Goals to Improving Neighborhood Canopy Cover

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Mission

Our mission is to improve the relationship between neighborhood associations, community leaders, active citizens, and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. We will achieve this goal by identifying neighborhood needs and connecting with existing neighborhood events. By integrating ourselves in the cultures of local neighborhoods, we strengthen our ties to the community and their ties to nature.

Goal
To Increase Neighborhood Tree Canopy Cover

Choosing A Neighborhood

1. Identify which neighborhoods should be selected for an increase in canopy cover. This can either be from:
   - Sites identified previously
   - KIB Database
   - GIS or Google maps

2. Once neighborhoods have been identified:
   - Conduct an analysis to determine whether or not neighborhood associations exist
     - If yes, contact the association to explain the program and determine interest
     - If no, canvas the selected neighborhood to gauge interest in the program
   - If there is no association, provide a method on how to establish one that can assess the progress of the planting and participate in continued care
     - I.e., create a "Neighborhood Ambassador" who would report directly to KIB.[1]

3. If there is an agreement to pursue a neighborhood tree planting, establish a meeting with the neighborhood for:
   - Preliminary education
   - Information outreach
   - Provide neighborhood questionnaire (see sample)

4. Schedule a follow-up with neighborhood association or ambassador post completion of questionnaire

5. Conduct the tree planting

6. Once planting is completed, provide the volunteers information on care, maintenance, and resources to contact KIB or the City of Indianapolis if questions arise.

7. Conduct 1 to 2 follow-up meetings with association or ambassador to assess progress and address any questions the neighborhood has

8. Make changes to guidelines and routine as needed based off of neighborhood feedback and effectiveness.

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Overview

[Insert unique neighborhood canopy photo here]

http://www.iupui.edu/~geospace/kibi_web/estimates.html

Trees provide countless benefits even in the concrete jungle. At the neighborhood level, trees can assist with storm water management, reduce scorching temperatures and energy consumption, improve air quality, and increase the overall "curb appeal" of neighborhoods.

What Can You Do?

1. Establish a neighborhood ambassador to be the point of contact to KIB

2. Contact local neighborhood residents to help complete tree planting questionnaire that would:
   - Gauge interest
   - Create a volunteer network
   - Establish a "tree team" committed to care and maintain trees post planting

3. Post project completion, coordinate with KIB for proper care and maintenance for the trees into the future.

4. Continue the relationship with KIB
   - Attend educational workshops for improved care and proper risk identification
   - Schedule a yearly tree inventory analysis with KIB for the early stages of tree development (usually 5 years), to assess the health and growth of newly planted trees.

What's Your Commitment?

It takes up to three years for a tree to develop strong roots. During this time, the tree is vulnerable to drought conditions, freezing temperatures, and stem damage. It is imperative that neighborhoods take action to regularly water trees and provide proper protection as their roots develop. The risks are high, but the benefits are higher…will you make the commitment?

https://www.upwithtrees.org/about-trees/tips-watering-your-trees/

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Supplemental Information

Workshops will teach you the skills you need to maintain healthy, happy trees. The most important skills to know now are Watering, Mulching and Pruning.

- Watering
  - Trees need frequent watering after being moved while their roots grow to a healthy length.
  - For your first few weeks, water your trees daily. For the following year, depending on weather, once per week should be sufficient.
  - Keep soil moist but don't let the water pool.
- Mulching
  - Mulch protects the tree's trunk from day to day lawn care equipment and children at play.
  - Try to keep a circle of mulch around your trees roughly equal to the size of the tree's canopy.
- Pruning
  - Prioritize pruning branches that pose a danger to people on the sidewalk or cars on the street.
  - Attend workshops for details about when and when not to prune branches. Reckless pruning can damage the tree.

http://www.kibi.org/event/thisjustintrees/

Resources

Tree Care and Maintenance:
- www.gardeningknowhow.com
- www.kibi.org/resources

Arborist:
- www.maple-tree-services.com

Hazard ID and Removal:
- The Mayor's Action Center: (317) 327-4622

Glossary

Public right-of-way: Area which is owned by the city, for example, land between public sidewalk and street.

Storm water: surface water resulting from heavy falls of rain or snow.

Erosion: is the action of surface processes (such as water flow or wind) that removes soil, rock, or dissolved material from one location on the Earth's crust, and then transport it away to another location - *wikipedia*

Pruning: trim (a tree, shrub, or bush) by cutting away dead or overgrown branches or stems, especially to increase fruitfulness and growth.

Sample Questionaire

[INSERT NEIGHBORHOOD NAME] Questionnaire

1. Please sign the Neighborhood Pledge to commit to future tree care and maintenance, post planting.
   Commitment Example:
   Our neighborhood hereby commits to future tree care and maintenance on an agreed upon schedule with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful as of [INSERT DATE HERE].

   Sign Here x_____

2. Please Prioritize your neighborhood tree canopy goal (rank in order from 1 - 3, where 1 is most important and 3 least)
   - Reduce Flooding/Erosion _____
   - Increase Shade _____
   - Increase Aesthetic Value _____

3. Complete a neighborhood walk-through and identify vacant locations on the public right-of-way that can benefit from a tree (based on the prioritization determined in question 1.)

# Vacant Spots	Street Address
3	21 East Second Street

4. Please Provide a list of volunteers who can provide either labor or resources for the tree planting event.

Name	Phone	Email	What Can You Offer?
David Person	555-768-1945	david@mail.com	Truck and Labor

What Benefit Do YOU Get From Trees?

1. Trees increase the property value of your home.[2]
   - Real estate data suggests homes with trees in their yards sell for higher than homes without.
   - Tree canopy shades your yard helping you get the maximum enjoyment out of your property.
2. Well placed trees reduce energy consumption.[2]
   - Shade reduces the air conditioning necessary to keep your home comfortable in the summer
   - Canopies block the wind, reducing heat lost in the winter.
   - Reduced energy usage reduces power plant emissions.
3. Trees help manage storm water.[2]
   - Poor storm water management can lead to flooding and pollutants entering a city's waterways.
   - Trees hold rain on their branches, leaves, and in their root systems. This lessens the burden on storm drains.
   - Rain that moves through the body of the tree is slowed, reducing soil erosion.
4. Trees improve air quality.[2]
   - Trees convert carbon dioxide into oxygen and store other pollutants in their root systems.
   - Canopies catch dust and other particulate matter.

References

1. Treepittsburgh. "ReLeaf Lawrenceville Plan" *Issuu,* 14 Oct. 2018, issuu.com/treepittsburge/docs/releaf_Lawrenceville_plan.
2. "Why Trees." Casey Trees, Casey Trees, 2018, caseytrees.org/tree-species/tree-benefits/.
3. *Keep Indianapolis Beautiful,* www.kibi.org/.