



BALTIMORE
TREE ²⁰/₀₈
TRUST

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

From Our Chief Executive Officer

Reflecting on 2024, I'm proud to share how Baltimore Tree Trust has continued to grow, adapt, and lead as a trusted steward of urban forestry in our city. This year, more than ever, has been about deepening our roots—investing in the people, systems, and strategies that will sustain our mission for years to come.

Thanks to our team's tireless efforts and our partners' unwavering support, we planted and maintained more trees across Baltimore than ever before. Our investment in long-term canopy care continues across Baltimore City, creating cooler neighborhoods, healthier air, and stronger community ties in the places that need it most.

We've made significant strides in expanding our tree planting and maintenance efforts, bringing more canopy coverage and climate resilience to Baltimore's neighborhoods—but our impact goes far beyond trees. In 2024, we strengthened our commitment to community outreach and engagement, ensuring residents have a voice in shaping greener, healthier spaces where they live. We also deepened our investment in our Neighborhood Forestry career pathways program, expanding opportunities for our crews to expand and build long-term careers in urban forestry. We believe that the health of our urban forest is directly connected to the health of our communities—and that means investing in people.

2024 also marked an exciting new chapter for Baltimore Tree Trust as we embarked on our first strategic planning process. In today's ever-changing funding and policy landscape—especially amid current federal funding uncertainties—this effort will guide our growth, resilience, and impact in the years ahead. It's a bold step toward aligning our vision, sharpening our goals, and preparing for a more sustainable future.

In times of growth, leadership matters. We are incredibly grateful to Thomasina Poirot, who concluded her decade of service on our Board with grace and vision. Her leadership has shaped our organization, and we are honored to welcome her into our Emeritus Class of Directors. As Thomasina passes the torch, we're excited to welcome Mark Smolarz as Board Chair. Mark brings a wealth of experience and steady leadership that will guide us confidently into this next chapter.

Our progress over these years would not be possible without you—our community of supporters, funders, neighbors, and advocates. Your belief in the power of trees and our mission continues to drive meaningful change across Baltimore. Together, we're proving that urban forestry is not just about planting trees—it's about planting hope, opportunity, and a greener future for all.

With Gratitude,

Bryant Smith
Baltimore TreeTrust Chief Executive Officer



From Our Board Chair

As we reflect on the past year at Baltimore Tree Trust, I am filled with optimism about the exciting path ahead. Our organization has shown incredible resilience and dedication, and I am proud of the collective strength we've demonstrated in advancing our mission.

Last year, Tree Trust's leadership considered our future with Mackenzie Scott's Yield Giving's substantial investment to address immediate needs, prepare the organization for challenging times, and initiate a strategic planning process to guide our future endeavors. We did not anticipate how quickly these investments would be needed. I am proud of the leadership shown by Tree Trust and the strategic decisions made last year.

In the year ahead, we are poised to take bold steps forward in our efforts to protect and expand Baltimore's urban tree canopy, ensuring a greener, healthier city for future generations. We are focused on strengthening our partnerships, expanding our resources, and continuing to engage our community in meaningful ways.

Our journey is challenging but worthwhile. As a united team of staff, board members, and supporters, we have made significant strides in expanding our impact in Baltimore's communities. While we have accomplished much, we know there is still work ahead. By collaborating, we will continue to achieve great things. The strength of Baltimore Tree Trust comes from our people and our shared commitment to inspiring change. Each challenge brings opportunities that make us stronger.

