

Tree Equity Working Group

August 12, 2025

Member spotlight: Galewood Neighbors

- There was no member spotlight this month.
- If you would like to give a member spotlight at a future meeting, please email jared.patton@cityofchicago.org.
- Member spotlights are an opportunity to share your work. The format is flexible and Jared will assist with preparation, if desired.

Chicago tree updates

- No new trees have been planted since last month:
 - o 2025 totals: 4,940 trees so far this year (CDOT: 3,207, BOF: 1,733)
 - o 2025 goals: 10,000 trees (CDOT: 4,000, BOF: 6,000)
- Current work focusses on tree maintenance, warranty evaluation, and site selection for fall planting.
- Planting will resume when the temperature drops in late summer.

Urban Wildlife Institute: Seth Mangle

- Due to technical difficulties, slides were not available during the presentation. They will be shared afterwards via email and posted on the website.
- UWI—located at the Lincoln Park Zoo—studies wildlife in urban areas, with the goal of minimizing conflict between nature and people, to the betterment of both.
- UWI relies heavily on citizen science to do this work. More information is available here: <https://www.lpzoo.org/conservation-science/science-centers/urban-wildlife-institute/>
- A past (though different) presentation is recorded here: [Community Building with Zooniverse: An Online Platform for Citizen Science](#)
- Seth may return for a future meeting. In the meantime, TEWG should feel free to contact UWI to get involved with their work.

Urban Forestry Advisory Board

- UFAB has not met since the last TEWG meeting.
 - o UFAB will meet next on October 8.
 - o The Education Working Group will meet on August 12.
 - o The Policy Working Group will meet on August 14.

- The Policy Working Group is currently focusing on the draft heritage trees ordinance. The group is in the early phases of exploring what will be included in the ordinance. The best way to participate in the conversation is to attend the meetings.

Chicago Region Trees Initiative

- CRTI 2025 tree planting accomplishments:
 - o 2322 trees planted
 - o 609 requested
 - o 1029 trees inventoried
- CRTI is hiring a new Tree Ambassador Program specialist - [Chicago Region Trees Initiative Tree Ambassador Specialist \(Term-Limit\) | LISLE, IL | The Morton Arboretum](#)
- CRTI will be hosting a tree walk at Stone Temple Baptist Church immediately following the TEWG meeting.

Openlands

- Openlands will host a tree care day in North Lawndale at 2:00pm on August 27 – more information can be found by scanning the QR code on slide.
- Tree care days: Openlands works with partners to cohost tree care days. These workdays are intended to be zero-barrier-to-entry events to get people involved with trees in their community. Openlands provides tools and instruction. Contact Tom Ebling if you are interested in cohosting an event.
- Tree planter grants: Openlands plants roughly 1,200 trees per year and still has 200 unclaimed trees available for 2025. These trees can be planted in parkways or on private property. Reach out to Tom Ebling if you would like to organize a tree planting event.

Next TEWG meeting

- The next TEWG meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 10 at 10:00am**. The meeting will have an in-person option at Chicago City Hall, conference room 1103.
 - o **If you would like to attend in-person, you must RSVP to Jared Patton at jared.patton@cityofchicago.org.**

Updates and open discussion

- Meeting materials and Teams links are now posted on the Tree Equity Working Group Website: <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/our-roots-chicago/home/tree-equity.html>

- Moving forward, the City will share a bullet point summary of TEWG meetings. These notes will be shared with members and City staff and posted on the TEWG website.
- TEWG member Imani Village is currently hiring a new staff member to support their tree initiatives. To apply, email a cover letter and resume to imanivillagePL@outlook.com by November 14, 2025.
- The Morton Arboretum will be hosting a Trees and Tacos Arboriculture Career Fair on Friday, September 12 from 2:00-5:00pm in Thatcher Woods:
<https://mortonarb.org/explore/activities/adult-programs/trees-and-tacos-arboricultural-career-fair/>
- The spotted lantern fly has been found in Cook County forest preserves. Members should be aware that it may soon spread to Chicago, and that it often follows its preferred food, the non-native tree of heaven.
- Chicago Public Schools is restarting this month and their early education program is a great way to get kids interested in trees. This may be a place where the TEWG can help.
- The Greater Chatham Initiative will be hosting a tree-a-palooza on Saturday, September 13 at 12:00pm, which will be a community event celebrating the planting of 200 trees on public property:
<https://www.greaterchathaminitiative.org/events/greater-chatham-tree-a-palooza/>