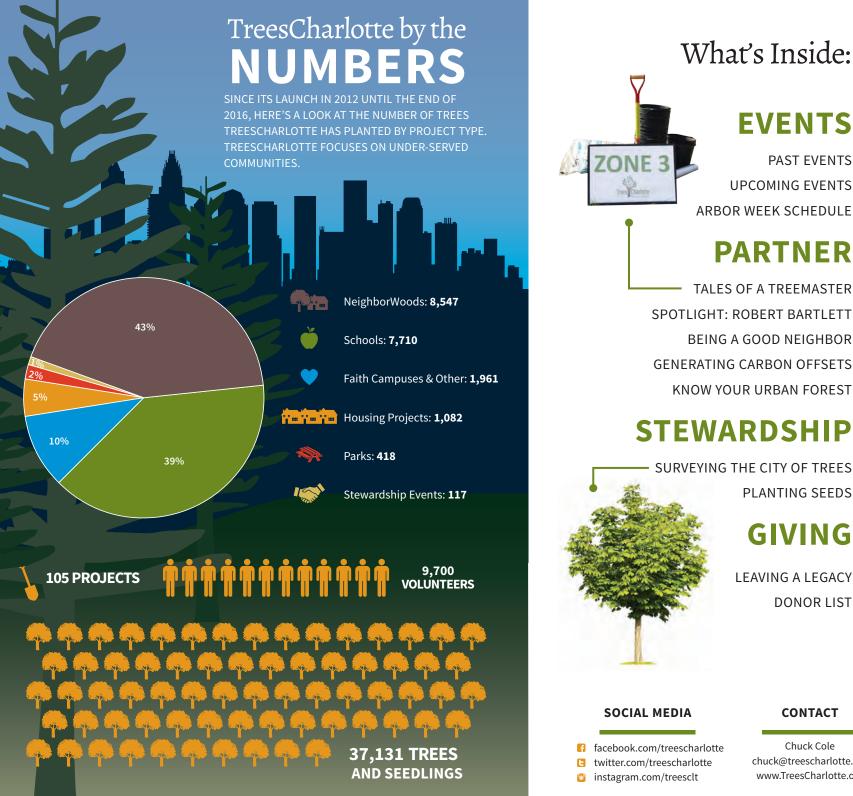
#### SPRING 2017

## Planting Seeds

TREESCHARLOTTE PARTNERS WITH PARK & REC AND CMS TO DEVELOP YOUTH PROGRAMS

ARBOR WEEK PREVIEW CELEBRATE CHARLOTTE'S TREE CANOPY MARCH 11-18

TALES OF A TREEMASTER WORKING TOWARDS A 50% TREE CANOPY LEAVING A LEGACY THE TREESCHARLOTTE ENDOWMENT FUND



## 6 8 10 12 13 14 16 17

Chuck Cole chuck@treescharlotte.org www.TreesCharlotte.org

#### ADDRESS

701 Tuckaseegee Road Charlotte, NC 28208



**Nov. 11** - TreesCharlotte partnered with the Charlotte Chapter of Entrepreneurs' Organization and the Reacroft community to plant 125 trees in the common areas of the Reacroft neighborhood.



**Dec. 3** - The Charlotte Observer sponsored a TreeDay at Robert F. Kennedy Middle School, where volunteers planted nearly 300 trees.



**Dec. 10** - A total of 253 trees were planted at Hornets Nest Elementary with the help of local volunteers. Sponsored by AXA US.



Jan. 21 - Residents participated in our Tree It Forward program, where 170 trees were distributed.



The Charlotte Observer is proud to support TreesCharlotte's goal of increasing Charlotte's tree canopy to 50 percent by 2050

## Arbor Week 2017 SCHEDULE

JOIN TREESCHARLOTTE THE WEEK OF MARCH 11-18 AS WE CELEBRATE ARBOR WEEK IN CHARLOTTE. CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN, EVENTS ARE BEING ADDED! VISIT WWW.TREESCHARLOTTE.ORG/ARBORWEEK.

