

# Annual Report



TEXAS TREES  
FOUNDATION

**2024**

3000 Pegasus Park Drive  
Suite 740  
Dallas, Texas 75247





Dear Friends,

Rooted in our mission to improve the health of cities and people through the transformative power of trees, our branches have continued to spread to new sites, communities, and partners over the past year. Together with more than 100 partners and 1,000 volunteers, we brought 5,000 trees to communities throughout Texas in 2024.

Today and for generations to come, these trees will support the mental and physical health of tens of thousands of residents and create millions of dollars in economic value. Our roots of urban forestry, education, research, and collaborative partnerships equip us to connect every tree we plant and space we transform to the individuals we serve.

Thank you for your support – your engagement, partnership, volunteer service, financial contributions, and leadership. We are honored to advance a greener, healthier, and more prosperous future for Texas together.

In Gratitude

*Janette Monear*

**Janette Monear**  
President & CEO

*Dan E. Patterson*

**Dan E. Patterson**  
Chairman, Patterson Thoma  
Family Office



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# About Us

Since 1982, the Texas Trees Foundation, a 501c(3), has been transforming landscapes throughout Texas and beyond. Our mission, which we embrace daily, is to improve the health of cities and people through the transformative power of trees. Our efforts are rooted in evidence-based design, data and research to reimagine how our cities can create a better balance between the green and gray infrastructure to improve human health. Our projects are made possible through deep collaboration with hundreds of community members, private donors, public agencies, organizations, and companies working together to realize a greener and healthier future for all.

## Our Programs


- 

**Southwestern Medical District Transformation**  
Public-private partnership to transform a major urban center, transportation corridor and heat island into a green haven designed for health and healing.
- 

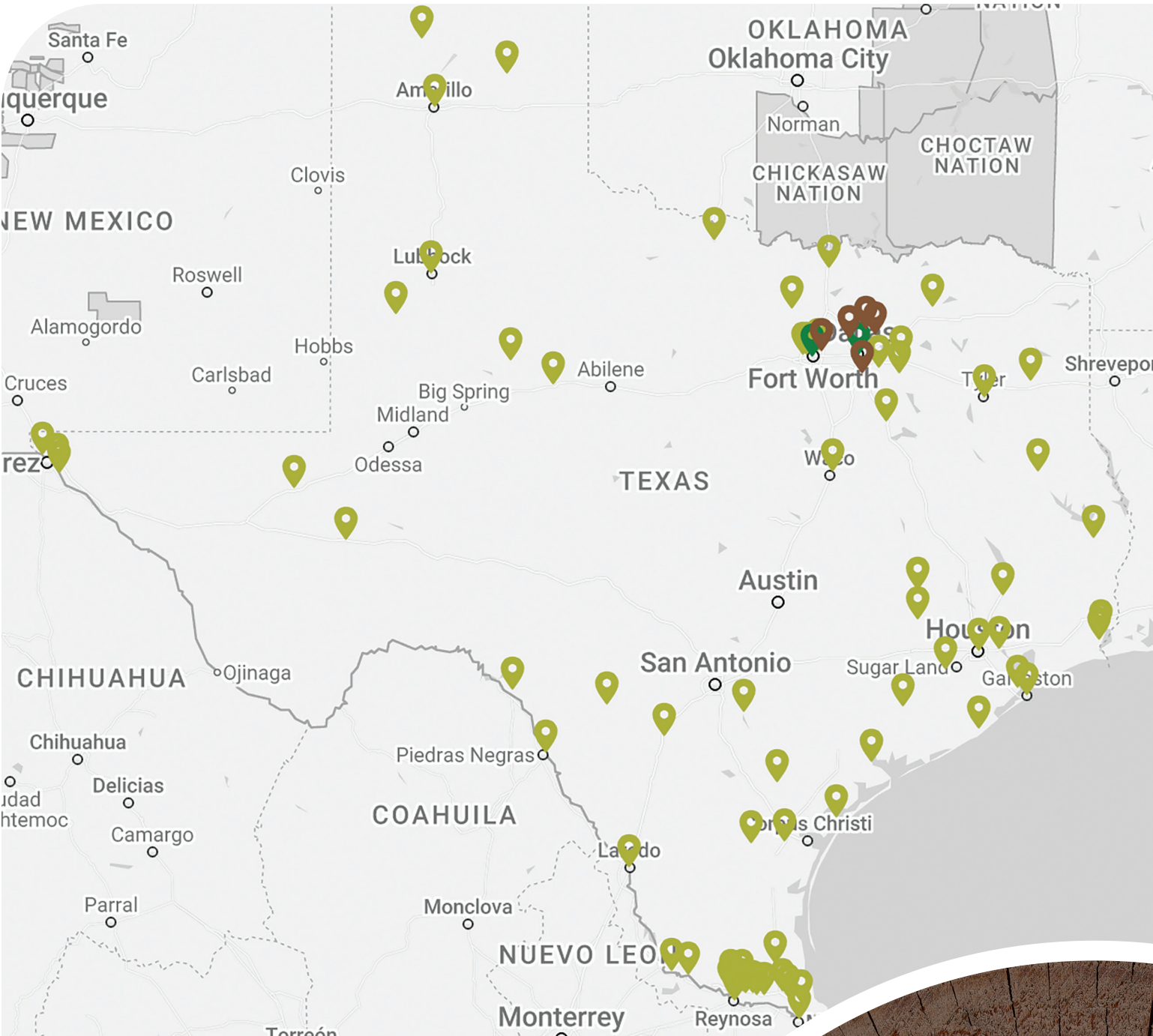
**Tree Plantings**  
Strategically planting where trees are most needed on roadways, schools, parks, and other sites.
- 

