



Dallas Park & Recreation



BRANCHING OUT

Reforesting Your Neighborhood Park

Park and Recreation Board
March 10, 2022

Purpose

- To provide an update to the Park and Recreation Board on the Branching Out Program, the leveraging of community engagement and the overall impact to the Dallas Park System



Overview

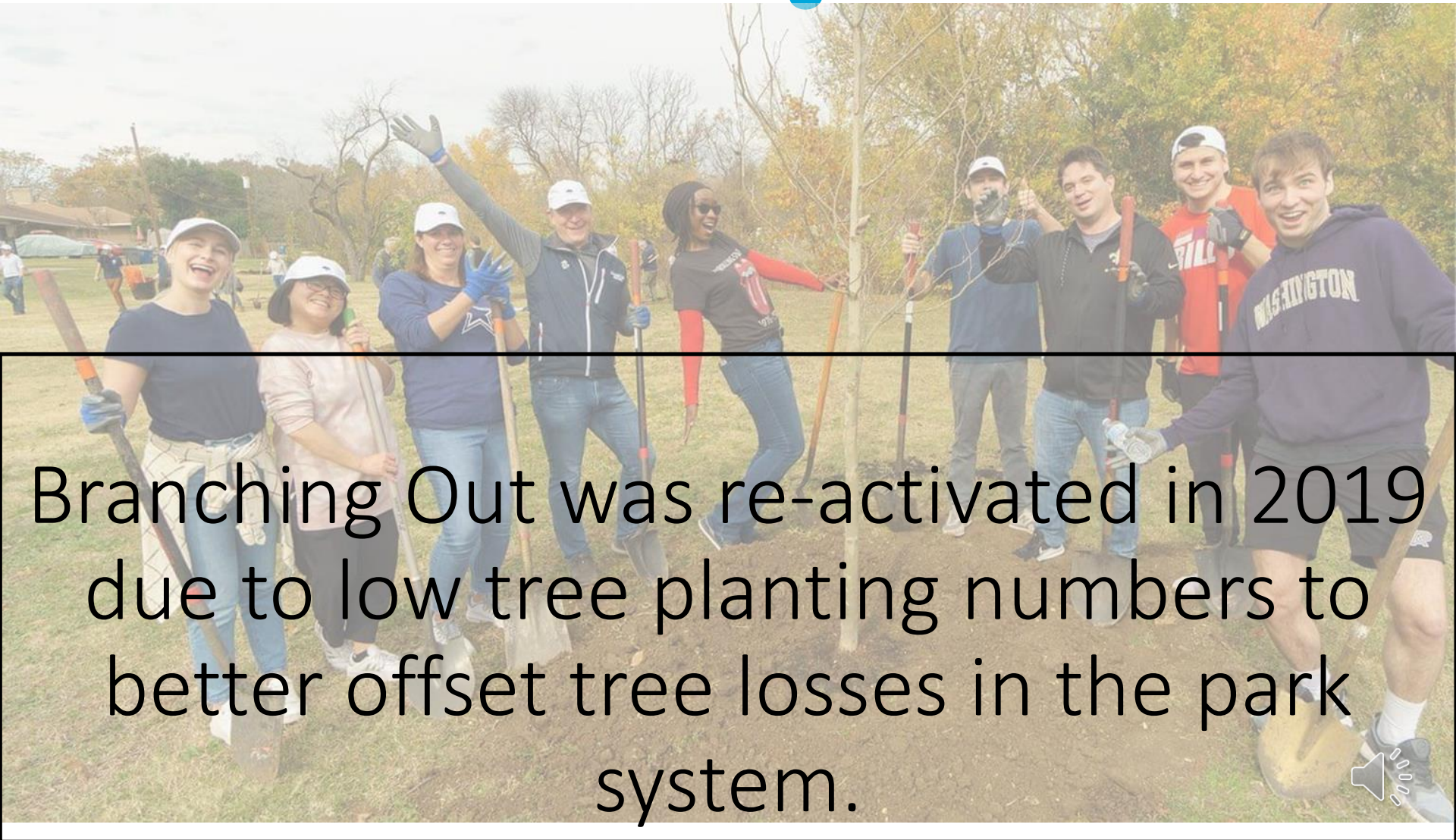
- Branching Out Background
- Branching Out Goals
- Urban Forestry Master Plan
 - Goals/ Recommendations
- Reforestation Fund
- Partner Investments
- Challenges/COVID
- Volunteerism/Community Engagement/Partners