MARCH

AVENSONG NEIGHBORHOOD TREEDAY EVENT

MARCH

NC ARBOR DAY CELEBRATIONS IN CHARLOTTE MARCH



SOUTHVIEW PARK PLANTING EVENT

MARCH

18

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE WITH ROOTY AND TREESCHARLOTTE

## MARCH

### Google fiber citywide treestore

Free trees to Charlotte residents with proof of Charlotte residency. TreesCharlotte plans to give away over 700 trees. The lines start early, so be prepared. 2 trees per resident. Planting Our future in Charlotte

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# Tales of a **TREEMASTER**

BY IAN KOLB, TREEMASTER

Almost two years ago, I moved to Charlotte from a city that treasures its urban forest, Portland, Oregon. Living in this part of the country gave me the opportunity to camp and hike in some of the most beautiful places, which helped me realize how important nature was not only for myself, but for everyone.

As my father and I drove across the country, many of the cities we passed through had very little signs of nature, giving me a distinct nervous feeling that I'll never forget. But that nervousness soon faded upon seeing the crown jewel of Charlotte, our beautiful urban forest.

Before I became a TreeMaster, I attended a planting event at Elon Park Elementary on a chilly January morning with my brother, Phillip. It was amazing to see parents and kids working together, having fun and all the while planting hundreds of trees. At the time, I was looking for a way to become more involved in my new community, and becoming a TreeMaster seemed like the perfect answer. Shortly after the Elon event, I attended the TreeMaster certification and was given the orange hat!

Volunteer TreeMasters lead community tree planting and stewardship events. As a TreeMaster. I enjoy the chance to physically plant trees myself, but I also enjoy instructing and helping others get excited about trees and planting properly. Kids get really psyched about it too, which gives everyone a little more pep in their step. If helping to plant 250 trees in a single morning isn't enough, you even get to use a pocket knife!

In addition to serving as a TreeMaster, I've been focused on opening a drive-thru-only craft coffee shop, the very first of its kind in Charlotte. After two years, I'm proud to say that CupLux Coffee Drive-Thru has finally come to life. Our mission is simple: Craft convenient, delicious coffees and beverages for patrons on the go in order to power our community



philosophy of Nature for All.

Planting trees and drinking coffee go really well together – just ask a TreeMaster. For this reason, CupLux is partnering with TreesCharlotte in our very first urban conservation campaign called **#CanopyLove**, which supports and celebrates the incredible benefits the city's beautiful urban forest provides to each of us every day.

As part of our very first urban conservation campaign, we'll be working with TreesCharlotte to provide coffee for events and promote the organization and Charlotte's tree canopy on social media. Join us by tagging your photos of Charlotte's beautiful trees with **#CanopyLove** to help raise awareness and spread the love for our canopy!

> To learn more about becoming a TreeMaster, visit www.TreesCharlotte. org/volunteer/ treemaster/.

### BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Robert Bartlett

Robert A. Bartlett, Jr., chairman and CEO of Bartlett Tree Experts, has devoted his entire professional and business career to arboriculture and shares TreesCharlotte's commitment to urban forestry, education and stewardship.

Robert first joined his family's business in 1970 after earning his bachelor's degree at the University of Georgia and serving in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was named CEO in 1998, and during his tenure, the company has expanded its operations across the U.S. and into Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Under Robert's leadership, the company's employees teach and inspire others, particularly students, to care for trees and develop an appreciation for their local tree canopies as well as the profession of arboriculture. To that end, The Bartlett Tree Foundation, Inc. provides financial assistance for selected students of arboriculture, horticulture, forestry and related disciplines at both two-year and four-year colleges and universities. To date the Foundation has provided over \$1 million in scholarship funds to participating programs at more than 29 schools across the U.S.