**Cool Schools**  
Transforming school campuses into outdoor learning centers through expansive greening, energizing playscapes, and nature-based education.
- 

**Urban Forestry Training**  
Connecting job-seekers to lifelong arboriculture careers through hands-on learning.
- 

**Consulting**  
Help policymakers and landowners realize the benefits of urban forestry by providing expertise and technical assistance.
- 

**Community Greening**  
Realizing transformative impact in partnership with communities by aligning all programs at the neighborhood scale.



## 2024 Impact



## Join us on social!

-  @texasreesfoundation
-  @texasrees
-  @Texas\_Trees
-  @texas-trees-foundation
-  @texasreesfoundation86





# Celebrating 20 Years

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The next best time is today.  
**Through 20 years of sponsorship and partnership, TXU Energy has done both.**



Outdoor classroom built in 2024 for the education program.

Our partnership is rooted at the TXU Energy Urban Tree Farm and Education Center, located at the Richland campus of Dallas College. The 3.5-acre farm is the Texas Trees' hub, providing space and resources to care for nearly 2,000 trees this year. We also hosted 120 volunteers and participants in educational programs, ranging from our own urban community forestry trainees to seventh graders at the farm.

To commemorate 20 years of impact together, TXU Energy and Texas Trees launched a statewide campaign of planting **400 trees in 10 locations across Texas, creating greener, healthier communities for decades to come.**



# Urban Forestry


## 2024 Tree Plantings

**In 2024, we planted 1,996 trees and distributed 3,436 trees throughout Texas.**

5,432 trees will:

 **Isolate**  
~120,000 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> per year

 **Catch**  
~4 million gallons of water per year

 **Remove**  
~4 tons of air pollutants per year



**4 million gallons of water would fill a pool more than 1,000 feet long (almost as long as 4 football fields), 50 feet wide, and 10 feet deep.**

**Source:**  
U.S. Geological Survey



TXU Energy employees joined us at the Irving Tree Farm in 2024 as part of a year-long celebration commemorating our 20-year partnership.





# Education

## Cool Schools Program

The Cool Schools Program transformed 35 Dallas-area outdoor campuses, advancing environmental education, access to nature and increased tree canopy to more than 20,714 students. In 2024, we were pleased to welcome A.C. Black Elementary, John Q. Adams Elementary, and Geneva Heights Elementary to the Cool Schools family. We're excited for these communities to gain increased access to nature and see the long-term impact it will have on their students' education and emotional and social health. Thank you to our partners with Dallas Independent School District, the City of Dallas, and the staff, students, and parents of each school for realizing these transformations with us.

The success of Cool Schools in Texas has inspired us to expand so no child—anywhere—is left inside! As part of a CALFIRE greening grant designed to increase access to nature, we're excited to inform you that we are leading the transformation of nine outdoor campuses in Yolo County, California at some of the highest-need schools in the state. A big thank you to our partners of Tree Davis, Woodland Tree Foundation, Washington Unified School District and Woodland Joint Unified School District.



