

THE
leaflet

FALL 2023



THE ONLY CONSTANT IS
change

TREESILIENCE: *A holistic approach to canopy*

INTENTIONAL PRUNING: *What are the benefits?*

INTRODUCING: *Meet our new Community Arborist and Educator*

TreesCharlotte is a public/private nonprofit collaboration to grow, diversify and steward the city's iconic urban forest. Trained volunteers and science-based programs teach residents about the value of trees and how to plant and care for them.

The power and beauty of change

A Word from our Executive Director

Dear TreesCharlotte Supporters,

One of the lovely lessons trees offer us is the power and beauty of change. Change that is seen, like the annual foliage colors that will appear this fall, and change that is not as easily visible, like the underground growth of a tree's intricate root system.

We see change throughout our city in the new faces, buildings, and creative spaces that join Charlotte each day. We also see change in our treescape, as seasons come and go, as our canopy matures, and as new trees are planted throughout the city. In the quest for Charlotte to be a leader among growing cities, it is critical that the change that occurs around us retains our city's most distinctive natural trait - our iconic urban forest. Our goal is to remain true to our guiding mission while embracing the change around us.

Our team does this by utilizing an adaptable approach and mindset, implementing new ideas and initiatives, while retaining our core focus - keeping our canopy healthy and vibrant and at the forefront of our city's crowning achievements. In the coming months, you may see change at TreesCharlotte, from new initiatives to new partnerships to new team members and new opportunities for engagement. All so that we can continue to preserve and grow the trees for the wonderful residents of Charlotte.

Best regards,



Jane Singleton Myers
Executive Director



“Do like trees: change the leaves, but keep the roots. So change your ideas, but keep your principles.”

- Victor Hugo

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MEET Heather Brent

This planting season, you may notice a change in one of the faces who greets you at our events. Heather Brent has joined the TreesCharlotte community as our new Community Arborist and Educator, a role previously held by Kate Bolkin, who recently left TreesCharlotte to pursue a Masters degree at Northwestern University in the Plant Biology and Conservation program.

Brent's path to TreesCharlotte was a circuitous one. With an educational background in physics and environmental engineering, Brent's career focus has been on industry consulting and research. Brent has always had



a passion for trees, which was further bolstered by her year-long experience of living in Costa Rica, one of the most biodiverse places in the world. After many years working as an environmental and later a sustainability engineer, it was a 2020 article in *The New York Times* that sparked the change that ultimately launched her love of trees into a career shift. The article highlighted the need for more tree doctors and led Brent to embark on a vocation as an arborist. Soon after she became a TreeMaster with TreesCharlotte and her desire to become an arborist solidified, as she took a groundskeeping job at Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories' 350-acre arboretum. She is currently working toward a graduate certificate in horticulture from N.C. State, and recently passed the ISA certification test to become a certified arborist.

With her engineering background, Brent is drawn toward using analytics to determine where and how TreesCharlotte can make the biggest impact for the growth of our canopy. Moreover, her inquisitive nature draws her toward the educational component of her new role as she looks forward to reaching people and changing their perspective on trees. "We live in a world where we are surrounded by trees, but people know very little about them. I am most excited about helping Charlotteans appreciate our connection with trees."

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Partner Spotlight: Northwood Ravin

TreesCharlotte is very fortunate to have support from many different groups within the community. The City of Charlotte, individuals, foundations, and other groups provide financial, volunteer, and in-kind donations that are critical to our success. Yet we also rely on the generosity of corporate partners who recognize the benefits of a healthy and vibrant tree canopy and partner with us to make the Tree-Adoptions, TreeDay Plantings, and Tree-Care events we hold possible. To view the list of all current corporate partners, visit treescharlotte.org/corporatepartners.



As a 2023-2024 Poplar level partner, multi-family development, construction and property management firm Northwood Ravin will help ensure a successful planting season for TreesCharlotte. A mainstay of Northwood Ravin's company intention is to create communities that foster healthy lifestyles, neighborhood involvement and appealing living environments in the apartment projects they design, construct, and manage. This includes retaining as many mature trees on properties as possible during the construction phase, as well as replanting hearty landscaping and trees once a community is built. President and CEO David Ravin reflected on the company's commitment to tree-filled communities stating, "Our team recognizes the irreplaceable role trees play in the lives of our residents and we incorporate as much green space and canopy growth as possible to create an attractive, natural environment."