As we move forward, I am excited about what lies ahead and deeply grateful for your continued support. Together, we will shape Baltimore's brighter, greener future.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission and for being an essential part of this journey,

Mark Smolarz
Baltimore Tree Trust Board Chair



Our Year At a Glance

84 Neighborhoods
Planted

103 Plantable Sites
Created

150 Trees planted at
BCPS locations

3,000 Tree Stewards
Engaged

3,114 City right-of-way
tree plantings



3,592
total trees
planted in 2024



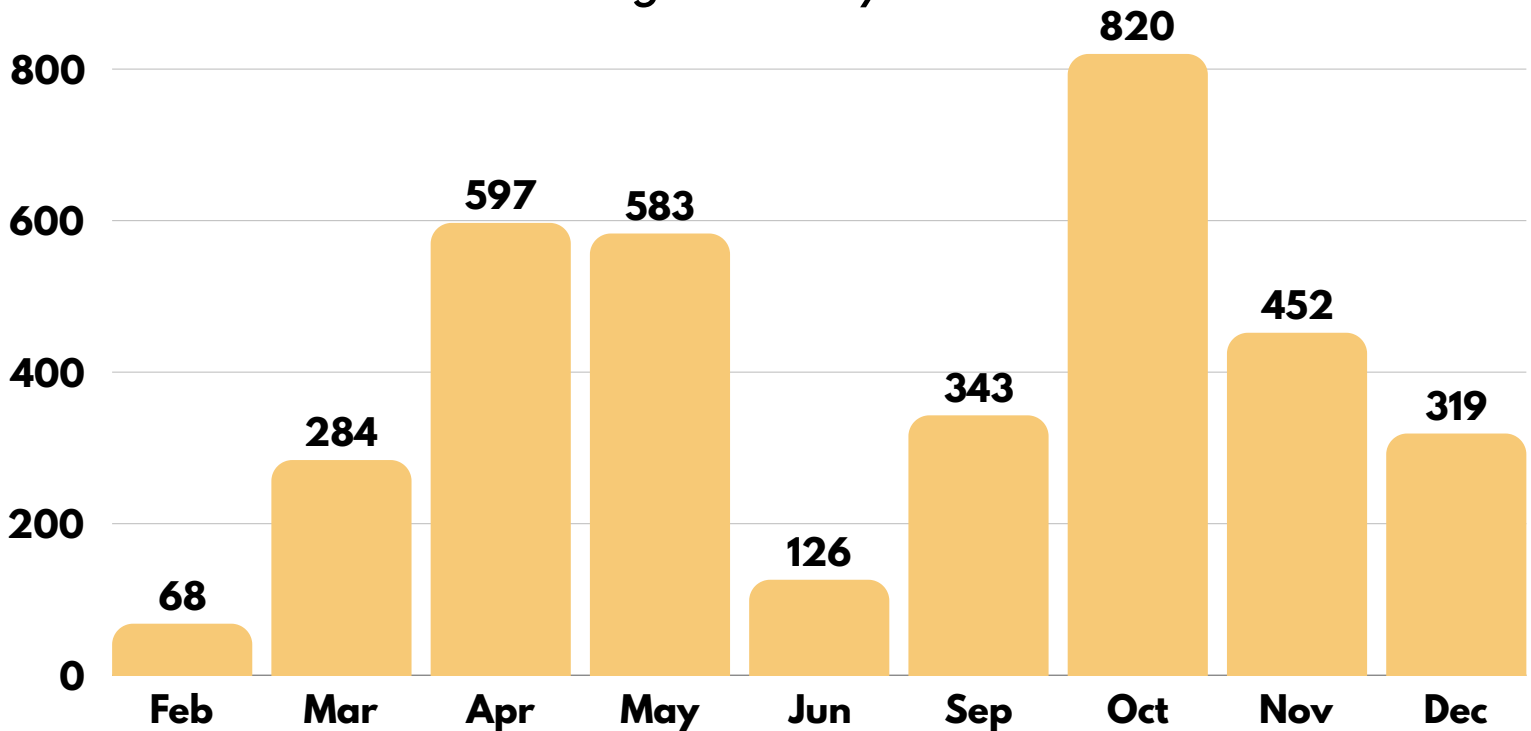
1,658

Spring 2024

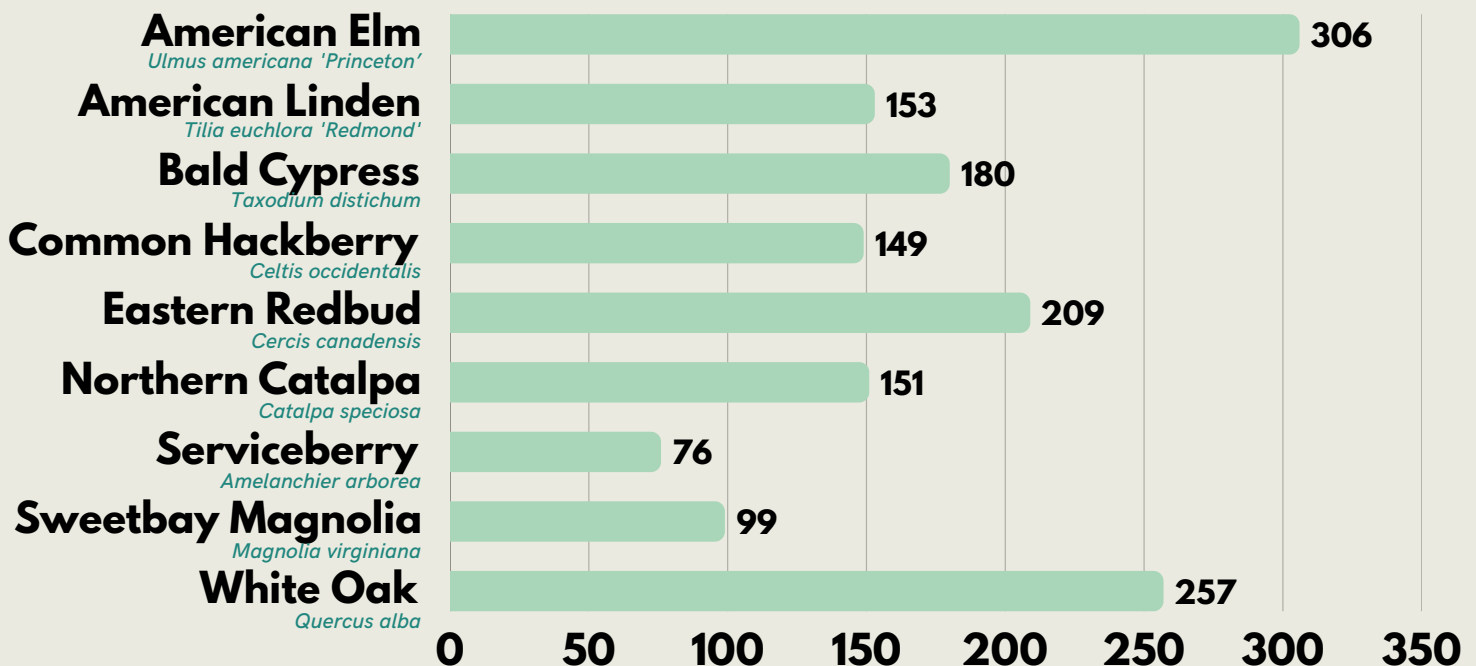
1,934

Fall 2024

Planting Totals by Month



Planted Species Distribution



Neighborhoods Planted Across Baltimore City

Arcadia
Barre Circle
Bayview
Belair-Edison
Belvedere
Broadway East
Broening Manor
Callaway-Garrison
Cameron Village
CARE
Cedmont
Cedonia
Cherry Hill
Coldstream Homestead
Montebello
Concerned Citizens Of
Forest Park
Cross Country
Curtis Bay
Cylburn
Dolfield
Dorchester
Druid Hill Park
Dunbar-Broadway
East Arlington