Texas Trees staff works with districts to provide curriculum and teacher training on how to use outdoor spaces for learning and emotional development. **Scan the QR code to learn more!**



Children with a strong connection to nature have better social and emotional skills, which help build healthy relationships, manage emotions effectively and understand others' feelings.

Source: Connection to nature is associated with social-emotional learning of children, Lanza, et al., 2023



Children are more vulnerable to rising heat temperatures due to lower physiological capabilities to regulate heat and a lack of mobility.

Source: Craig Crandall, Ph.D.; Jay Pandya, M.D.; Kurt Kleinschmidt, M.D., all of UT Southwestern, 2024.



Volunteers plant trees at Fish Trap Lake in November 2024.

## Urban Forestry Training

2024 also brought the launch of our urban forestry training program, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor and Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas. Through this paid work and hands-on learning program, 20 trainees gained valuable experience to pursue pathways for future success in a green career.

### In The Field



President & CEO Janette Monear, alongside partners Robert Prejean and Susan Alvarez, present to the Dallas Breakfast Group. Our experienced and dynamic team does hundreds of presentations a year for groups such as local garden clubs, civic organizations, corporate boards and more, educating and empowering our communities on how they can support local greening for the benefit of human health.

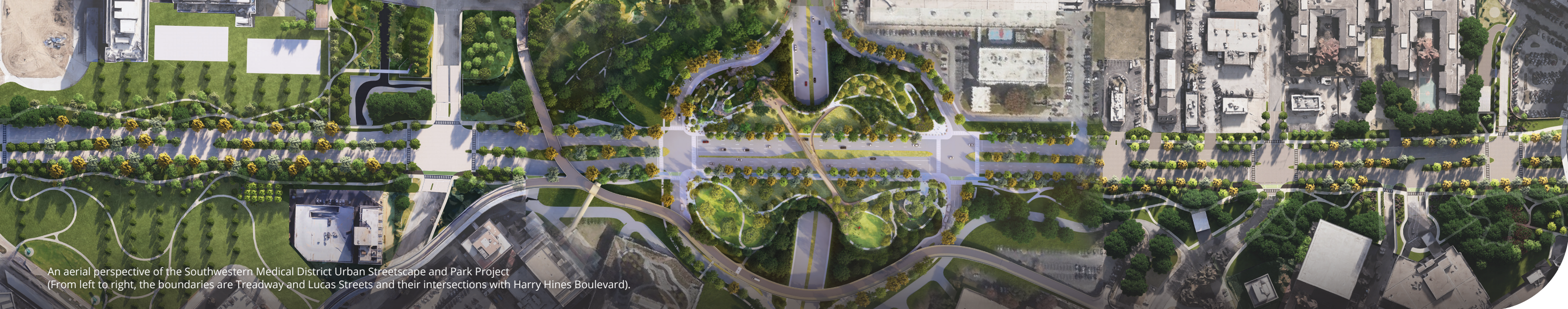


Lincoln High School student provides feedback for the top student landscape designs during a Cool Schools Extended session. The Cool Schools Extended program provides high school students with hands-on learning experiences that include foundations of urban forestry, exploration of green collar jobs, and landscape design.



Through South Dallas Greening Initiative, we gave students, residents, and workforce trainees hands-on training in urban forestry through 8 educational and outreach workshops. Willette Jackson (right), assistant manager of Community Engagement, celebrates with a local resident after planting a tree in her front yard.



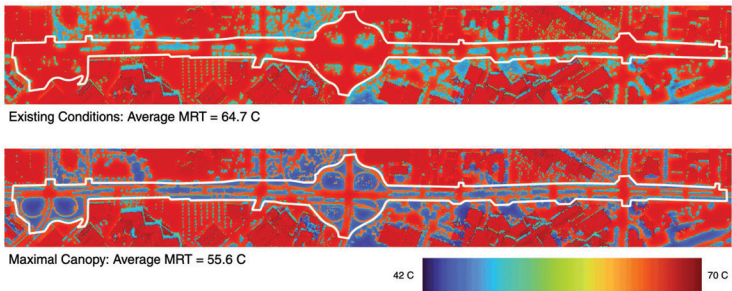


An aerial perspective of the Southwestern Medical District Urban Streetscape and Park Project (From left to right, the boundaries are Treadway and Lucas Streets and their intersections with Harry Hines Boulevard).