Are you interested in becoming a TreesCharlotte corporate partner?

We rely on the generosity of our corporate partners and love making new connections. If your company or group is interested in helping protect and grow Charlotte's iconic urban forest, consider becoming a partner at any time during the planting season.

Of Northwood Ravin's partnership with TreesCharlotte he added, "We are proud to support an organization dedicated to preserving and growing Charlotte's tree canopy while recognizing the fortunate growth of our city and look forward to joining TreesCharlotte in maintaining our city's wonderful canopy."

The financial support Northwood Ravin has provided this season offers their team engagement activities at our events throughout the year, as well as speaking and learning opportunities. The full list of partnership benefits can be found in the Corporate Partner Opportunities Packet which can be downloaded at treescharlotte.org/donate/corporatesupport. If you are interested in supporting the full range of our planting season programming as a corporate partner, please contact Beth Brodie at beth@treescharlotte.org.

Species Focus: Shagbark Hickory



The **SHAGBARK HICKORY** (*Carya ovata*) is named for its shaggy bark that often sheds from the trunk in large pieces. This tree does best in moist, well-drained soils with a medium amount of water. And it needs plenty of space to grow due to its large mature size. Shagbark hickories are native to this area and can live for hundreds of years. If you don't mind it being a little messy and you have room for this tree in your landscape, the wildlife will love you for planting it because it provides food and habitat for many animals.

Category

Deciduous

Growth rate

Slow (6 - 12 inches per year)

Size

70-90 feet tall, 50-70 feet wide

Sunlight needs

Full or partial

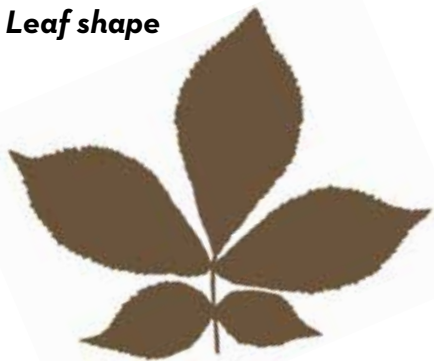
Fall color

Golden yellow

Fun fact

If you're determined enough to crack into it, the shagbark hickory nut is edible and the taste is described as a cross between pecan and walnut.

Leaf shape



WALKING WITH THE TREES

TreeWalks offer an opportunity to change your perspective on the trees that surround us.

A highlight of the summer season was the TreeWalk program we hosted at Freedom Park. While tree planting is not an option during the hot summer months, educational evening strolls were a hit with Charlotteans who joined our Community Arborist to learn more about the various species that adorn the paths of the park.

Be sure to check our calendar regularly (treescharlotte.org/calendar/) and follow us on Instagram ([@treesclt](https://www.instagram.com/treesclt)) to find out when and where our next TreeWalk will take place.





In August, Sheila and Bob Peltzer's name was among several others who were added to a leaf on the wall at TreesCharlotte's Honorary Garden in Freedom Park. As our newest "Green Leaf" recipients, the Peltzers join other generous donors who are recognized for contributing \$5,000 or more to TreesCharlotte. The two leaf-filled walls that surround our signature ginkgo tree in the garden signify a reminder to park visitors of the importance of a healthy tree canopy and of the residents of Charlotte who recognize the role TreesCharlotte plays in protecting it. The garden provides a quiet contemplative space for Charlotteans to reflect on the beauty of our city's canopy.

Because of the beauty and tranquility of the garden, it seemed only fitting to the Peltzers that their leaf was added in recognition of a gift in honor of their grandson, Ben. Born on Earth Day in 1993, the leaf serves as a tribute to Ben on his 30th birthday, as well as to TreesCharlotte, and to the canopy the Peltzers adopted as their own when they moved to Charlotte in 2000.

We invite all Charlotte residents to visit the Honorary Garden, which is located near the bandshell in the heart of Freedom Park, adjacent to the Mahlon Adams Pavilion.