Robert has also supported and participated in tree planting initiatives around the world, demonstrating a companywide commitment to sustainability and stewardship. Through the Bartlett Legacy Tree Program, the company's arborists distribute more than 25,000 tree seedlings annually to students, community groups and local reforestation efforts. Bartlett Tree Experts sponsored TreesCharlotte's Urban Forestry Summit last September and has also committed



to sponsor future Summits. Robert has generously supported TreesCharlotte's operating fund and has recently made a leadership gift to the Endowment.

"As the home city of our company's research labs and arboretum, Charlotte holds a special place in my heart," commented Robert. "Through the tireless work of staff and volunteers, TreesCharlotte has made a real impact not only on improving Charlotte's urban tree canopy, but in also inspiring the community to care about the trees of this beautiful city."

Robert has received many honors, including the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Distinguished Achievement Award, Medal of Paris and Man of the Year by the Environmental Action Coalition. He was the second individual to ever receive the U.S. National Arboretum's Gold Medal Award, following in the esteemed footsteps of Lady Bird Johnson. He has served on and chaired boards of several prominent organizations, including the Visiting Committee of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Friends of the National Arboretum and the National Zoo of the Smithsonian Institution. He is a past president of the National Arborist Association.

Robert and his wife, Kate, make their home in Stamford, Conn. They enjoy sailing and international travel and are avid gardeners.

To see the full list of TreesCharlotte board members, visit http://treescharlotte. org/who-we-are/staff-and-board/.



# Being a Good **NEIGHBOR**

#### WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION FUNDS TREE PLANTING EVENTS IN FOUR CHARLOTTE NEIGHBORHOODS

TreesCharlotte is partnering with Wells Fargo to expand NeighborWoods, its community engagement and tree planting program, to four Charlotte neighborhoods this year.

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation, TreesCharlotte is working with the Avensong, Colonial Village, Kingsbridge and Stonehaven neighborhoods to plant new trees and provide educational programs on planting and tree care.

NeighborWoods focuses on tree plantings and the restoration of natural resources in deforested, underserved neighborhoods, parks and public housing campuses. In addition to providing tree care instruction to adults,



the program also provides educational outreach to children on the wonder of trees and our natural environment. TreesCharlotte partners with the NC Wildlife Federation's Outdoor University to conduct children's programming at its planting events.

Through the NeighborWoods initiative, TreesCharlotte engages community leaders in each of the four selected neighborhoods and draws up greenprint plans in consultation with the city arborist to determine which trees to plant in common areas. Neighborhood residents are engaged to participate as volunteers to plant trees on public land and common areas and to select trees from TreesCharlotte's TreeStore for their own yards.

Because engaging and impacting underserved communities is core to TreesCharlotte's mission, the support the Wells Fargo Foundation provides is critical. The grant funding from the foundation pays for trees for the neighborhood events, stewardship and tree watering and other direct event expenses.

"Charlotte is known for and takes pride in its clean air and extensive tree canopy," said TreesCharlotte board



member David Carroll, senior executive vice president of Wealth and Investment Management at Wells Fargo. "With the recent growth and development of the city, it's especially important to preserve the trees we have and also plant more. We are glad to be able to help our community through grants such as this because our long-term success is directly linked to the health of the communities we serve."

In October, TreesCharlotte visited Colonial Village for a NeighborWoods event that resulted in more than 150 trees planted in the neighborhood near the intersection of South Boulevard and Scaleybark Road. TreesCharlotte set up its TreeStore in the parking lot of Sedgefield Elementary School and provided training sessions to residents on how to plant and care for their new trees.

Alan Amery, who serves on the board of the Colonial Village neighborhood association, served as project manager for the event and says that the community response exceeded expectations.

"The staff at TreesCharlotte was so helpful and encouraging," he says. "We have a nice tree canopy but they're aging out, so it's been great to walk around the neighborhood and see all the new young trees."

For more information about NeighborWoods, visit www. TreesCharlotte.org/Neighborwoods.



