

TREE CORPS FOR BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL & MCLEAN COUNTY

ANNUAL 2025 REPORT



THE ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER HAS COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING TASKS AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF NORMAL, THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MCLEAN COUNTY, AND BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Tree Planting

- Held 12 tree prep events and 18 volunteer planting days, engaging 136 volunteers.
- Spent approximately 143 hours on tree planting site preparation.
- Planted 1,757 trees at Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) site at Veterans Parkway.
- Planted 909 trees at IDOT site at Market Street.
- Planted 1,500 trees at Comlara Park.
- Planted 550 trees at BNWRD West Oakland main site.
- Planted 660 trees at Lake Bloomington.
- Infilled 67 trees at BNWRD Heyworth site.
- Provided 99 trees to community members.
- Total of 5,542 trees planted through these projects.

Tree Maintenance

- Measured and flagged 19 acres of planting sites.
- Conducted brush cutting, tilling, and cover crop seeding at BNWRD planting site.
- Held four tree potting volunteer events to store leftover trees at the nursery.
- Held nine volunteer events to dig up nursery trees and put them in containers, 25 volunteers participated.
- Continued regular watering, mulching, and maintenance of trees at the EAC tree nursery.
- Conducted two major tree mulching installations for moisture retention and overwintering at the EAC tree nursery.
- Conducted site assessments at BNWRD and Parklands properties.

West Bloomington Free Tree (WBFT) Program

As part of the Tree Corps initiative the Ecology Action Center provides free native tree saplings to income-qualifying residents of West Bloomington.

- Conducted one tree removal and replacement for a resident.
- Planted 21 trees with residents for WBFT program.
- Conducted 23 property assessments and 21 utility checks for WBFT program.

Other Tree Planting

- Planted a memorial tree with students and teachers at Glenn Elementary in September.
- Assisted Friends of the Constitution Trail with November tree planting event.

COMMUNITY-WIDE OUTREACH EFFORTS

Community Events

- Gave "Why Plant Trees" presentation at Bloomington Public Library.
- Tabled at the Bloomington Farmer's Market to promote free trees and air quality in June.
- Participated in Juneteenth event at Bloomington Public Library on June 19, reaching X people.
- Tabled at Juneteenth Community Celebration at Miller Park on June 21.
- Tabled at Bloomington Pride Fest on July 26 promoting Tree Corps and the free tree program, talked to 125 attendees.
- Participated in ISU Scavenger Hunt August 14, talked to 82 students about Tree Corps volunteer opportunities.
- Gave a presentation about trees at the ARC hosted by the Enthusiastic Gardeners club, with 21 people in attendance.

Social Media

- EAC staff created Tree Corps Facebook and Instagram content with 26,912 total impressions in 2025.

Website traffic

- The Ecology Action Center promoted tree planting benefits, projects, and programs that had 5,663 visits to Tree-Corps section of EAC website.

Newsletters

- January E-newsletter had 2,272 readers with an article about birds and trees.
- May E-newsletter had 1,827 readers with an article about tree teams.
- August E-newsletter had 2,055 readers with an article about trees and carbon sequestration.

- September Member newsletter had 264 readers with an article about trees and health.
- October E-newsletter had 2,301 readers with an article about the world's biggest tree.
- November E-newsletter had 2,304 readers with an article about the world's tallest tree.
- December Member newsletter had 248 readers with an article about urban trees
- Total newsletter impact of 7 articles and 11,271 engagements promote trees and tree benefits.

Staff Training

- Completed OSHA Work Zone Safety Training.
- Attended six Community Tree Care Series webinars through University of Illinois Extension Office.
- Attended Communicating Climate Change Training.
- Attended Midwest Climate Summit.
- Attended U of I Extension Forestry Stewardship Series.
- Participated in "Urban Trees are a Matter of Life and Death" workshop.
- Attended "Legacy Trees: The Significance of and How to Manage our Forest Elders" training.
- Participated in "Emerging invasive species across Illinois" workshop.
- Attended American Forests Tree Equity Coaching Network series.
- Attended "Tree Equity is Essential Infrastructure" training.
- Attended "Leverage Data for Environmental Justice" workshop.
- Attended "Cultivate a Team, Share a Dream" webinar.
- Completed U of I Extension Invasive Species Management Course and obtained a certificate of completion August 13, 2025.
- Attended American Forests Tree Equity Coaching Network series.
- Participated in "Urban Forestry is a Public Service" workshop.
- Completed "Tree Preservation: Compounding Interest" training.
- Attended "Planning with Intention" workshop.
- Completed Illinois Department of Agriculture Pesticide Safety Training and Testing for Commercial Applicator Pesticide License - General Standards and Rights of Way.