Evesham Park
Fallstaff
Frankford
Garwyn Oaks
Glen Oaks
Glenham-Belhar
Greenmount West
Greenspring
Grove Park
Hamilton Hills
Harlem Park
Heritage Crossing
Howard Park
Idlewood
Inner Harbor
Langston Hughes
Levindale
Liberty Square
Loch Raven
Locust Point
Lucille Park
McElderry Park
Medfield
Middle Branch
Reedbird Parks

Milton-Montford
Moravia-Walther
New Northwood
North Harford Road
Oliver
Overlea
Park Circle
Parklane
Parkside
Pen Lucy
Perring Loch
Pigtown/Washington
Village
Rognel Heights
Rosemont East
Sandtown-Winchester
South Baltimore
Towanda-Grantley
Waltherson
Washington Hill
Waverly
West Arlington
West Forest Park
Westfield
Woodmere
Yale Heights

Plantings Totals By District

District 1.....	35	District 6.....	1,181	District 11.....	68
District 2.....	616	District 7.....	84	District 12.....	77
District 3.....	643	District 8.....	143	District 13.....	59
District 4.....	216	District 9.....	61	District 14.....	108
District 5.....	244	District 10.....	57		

Engagement Programs

This year, the Baltimore Tree Trust (BTT) expanded our engagement programming to further tree stewardship across residents of the city. Through tabling events, volunteer tree plantings, outdoor education programs, and nursery community days, BTT engaged over 950 tree enthusiasts in the exciting and important work of expanding our city's tree canopy. In addition to physically planting trees with community members, we put a lot of focus into educating our community on how trees benefit Baltimore and how we, in turn, can ensure that Baltimore City's tree canopy survives and thrives for generations to come. With volunteers from Baltimore City Schools, faith groups, governmental agencies, and environmentally conscious corporations, we planted over 160 trees through our engagement programs alone.

Of special note, we continued our ongoing collaborative partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools to bring more trees—and tree education—to students and staff. To this end, we have been developing a “menu” of educational program options geared to schools including topics such as Social Emotional Learning with Trees, Beginner Tree Identification, and Green Career Exploration.



Schools Engaged

Holabird Academy
Forest Park HS
Francis Scott Key ES
Medfield Heights ES
Mervo HS
The Stadium School
Vanguard Collegiate MS
William Paca ES
Yorkwood ES
City Neighbors Charter School
Southwest Baltimore Charter

Volunteer Groups Engaged

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
National Aquarium
Maryland Department of Energy
Washington Hill Community Assoc.
Har Sinai Oheb Shalom Congregation
Heart of America+ Under Armour
Niagra Bottling
Enterprise
Annie E. Casey
France Merrick
Baltimore Peace Movement
Lorax Partnerships, LLC

Outreach Metrics

241 Students engaged

12 School campuses planted

16 Community tabling events joined

23 Community meetings attended

42 New neighborhoods outreached

Spreading Our Impact

Presentations + Talks

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum
Baltimore Ecosystem Study 25th Annual Meeting
Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance Data Day
Bowie State University Justice-Centered Solutions
to the Climate Crisis Panel
Chesapeake Bay Trust Urban Trees Spring Kickoff Panel
NPR Science Friday! Live at George Washington University
Partners in Community Forestry Conference, Chicago, IL
University of Maryland Earth Day Panel

News + Mentions

Bay Journal
Chesapeake Bay Net
Maryland Matters
WMAR2



MACo in Ocean City

We had the privilege of meeting Governor Wes Moore at this year's MACo in Ocean City! The Maryland Association of Counties Conference is a highly attended event to connect local, state, and federal government officials from all across Maryland.



Local City Tree Bills

BTT provided testimony in support of City House Bill 23-0465. The passed bill puts into place proper permitting and provision of right-of-way tree removals and ensure their replanting across the city. This bill ensures investment in the protection and expansion of Baltimore's urban tree canopy.



Science Friday Live!

Our friends at NPR Science Friday invited us to share our work at a special Live audience taping at George Washington University. We sat down for an engaging conversation of local urban forestry initiatives the importance of community involvement in tree canopy restoration.