### Generating Carbon Offsets for HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

PARTNERING WITH URBAN OFFSETS

TreesCharlotte has partnered with Greensboro-based Urban Offsets to create carbon credits from its tree plantings. The credits will be sold to higher education institutions seeking local projects that benefit the community while meeting carbon reduction goals.

A carbon offset is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide that helps to compensate for emissions occurring elsewhere. Activities such as tree planting, which increases carbon dioxide absorption, generate offsets and create carbon credits that companies or institutions can purchase to counterbalance emissions and reduce carbon footprints. Urban Offsets builds local carbon markets that support climate commitments by higher education institutions, working with cities to plant trees and track and sell their associated carbon credits over time. In its pilot program with TreesCharlotte, Urban Offsets will begin tracking, verifying and providing carbon offset valuations for approximately 900 trees TreesCharlotte has planted in the fall of 2016.

Over a two-year period, TreesCharlotte will be compensated for the carbon offsets produced by its trees if they remain healthy and grow. Colleges and universities will be able to purchase the credits toward their carbon reduction

#### The company's goal is to generate and trade 1 million carbon offsets by 2020.



Trees planted at the Starmount Elementary TreeDay, sponsored by Bank of America, are part of the Urban Offsets carbon bank, along with four other schools.

goals while also contributing to the expansion of Charlotte's tree canopy and engaging students in monitoring and stewarding the trees planted under the program. The partnership also affords research and volunteer opportunities to participating educational institutions.

University presidents and chancellors began signing climate commitments in 2007. While commitments vary by institution, most provide at least a climate goal, a plan of action with reporting periods and funding sources to implement climate reductions and offsets. Duke University has committed to a carbon neutral campus by 2024, for example, and will need to offset approximately 185,000 tons of carbon emissions every year. The UNC system has a campus-wide goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 for all 16 universities. "Organizations initially tackle carbon reduction with renewable energy and efficiency efforts," says TreesCharlotte board member Lori Collins of Collins Climate Consulting.

Carbon offsets are sort of the 'last mile' to achieve carbon goals after the internal projects have been implemented."

Schools want local solutions for their carbon emissions, and Urban Offsets works with institutions including Davidson College, Duke University and Elon University to help source and purchase local, verified carbon offsets in their communities. The firm creates carbon markets around community tree-planting projects, and schools can use the

firm's platform to track each carbon offset produced. Founded in 2015, Urban Offsets is launching pilot programs similar to the TreesCharlotte initiative in Durham, Fayetteville, Phoenix and Tempe, Ariz. The company's goal is to generate and trade 1 million carbon offsets by 2020.

"Colleges and universities with climate commitments want to purchase offsets that create value for their students, alumni and broader communities," says Shawn Gagné, CEO of Urban Offsets. "TreesCharlotte is a highly regarded, trusted stakeholder and an ideal partner for us and our clients in higher education."

For more information about Urban Offsets, visit **http://urbanoffsets.co.** 

## Know your **URBAN FOREST**

MONTHLY ARTICLES WILL HELP EDUCATE ABOUT TREE CARE

TreesCharlotte is launching a monthly series of articles online that will provide information and solutions for tree topics facing Charlotte property owners and help educate readers about how they can get involved in preserving and expanding the city's tree canopy.

Called "Know Your Urban Forest," the series will feature articles written by local stakeholders and professionals who offer expert insight into issues such as cankerworms and other tree nuisances, protecting trees and identifying the best trees to plant in Charlotte.

The articles will also aim to educate area residents about the value of trees and why the urban forest is critical to Charlotte and its future.

Local contributors to the series will include Patrick Anderson, an arborologist with Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements; Patrick George, founder of Heartwood Tree Service; Brandon Hogan, an arborist with Heartwood; tree industry veteran Jack McNeary, who founded McNeary's Arborists Inc.; Erin Oliverio, tree canopy program manager for the City of Charlotte; Greg Paige, arboretum curator with Bartlett Tree Experts; and Tim Porter, chief arborist for Charlotte.