# Research & Innovation

## Southwestern Medical District

Dallas deserves a medical district where its health and healing expand beyond the walls of its remarkable healthcare facilities. Through a collaborative, multi-disciplinary partnership with the Southwestern Medical District, three anchor-hospital partners and local government entities, the SWMD Urban Streetscape and Park Transformation Project will transform a 2-mile segment of the Harry Hines Corridor into a cooler, cleaner, greener and healthier multi-modal thoroughfare. At the heart of the corridor, the intersection of Harry Hines Boulevard and Inwood Road, a new 8-acre park will become a peaceful and healing oasis for all who work, live, and seek care in the medical district.



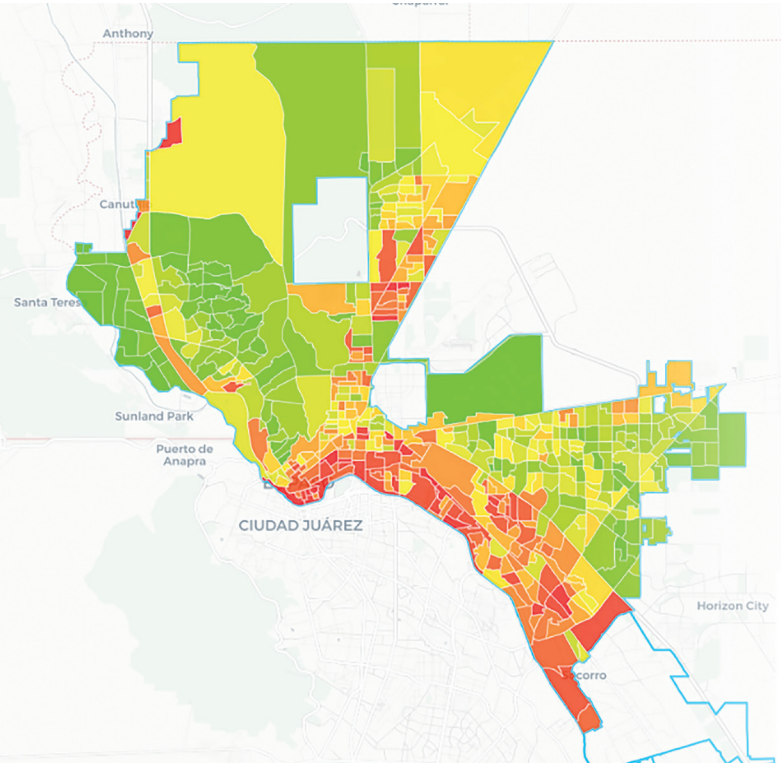
The medical district is within the **largest urban heat island in Dallas**, with a mere **5% tree canopy cover**.  
  
**82,000 cars** drive through the **Harry Hines Boulevard and Inwood Road interchange** daily.

We are excited to report the Southwestern Medical District Transformation team rolled out the 30% design plans for both the Green Spine Harry Hines Boulevard Streetscape and Green Park at the Nurse’s Quarters at Old Parkland in May 2024. Thank you to everyone who expressed support for this project as we steer toward full implementation and development.



A rendering of the two-way cycle track, sidewalk and garden paths along Harry Hines Boulevard.

“Everyone I have ever talked to in Texas hates the heat, thinks it’s too hot. This morning, I booked a guy for a 7 a.m. appointment for his labs since he walks to his appointments and I wanted to make sure it wasn’t too hot for him.”  
- SWMD Registered Nurse



## Geospatial Analysis 65 Project

In partnership with the Texas A&M Forest Service, our team engaged 64 high-need communities throughout the state to increase their urban canopies for the benefit of the health and wellness of their residents. Through urban forestry education and an interactive planning tool, we empower cities to advance new, high-impact projects. These partnerships seed new champions and capacity for strategic tree planting for years to come.