Peltzer

A NEW leaf

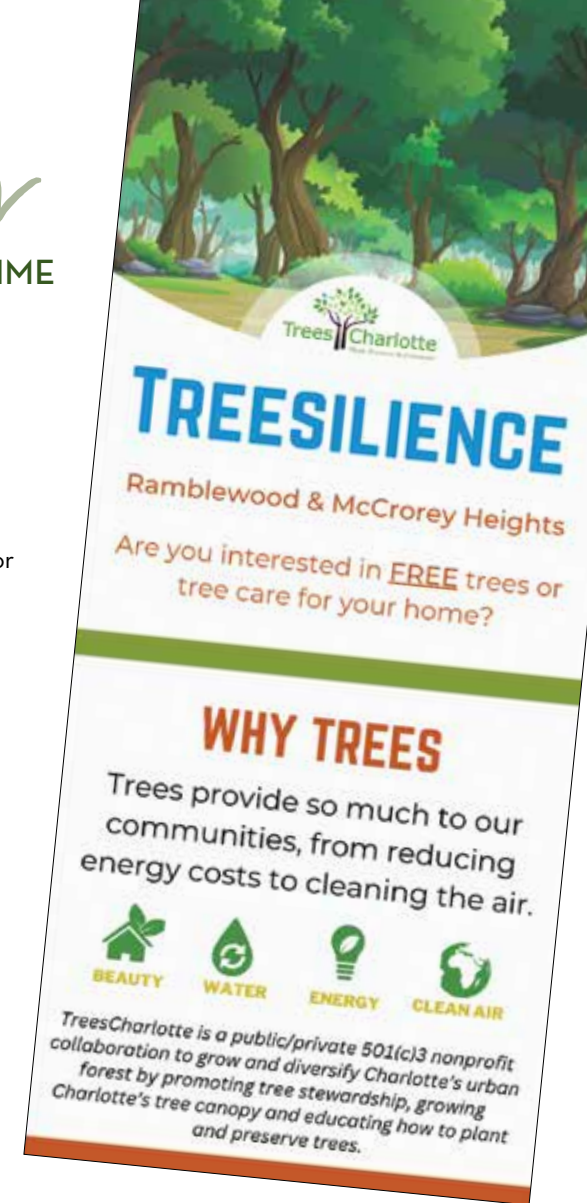
CHANGING THE canopy ONE NEIGHBORHOOD AT A TIME

The five components of our Treesilience initiative will enhance the canopy in two Charlotte neighborhoods.

In conjunction with support from Duke Energy, TIAA, Truist (in partnership with Arbor Day Foundation), and Wells Fargo, our team partnering with the McCrorey Heights and Ramblewood neighborhoods to embark on a new initiative, Treesilience. Treesilience is a holistic approach aimed to protect and enhance the canopy in Charlotte's most under-canopied and underserved neighborhoods. This is done through five key community impacts: engagement, plantings, adoptions, stewardship and tree care.

The Treesilience initiative will take place over a three year period and uses tree mapping tools and a data-based scorecard to track quantitative metrics to evaluate each area of engagement:

- Community activities to educate and engage neighbors
- Front yard TreeDay plantings embracing our "right tree, right place" philosophy
- TreeAdoptions for backyard trees
- TreeCare to provide mulch and assistance in pruning young trees
- Canopy care with a certified ISA Arborist to assess mature trees



The foundation of the Treesilience initiative is community engagement. To reach neighbors, volunteers have canvassed the McCrorey Heights and Ramblewood neighborhoods, sharing information about TreesCharlotte, Treesilience, and the benefit of growing the canopy.

Pictured above: Sample door hanger that volunteers share with neighbors.

WISH LIST

If you've ever attended a TreesCharlotte event, you'll know just how much goes into every detail of the day. On top of the multitude of hands it takes to seamlessly execute our events, it also requires a lot of supplies. Gloves, shovels, signage, name tags, and shears are among the items we use over and over again, and we always appreciate donations of these critical items. Next time you are shopping for your home, check out our Wish List by scanning the QR code or by visiting sharecharlotte.org/nonprofit/treescharlotte and consider sending a few items our way. Then join us as we utilize them at an upcoming event!