TreesCharlotte board member Rolfe Neill, former publisher of The Charlotte Observer, will lead and edit the series of monthly articles, which is expected to debut in mid-2017.

#### LOCAL CONTRIBUTORS



PATRICK GEORGE founder of Heartwood Tree Service







## **BRANDON HOGAN**

arborist with Heartwood Tree Service

**ERIN OLIVERIO** 

manager, City of

Charlotte





## Surveying the City **OF TREES**

**RESULTS FROM THE SURVEY WILL GUIDE** THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN

Last summer, the City of Charlotte conducted a 10-question survey for residents about trees. The purpose of the survey was to gain insight into the opinions citizens have about trees, tree initiatives and tree maintenance in Charlotte, which will form the basis of the Urban Forest Master Plan. A total of 2,846 people responded to the survey.

Residents overwhelmingly held high value for Charlotte's trees and easily identified many benefits provided by a robust canopy. It was evident that they also realized that the city's trees need support through educating the public about proper tree care. Many residents expressed frustration with current tree ordinances, policies and practices.

"Instead of clearing 50 acres to build a neighborhood, builders should be made to only clear enough space for the house on the individual lots."

#### **BENEFITS & CHALLENGES**

According to Charlotte residents, the top benefits of trees are to improve the quality of life, clean the air, provide shade and cool surroundings, help define Charlotte's character and to provide wildlife habitat. The top challenges with trees were cracking sidewalks and pavement, safety problems created from trees and limbs falling, underground pipe problems and tree roots.

#### **CARING FOR TREES**

When asked what information residents would find helpful in maintaining trees in their own yards, the top items were how/when if pruning is needed, cankerworms and other pests, what trees to plant and tips on basic tree care.

#### "Give kids service opportunities that teach them about trees and plants."

Charlotteans strongly reported that they would like to participate in helping to take care of the trees in Charlotte, saying that they were "very willing" to water, weed and mulch trees in front of their house (1,724 respondents); support the city dedicating more funding to manage Charlotte's trees (1,703); support policy changes that benefit trees (1,646); and plant new trees on their property (1,494).

The City of Charlotte's full Urban Forest Master Plan will be released later this year. For updates, go to www.TreesCharlotte.org.



PLANTING SEEDS

TREESCHARLOTTE PARTNERS WITH PARK & REC AND CMS TO SPONSOR TREE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

TreesCharlotte is committed to growing its educational outreach program with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to teach elementary students about the value of trees and instill an abiding appreciation of our urban forest.

TreesCharlotte works with principal-appointed teachers, or TreeChampions, who receive a stipend from TreesCharlotte to promote the tree curriculum, engage students in campus planting events, connect parent-teacher associations with tree planting projects and enlist students in caring for trees at their schools. In its first year, the program reached seven CMS teachers in six schools.

This school year, TreesCharlotte is also partnering with Mecklenburg Park and Recreation to bring interactive tree learning programs to several Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Three nature centers – McDowell, Latta Plantation and Reedy Creek – lead programs at Briarwood Academy, Hornets Nest Elementary, Starmount Academy of Excellence and Winget Park Elementary School.

Aligned with North Carolina and Common Core state standards, the programs are tailored to first-, second- and third-graders. When possible, Park and Rec's environmental educators work to schedule school visits around campus tree plantings, when student interest in the topic is piqued.

One of the programs, called "Tremendous Trees," educates young students about how trees provide shelter, food and other materials to wildlife and people. The lessons are hands-on and allow students to use their senses to learn about the various parts of the tree, compare leaves and bark from different trees and use "tree cookies," cut from fallen trees, to gain insight into a tree's history.

The programs help to forge a deeper understanding and connection between



the students and the trees on their campuses, says Melissa O'Lenick, manager of McDowell Nature Center, who leads the program for Park and Rec.

"It builds ownership for the trees that TreesCharlotte has planted and teaches the students that these are living things we need to care for," she says.