Background

- Many trees were planted 50+ years ago
- Plant trees on parks that have the space and need, with an eye on equity for the citizens of Dallas.
- Use diversity of species to insulate from epidemics like Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch Elm Disease, and Oak Wilt
- Select tree species that enrich the ecosystem, native habitat, and aesthetics
- Leverage community engagement in our neighborhood parks



Branching Out



Branching Out was re-activated in 2019 due to low tree planting numbers to better offset tree losses in the park system.

Branching Out Goals

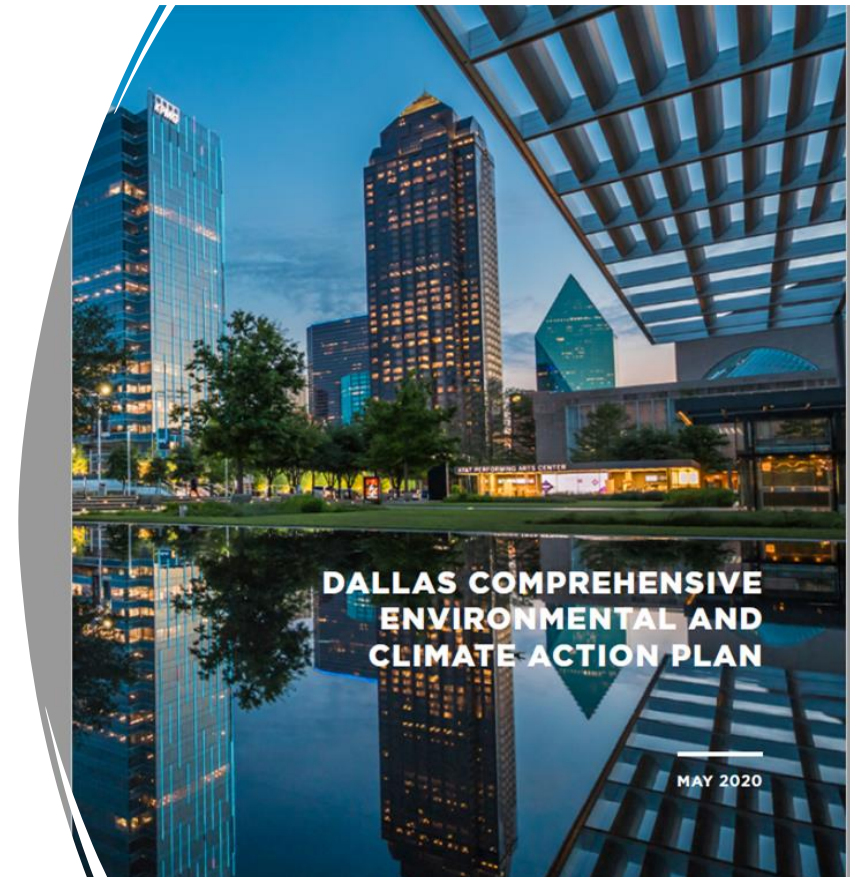
- Highly Diverse (Avg 15 Species)
- Native Plant Material (90+%)
- Equitable (2 plantings/yr. in each Maintenance District)
- Well designed - habitat, wildlife, pollinators, aesthetics, and maintenance friendly.