Looking Ahead

A Strategic Step Forward for Baltimore Tree Trust

In 2024, the Baltimore Tree Trust initiated its first strategic planning process, which will conclude in 2025, with generous support from the Goldseker Foundation. This endeavor aims to strengthen the organization's foundation and better equip it to meet the evolving demands of the environmental sector, particularly in light of increasing climate challenges and funding reductions.

The strategic plan highlights essential areas for the Baltimore Tree Trust's long-term sustainability and impact. Key objectives include diversifying revenue sources, boosting unrestricted philanthropic investments, and enhancing fee-for-service offerings. The Tree Trust also aims to improve tree survivorship in Baltimore's urban areas, especially in communities vulnerable to climate change.

A key aspect of this strategy is strengthening the workforce development program. By enhancing training and career pathways for Neighborhood Foresters, the Tree Trust seeks to create local green jobs and empower individuals to pursue long-term careers in urban forestry.

This effort comes at a critical time, as uncertainties in public funding and federal and state budget cuts present significant challenges to environmental nonprofits nationwide. The Baltimore Tree Trust is proactively preparing for this reality, and it needs your support to thrive. Now more than ever, financial contributions can make a lasting difference for a greener, more resilient Baltimore.

Strategic Planning Areas of Focus



Increasing Tree Survivorship



Strengthening Workforce Development



Diversifying and Increasing Revenue

Our Donors

Ryan Alston
Sarah Auer
Miriam Avins
Jenna and Brian Battaglia
Randi Benesch
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Institutional Donors

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Niagara Bottling Company
Patagonia
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The Bunting Family Foundation
The Heather Hay Miller Foundation
The Lloyd E. Mitchell Foundation
The Venable Foundation
United Way of Central Maryland
uPerform
Urban Green Environmental
Wegmans
Wetland Studies & Solutions
White House Farm Foundation
Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
Yield Giving
Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund
Ziger | Snead Architects

Our Team

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Sr. Director of Communications

Gabriela Amaya-Williams

Sr. Director of Neighborhood Forestry

Onalee Anderson

Tree Care Specialist

Christopher Ballard

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Alonso Barrera

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Dillon Broadwell

Tree Care Supervisor

Roy Brown

Site Preparation Specialist

Elise Bruner

Grants Writer

Tyriek Clark

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Tyrah Cobb-Davis

Outreach Manager

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Neighborhood Forestry Specialist

Dylan Condon

Communications Intern

Kwamel Couter

Planting Manager

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Sr. Director of Workforce Development

Larry Douglas

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Saul Esparza Ramirez

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Jahzeel Gainey-Smith

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Allen George

Site Preparation Supervisor

Azya Gibbs

Chief of Staff

Camerio Graves

Neighborhood Forestry Supervisor

Marcus Gurley

Communications Coordinator

Henry Haney

Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corp

Madden Henning

Grants Manager

Kajall Hylton

GIS Coordinator

Donald Jarvis

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Leigh Johnson Schaefer

Site Preparation Coordinator

John Kevin

Chief Finance Officer

Quentin Klein-Alfano

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Tyler Lewis

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Louis Middleton

Neighborhood Forestry Specialist

Essence Pierce

Workforce Development Manager

Bernard Rosenthal

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Noah Scofield

Neighborhood Forestry Specialist

Bryant Smith

Chief Executive Officer

LaToria Smith

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Shannon Smith

Nursery & Materials Coordinator

Ray Stieber

Engagement Manager

Davaugh Stokes

Neighborhood Forestry Supervisor

Dannielle Sturgeon

Sr. Director of Development

Marcus Tuah

Tree Care Manager

Elliot Weidow

Chief Operating Officer

Adam Weingast

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

Shyanne Wells

Tree Care Specialist

Deshawn Wheeler

Neighborhood Forestry Technician

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2024 Annual Report

Staff and Board List as of 12/31/2024