TreeGifts are a remarkable way to recognize special people, pets, and occasions while sharing your love of trees with our community.

Visit treescharlotte.org/donate/treegift to learn more about your TreeGift today!

FALL PLANTING SEASON AT A GLANCE

There are many ways to join us this fall! Come meet the team, learn about tree care, take home new trees for your yard, come find us at area events, plant a tree, volunteer a morning with us, or get trained as a TreeMAK. Below you will find our calendar of events. Please remember that dates are subject to change so it's always best to visit our event calendar at treescharlotte.org/calendar, where you'll find up-to-date events, volunteer opportunities, registration forms, and event details.



CALENDAR

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 9/7 | Ramblewood TreeMapping | 10/28 | Ramblewood TreeDay Planting |
| 9/13 | TreeMaster Training | 11/2 | Southwest Middle School TreeCare |
| 9/14 | McCrorey Heights TreeMapping | 11/4 | St. Francis United Methodist/Telra Institute/McKee Elementary TreeDay Planting |
| 9/16 | JH Gunn Elementary TreeMaster Field Day Training | 11/10 | Shamrock Gardens Apartments TreeDay Planting |
| 9/28 | Ashley Park Elementary TreeCare | 11/11 | Crescent TreeAdoption |
| 9/30 | Season Opening Citywide (open to all Charlotte residents) TreeAdoption | 11/15 | TreeKeeper Training |
| 10/5 | Reeder Memorial Baptist Church TreeDay Planting | 12/8 | Eva Barber Park TreeDay Planting |
| 10/7 | Stafford Caldwell Neighborhood TreeDay Planting | 11/18 | McCrorey Heights TreeDay Planting |
| 10/11 | TreeAmbassador Training | 12/2 | Providence Presbyterian Church TreeDay Planting |
| 10/14 | North Zipcode TreeAdoption | 12/7 | McClintock Middle School TreeCare |
| 10/19 | Whitewater Academy TreeCare | 12/8 | Eva Barber Park TreeDay Planting |
| 10/20 | Little Sugar Creek Greenway TreeDay Planting | 12/9 | East TreeAdoption |
| 10/21 | Elon Park ES TreeDay & TreeGift Planting | 12/12 | TreeMAK TreeAdoption |

COLOR KEY TreeAdoption • TreeCare • TreeDay Planting • TreeMapping • Training



HONORING ROLFE

Rolfe Neill Memorial Fund to honor the legacy of our leader and friend

The recent passing of founding board member Rolfe Neill was a tough change for TreesCharlotte. A familiar face to many in Charlotte as the former publisher of *The Charlotte Observer*, Rolfe was known throughout the community as a driving force for the preservation of our city's canopy. When reflecting on the need for leadership in caring for Charlotte's trees, Rolfe reminded us, "Most of the things we value or enjoy, we take for granted. Often, they've been here when we arrived; we assume 'somebody' is taking care. Actually, only a very small number of people are involved in taking care of our trees."

It is our goal to honor Rolfe by continuing to do just that: take care of our trees.

As we carry on in fulfilling the mission Rolfe helped start, TreesCharlotte has cho-

sen to honor our leader and dear friend by establishing a memorial fund in his memory. The Rolfe Neill Memorial Fund has the goal of enhancing one of Rolfe's favorite spots in Charlotte - The Honorary Garden at Freedom Park. Pending approval, our proposed plans include additional landscaping, a reflection bench, and the addition of Rolfe's favorite tree, the dogwood, and continued care. Any remaining funds will be added to the TreesCharlotte Endowment Fund that Rolfe helped establish in 2016.

If you would like to honor Rolfe's memory with a donation, scan the QR code above or visit treescharlotte.org/neill_mem_fund.



Please excuse any errors in our print communications. Although he was retired, Rolfe lent his expert editorial eye, providing feedback and corrections on many of our publications. We are dearly missing his input and polishing touch.



MAKE A CHANGE. GET INVOLVED.

There are many ways to affect change on our city's canopy, from planting trees to educating yourself and others. Here are a few ideas for getting started in making a positive change for Charlotte's iconic urban forest.