Branching Out and CECAP

Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan

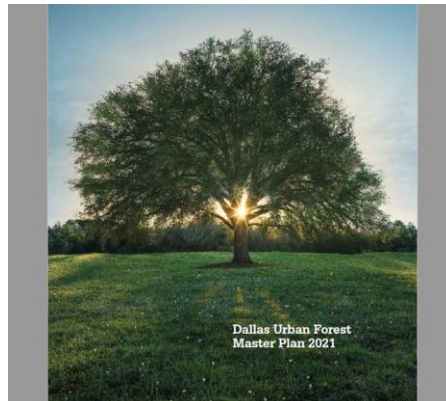
- Protect and enhance ecosystems, trees, and green spaces that in turn improves public health.
 - Leverage green spaces to provide climate adaptation benefits
 - Increase, enhance, and maintain healthy forests, parks, and green spaces
 - Integrate nature-based solutions into the public realm as a public health strategy



Branching Out and The UFMP

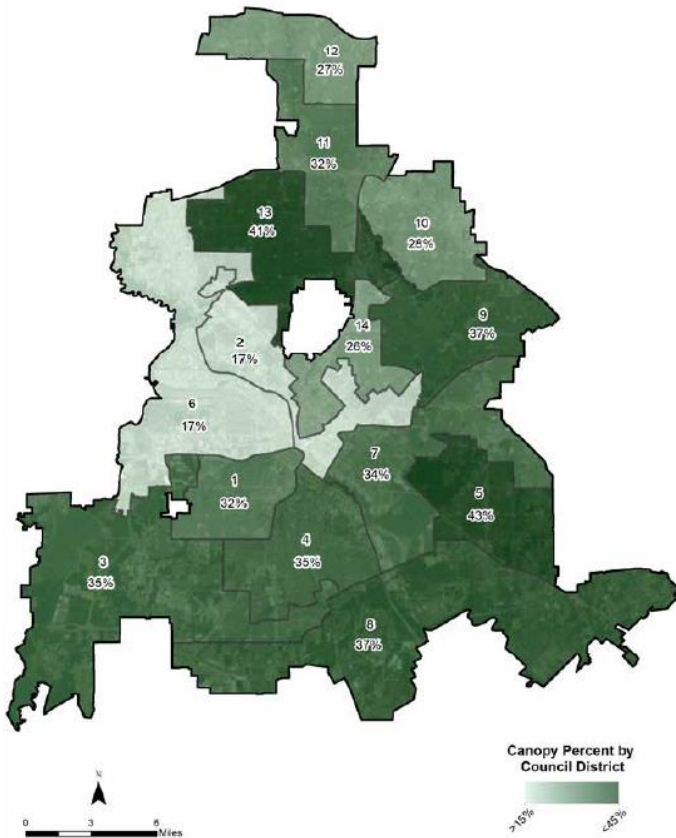
Dallas Urban Forest Master Plan Goals

1. Create a healthy, equitable, and resilient urban forest through proper planning and implementation of management strategies that maximizes the benefits that Dallas' trees provide.
2. Protect and grow tree canopy in Dallas to reduce temperatures, improve air quality, and address the most pressing challenges facing the city.
3. Achieve the Dallas Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan target of 37% canopy cover by 2040.
4. Actively engage with the community about the instrumental role they play in caring and growing Dallas' urban forest and making trees a priority.



Park Selections

Figure 9. Map of tree canopy cover by Dallas City Council District
Source: Texas Trees Foundation Urban Tree Canopy Assessment



- Canopy coverage
- Equity
- Urban Heat Island effect (UHIE)
- Mitigation and Storm Damage
- Canopy Age

Reforestation Fund

- Funding resource used to increase the urban canopy of Dallas through tree planting and forested land acquisition
- Created by the Tree Preservation Ordinance (Article X)
- Developers make a payment to the Reforestation Fund to mitigate tree removals.
- Branching Out trees are provided through this fund.