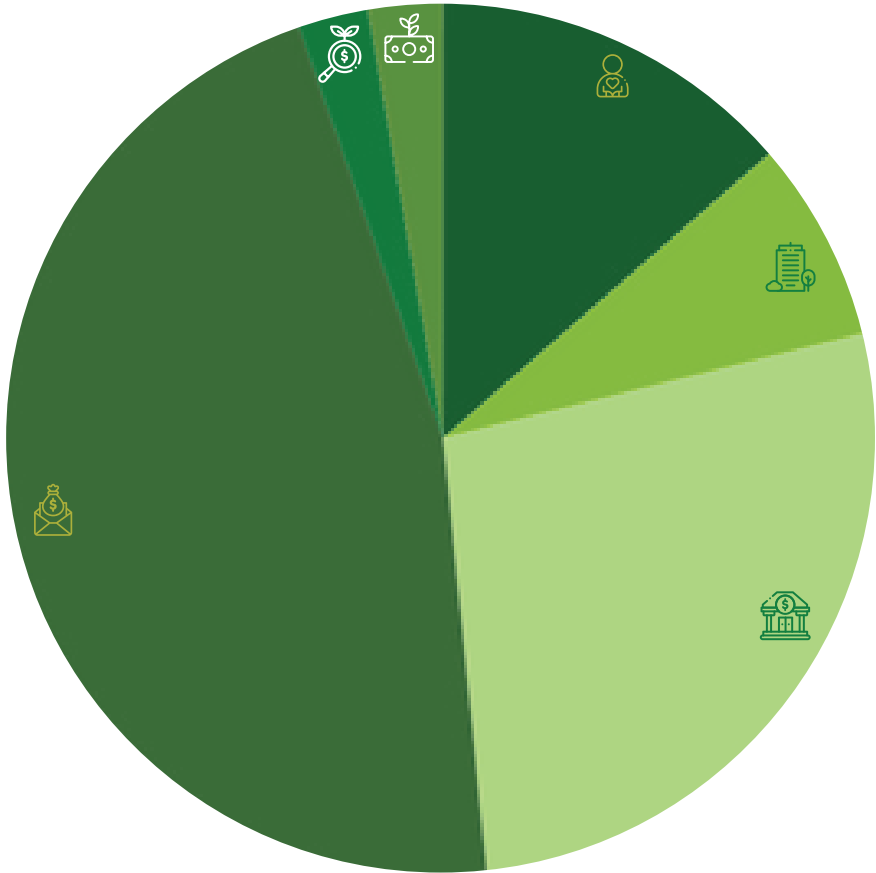
# Gratitude

Thank you! 2024 proved to be a year of growth and connection in ways that would not have been possible without your steady and valued support. Your energy, expertise, time and resources will have a lasting impact on the lives of Texans for decades to come. Our state and its future are better for your investment, and we celebrate our partnership and all that we’ve accomplished.

## Financial Support

Texas Trees receives funding through a variety of public and private funders.

- **Individual**
- **Corporations**
- **Foundations**
- **Public Grants**
- **Program Revenue**
- **Investment Income**
- **Other**
- **\$7,068,719**  
Total



We are excited to report that Texas Trees received nine grants in 2024, totaling a cumulative amount of \$45.3 million.

## Awards:

- Texas American Planning Association - “Gold” in Public Outreach Award
- Crossroads Cornerstone Academy gave the Vanguard Award to the Cool Schools and South Dallas Greening Initiative for the 2024-2025 school year



Texas Trees CEO Janette Monear celebrates the 30% design completion of the Southwestern Medical District Transformation Project with champion and supporter Lyda Hill.

## Looking to the Future

In 2025, we will deepen our roots in the communities of North Texas and extend our canopy across the state. We look forward to opening the 50th Cool Schools to the community, a milestone realized in collaboration with thousands of students, teachers, and families, as well as the leadership of six school districts.

We also developed our five-year Strategic Plan, which will guide Texas Trees’ continued growth in impact. We carry forward our longstanding values, with increased focus on driving human health and wellbeing through high-impact, evidence-based greening at the community scale. We will double our holistic tree planting efforts and invest in education and partnerships to realize impact beyond the trees we plant. The quality of life and prosperity of our state will only improve as we meet the immense need for trees in Texas communities, combating urban heat and maximizing the full benefits of trees for human health.

Special thanks to the Strategic Planning Committee for their leadership, and to the full Board and staff of Texas Trees who worked with the experts at High Flying Strategies and HR&A Advisors to bring this plan to life.

## Media





# Canopy Club

## Donors

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Cornerstone Crossroads	Dr. Christine Carmichael	Jane Jacoy	Oakland Cemetery
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A rendering of a proposed overlook in the Southwestern Medical District Urban Streetscape and Park Project's 8-mile park that will give a view of the O'Donnell Grove on the southwest corner of UT Southwestern's North Campus.



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Suite 740  
Dallas, Texas 75247

[texastrees.org](http://texastrees.org)