Donate to TreesCharlotte. We rely on the generosity of donors to support our programming. Visit treescharlotte.org/donate to make your contribution and commitment to our city's beloved canopy.

Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter. Visit treescharlotte.org/the-treescharlotte-leaflet-mailing-list to stay up-to-date with all things trees in the Queen City.

Expand your tree knowledge. Did you know TreesCharlotte has over 70 videos on our YouTube channel? With tree species spotlights, how to videos, and fast facts about trees, you can easily brush up on your tree knowledge by visiting youtube.com/user/TreesCharlotte.

Volunteer with TreesCharlotte. Opportunities are available for all levels of engagement and for all ages. Visit treescharlotte.org/volunteer to learn more about assisting with tree plantings, distributing trees, packing seedlings, and representing TreesCharlotte at events.

Become a TreeMAK. TreeMasters, TreeAmbassadors, and TreeKeepers offer various levels of involvement with our organization. Learn more about these unique volunteer opportunities at treescharlotte.org/volunteer/treemaster.

Educate your neighbors, co-workers, and friends about TreesCharlotte. One of the most impactful ways to make a change is by informing and educating those around you about our city's canopy and about TreesCharlotte's efforts and programs.

POSITIVE CHANGES THROUGH

pruning

By Mark Livingston
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, Arboguard
Tree Specialists, our TreeCare partner for Treesilience

The most common tree maintenance procedure arborists recommend is pruning. Proper pruning improves tree structure, satisfies customer goals and makes trees aesthetically



Livingston

Improved structure, growth, and curb appeal can be achieved with considerate trimming

pleasing. Pruning should only be done by arborists that understand the biology and basic requirements of trees in order to optimize the trees' health and structure.

Improper pruning can cause damage that remains for the life of the tree. Removing branches removes stored energy and will affect future growth. Removing leaves reduces the trees photosynthetic capacity. Growth after pruning is done takes place on fewer shoots, so overall growth is reduced. Knowledge

of the tree's response is crucial to reach the desired objective.

Structural pruning should begin in young trees or as early as possible in a tree's life. You can essentially "train" or prune to promote good structure so that defects are removed and good branch spacing is established. Well pruned or "trained" trees have less potential for failure at maturity and require less maintenance as the tree ages.

STRUCTURAL PRUNING IN 5 SIMPLE STEPS

These 5 tips represent best practices to use while pruning. The best time to prune young trees is late fall through winter, while the trees are dormant.

- 1 Remove broken dead dying or damaged branches
- 2 Select and establish a desired structure or dominant leader. Competing leaders should be subordinated or removed.
- 3 Select or establish the lowest permanent branch determined by the location and intended function for the tree.
- 4 Select and establish scaffold branches. These should be selected for good attachment, appropriate size, and desired spacing in relation to other branches.
- 5 Selection and subordination of temporary branches below the lowest permanent branch among the scaffold branches. Careful selection is necessary to retain needed resources and improve trunk taper.

The training process should be spread out over many years or series of prunings. The goal is not to remove more than 25% of the canopy during one year. A properly "trained" tree should not require structural pruning at maturity.

Worthington Farms



OUR GROWERS

Extreme heat was a buzz topic this summer. As we continually reinforce, one of the best ways to mitigate extreme heat is by planting trees. Yet planting trees requires thought, education, and planning. A recent study published in the journal Bioscience, states "US tree nurseries do not grow nearly enough trees to bring ambitious planting schemes to fruition, and they also lack the plant species diversity those plans require."

This highlights how fortunate TreesCharlotte is to work closely with local growers who understand the need for native species and are able to grow the trees we plant and distribute for optimum health and longevity.

Several TreesCharlotte team members had the opportunity recently to visit our three local growers at Worthington Farms, Scottree, and Panther Creek nurseries.

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JOIN THE MISSION

TreesCharlotte is a public/private nonprofit collaboration to grow, diversify and steward the city's iconic urban forest. Trained volunteers and science-based programs teach residents about the value of trees and how to plant and care for them.

TreesCharlotte's vision is 50 percent canopy coverage, city-wide acceptance of responsibility to plant and care for trees and sustained funding to continue the mission generation to generation.

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