Investment through Collaboration and Engagement



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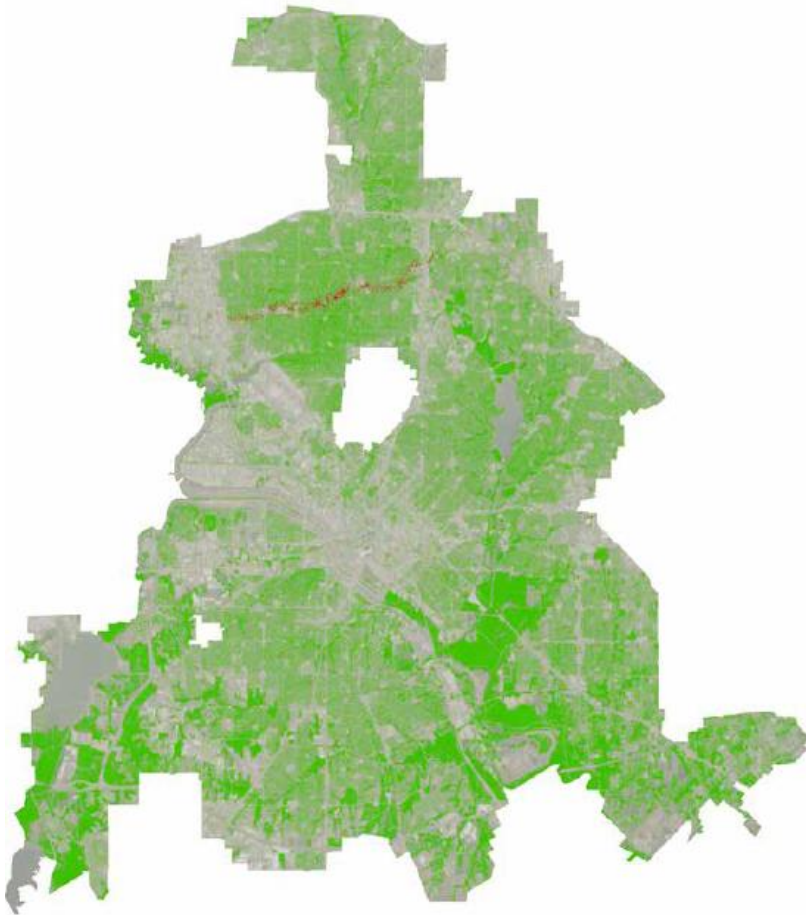


TEXAS TREES
FOUNDATION

Labor & Irrigation	\$20,000
2019-2021	Total Estimated Investment \$500,000+



Challenges Met



- In 2019, Dallas had two severe storm events.
- Straight line windstorm-June
- Tornado-October
- As of Dec. 2021, all storm damaged parks have been reforested by Branching Out Events.

■ Tree Canopy
■ Tornado Canopy Loss



COVID 19 (Spring 2020-?)

Increase in Restrictions

Facilities Closed

Contact Restricted

Remote Everything

Programing Reduced

Cabin Fever



Community Engagement



	2019	2020	2021
Total Volunteers	333	370	885
Total Events	6	9	13
Avg Vol/Event	56	41	68
Volunteer Hours	999	1110	2655
Volunteer Value	\$25,084	\$27,872	\$66,687

Community Engagement

FY 19-20	399 Trees	6 Parks
FY 20-21	742 Trees	18 Parks
FY 21-22	656 Trees	14 Parks

- A need was met through the hard work of the partners and PMO Team!



Partnerships and Outreach

- Park Friends Groups
- Groundwork Dallas
- Corporate Sponsors
- Local HOAs
- Open Registration



We Went to Work!



- Commitment to our communities and our park system
- Established new protection protocols for tree planting events
- Worked with our partners to leverage our strengths



Oak Cliff Founders



Netherland Park



Tree Planting Demonstration



Learning to Plant a Tree!



Guard Park



Salado Park



Garrett Park



Brownwood Annex Planting





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