



Photo by Doyle Murphy/TNC

THE TREESILIENCE INITIATIVE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Treesilience, a national initiative administered through a partnership among The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the USDA Forest Service (USFS), Davey Tree Expert Company, and community-based organizations, began in Chicago, IL in 2020, and then expanded to Orlando, FL and St. Louis, MO. The initiative is aimed at reducing disparities in tree cover by removing and replacing dead or dying trees, maintaining and pruning existing trees, monitoring tree health, and planting new trees in urban neighborhoods where tree canopy has been threatened or lost.

OBJECTIVES

- Reduce disparities in urban tree cover by planting new trees and maintaining existing trees to ensure they stay healthy and strong.
- Target tree planting and long-term maintenance toward communities with the most need using tree health data and the best available science.
- Create jobs for community residents and career pathways for young emerging professionals.

PATHWAYS FOR SCALING



Farm Bill Programs, like the Forest Service’s Landscape Scale Restoration Program (LSR) & the Urban & Community Forestry Program (UCF) provide technical & financial support to urban communities to increase and maintain healthy tree cover.



Revising LSR guidelines to allow for greater consideration of projects on urban landscapes could help bring programs like Treesilience to more communities.

LOCATION

Currently Chicago, IL, St. Louis, MO, & Orlando, FL – expanding in 2024.

FUNDING AMOUNT AND SOURCES

Approx. \$2 million in federal & private support since 2020: USFS Landscape Scale Restoration Program, USFS Urban & Community Forestry Program, State of Missouri Department of Conservation, Ameren, SSM Health, Walder Foundation, Walt Disney World Foundation, ADS Foundation.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

MO: Beyond Housing, City of St. Louis, Davey Tree Expert Company, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri; IL: Imani Village; FL: IDEAS For Us, Infinite Zion Farms, Pine Hills Community Council; TNC, USFS.

SUCCESSES TO DATE



IL: Trained 20+ advocates with an annual goal of planting 50 trees a year in high-need communities.



MO: Removed 100+ Emerald Ash Borer-infested or susceptible ash trees, & replaced them with twice as many new trees.



FL: Pruned 50+ mature trees to enhance disaster preparedness, & planted 50+ Florida-friendly shade & edible fruit trees to improve tree canopy & address food insecurity.