

# Chicago Department of PUBLIC HEALTH



BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH *Our Roots Chicago*

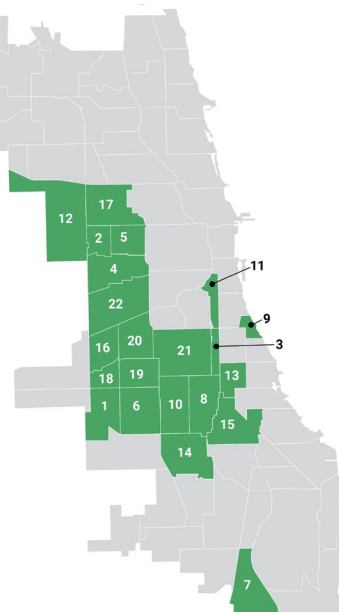
## OUR MISSION

**Our Roots Chicago** is a multi-departmental, community-driven and data-informed program to equitably increase the City's public urban tree canopy, increase stewardship of public trees, and expand community engagement and participation around the many public health, social, economic and environmental benefits trees can bring to residents and neighborhoods.

In 2022, Our Roots worked with community partners and tree ambassadors to plant more than 18,000 new trees—nearly a quarter of its commitment to planting 75,000 trees over the next five years!

Some neighborhoods have a tree canopy coverage as low as 5% compared to the City average of 16%. Our Roots Chicago prioritizes historically disinvested and under-canopied communities where residents would have the most health, social, economic, and environmental benefits making sure no neighborhood is left behind. The priority communities include:

NEIGHBORHOOD KEY	
1.	West Lawn
2.	West Garfield Park
3.	Fuller Park
4.	North Lawndale
5.	East Garfield Park
6.	Chicago Lawn
7.	Riverdale
8.	Englewood
9.	Oakland
10.	West Englewood
11.	Armour Square
12.	Austin
13.	Washington Park
14.	Auburn Gresham
15.	Greater Grand Crossing
16.	Archer Heights
17.	Humboldt Park
18.	West Elsdon
19.	Gage Park
20.	Brighton Park
21.	New City
22.	South Lawndale



## BENEFITS OF TREES

Research has shown that a robust urban canopy can benefit residents and the environment by improving air quality, reducing asthma symptoms, providing shade and cooling the surrounding air to help protect against the urban heat island effect, and improving health and well-being. They also reduce stormwater runoff to help prevent flooding, lower air conditioning costs, and more.

## TREE EQUITY WORKING GROUP

The Tree Equity Working Group—a group of over 100 community-based organizations, conservation organizations, advocates, and government with the shared commitment of expanding Chicago's tree canopy—helps the City with planting and maintenance strategies, policies, research, and sharing best practices for Chicago's urban canopy focusing on our priority communities.

## TREE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Tree Ambassador Program is building a network of resident tree advocates by training community-based organizations on how to identify and submit potential tree locations on City parkways on behalf of residents they engage with.



## RESOURCES

Learn more about Our Roots Chicago, the Tree Ambassador Program, the Tree Equity Working Group and the benefits of trees: [chicago.gov/ourroots](https://chicago.gov/ourroots)

Call or [download the CHI311 app](#) to request a tree

Sign up to receive updates on environmental news at  
[CHICAGO.GOV/ENVCOMMUNITYINFO](https://CHICAGO.GOV/ENVCOMMUNITYINFO)



THE BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH includes the Offices of Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion, Community Planning & Equity Zones, Environmental Permitting & Inspection, Epidemiology & Research, and Health Equity in All Policies

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