For higher grade levels, TreesCharlotte has used the web-based program i-Tree, developed by the U.S. Forest Service, for teaching tree benefits in urban settings.

TreesCharlotte has planted more than 7,700 trees on 33 different CMS school campuses, which make up about 39 percent of the total tree plantings.

"It's really important to send a message to our students that learning happens beyond the classroom," says CMS Superintendent Ann Clark. "TreesCharlotte is a wonderful opportunity for our students to be really thoughtful and intentional about learning and paying it forward."



For more information about TreesCharlotte's educational programs, visit www.TreesCharlotte.org/volunteer/youth-focus.

## Leaving a LEGACY SUPPORT TREESCHARLOTTE

SUPPORT TREESCHARLOTTE THROUGH THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Last year, the TreesCharlotte Board of Directors established the TreesCharlotte Endowment Fund to provide support for the operations needed for replenishing and caring for Charlotte's urban forest – forever. To date, \$5.5 million of the \$15 million goal has been raised.

A \$2 million gift from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation helped kick off the endowment campaign in early 2016, and later last year, Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson and his wife Rosalind donated \$1 million to the endowment campaign. Over the past couple months, the TreesCharlotte Board of Directors collectively donated an additional \$1 million.

TreesCharlotte board members Rolfe Neill and Thrus Morton are heading up the TreesCharlotte Endowment Campaign

#### and hope to reach \$15 million in pledges in the next two to three years, with multiyear donations coming in over the next five to six years. Until the Endowment goal is met, the Board is also committed to raising funds for operations.

Once the TreesCharlotte Endowment Fund reaches the \$15 million goal, interest earned will be sufficient to cover TreesCharlotte's annual operating expenses in perpetuity, rather than raising funds every year.

## Planned Giving

By making a planned gift to TreesCharlotte, you'll join other supporters in growing and preserving Charlotte's tree canopy for generations to come. There are numerous ways for you to make a planned gift:

- BEQUESTS: Naming TreesCharlotte in your will
- STOCK: Donate stock to TreesCharlotte
- **RETIREMENT FUNDS:** Making TreesCharlotte a beneficiary of your 401(k), IRA or other retirement savings fund
- LIFE INSURANCE: Naming TreesCharlotte a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- LAND/REAL ESTATE: Leaving your property to TreesCharlotte

To make a planned gift or if you have questions about the Endowment, contact Dave Cable at 704-577-2004 or dave@treescharlotte.org.

## 2016-2017 Donor Listing

DONATIONS (INCLUDING TOTAL PLEDGE AMOUNTS FOR PLEDGE PAYMENTS, OR CASH), HONORARIUMS, MEMORIALS, AND TREEGIFTS

#### \$1,000,000 AND ABOVE

City of Charlotte John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Richardson

#### \$250,000 - \$999,999

D.F. Halton Foundation, Inc. John W. and Deborah Harris Family Foundation Patricia and Thruston Morton

#### \$100,000 - \$249,999

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Bartlett, Jr. The Blumenthal Foundation Philip and Amy Blumenthal Peggy and Bob Culbertson The Dickson Foundation Kathryn Heath and Tom Webb

#### \$50,000 - \$99,999

Anonymous Duke Energy Katie and Mike James Marie Claire Marroum-Kardous and Paul Kardous Susan and Loy McKeithen Rolfe Neill Marian Nisbet Piedmont Natural Gas Foundation Marcia and Paul Simon Sherry and Tom Skains Wells Fargo

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#### \$10,000 - \$24,999

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Help us grow

Charlotte's tree canopy for future generations and plant 500,000 trees by 2050. To contribute, use the enclosed donor envelope or visit **www.TreesCharlotte.org/support-us.** TreesCharlotte focuses on under-served communities.

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TreesCharlotte is a public/private nonprofit collaboration to grow and diversify Charlotte's urban forest by planting 500,000 trees by 2050, promoting tree stewardship and educating how to plant and preserve trees.



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- Held 10 stewardship
- Distributed more than seedlings

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