



AMERICAN FORESTS
- SINCE 1875 -

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a massive tree trunk, likely a redwood or sequoia, showing its thick, textured bark and the dense canopy of green needles above. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The tree trunk dominates the lower two-thirds of the image, tapering slightly as it goes up.

THE YEAR OF THE TREE

2020 Year in Review

The Year of the Tree

YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

I've been in conservation for 30 years, and I've never seen as much excitement to restore our forests as I have in the last 12 months. A swelling movement to unleash the power of trees to help heal the environment and our economy has made 2020 truly The Year of the Tree.

It might be a surprising name, given the overwhelming challenges that have dominated the news and our lives this year.

And yet, thanks to you, the power of trees has resonated like never before.

Because of you, American Forests is leading this movement in diverse and powerful ways. We're using science to devise better ways to plant trees in a changing climate. Thanks to you, we're developing new career pathways into urban forestry for people in under-resourced communities, and leading robust partnerships to reforest cities and large forest landscapes. Your support has also helped enact sweeping public policies that invest in our forests.

And your values have inspired us to reach further. This summer, we embarked on a bold journey to create the most diverse and inclusive forest movement in American history. Our goal: to conserve, restore and grow 1 trillion trees worldwide by 2030.

Along with the World Economic Forum, we launched the U.S. Chapter of 1t.org, bringing together 28 partners who pledged 855 million trees and billions of dollars to support related innovation, such as climate financing and technology. Joining us are cities pursuing Tree Equity, companies partnering with nonprofits to reforest large landscapes, and civic leaders who are mobilizing individuals and communities to plant trees.

You helped build a tent big enough for everyone, no matter how large or small their contributions.

Thank you for your generous support for American Forests. With you, we head into 2021 confident we can create change on a scale never thought possible.



Jad Daley
President & CEO

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Special thanks to our Lead Corporate Partners for their gifts in 2020



Thanks to all of our generous Corporate Partners for their 2020 contributions

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FORESTS SCORE MAJOR WIN IN CONGRESS

The law doubles, to \$900 million annually, the money allocated to LWCF



Large forested landscapes received more love from Congress this year than they have in decades.

In August, the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law. The legislation fully and permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the nation's most important tool for providing access to our national forests and other public land. American Forests and its partners have been advocating for this legislation since the fund was created in 1965.

The law doubles, to \$900 million annually, the money allocated to LWCF. Governments can use the money to maintain forests and expand the amount of protected forests, both on private and public land.

The REPLANT Act was also introduced in the House and Senate and focuses on conserving the national forests we have, largely by planting trees.

These wins are a testament to the fact that large forest landscapes are a lifeline for many people. Among other things, forests help create needed jobs and are essential to our clean water supply.

GRANTS TAKE JOBS PROGRAM TO NEW LEVEL

The grants program was a win for people who need jobs



In cities across the United States, demand for trees is on the rise. But without enough people to properly plant and maintain trees, we can't meet this demand. That's why, in 2018, American Forests launched the Tree Equity: Career Pathways Initiative. The focus of the initiative is training people in low-income urban neighborhoods (where there are fewer jobs and trees) and placing them in urban forestry jobs.

This year, American Forests took the program to a new level by awarding

grants to five cities: Providence, R.I., Syracuse, N.Y., Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Detroit. The funding, combined with technical resources created by American Forests, was used by the cities to make their training programs bigger and better, placing more people in urban forestry jobs.

The grants program was a win for people who need jobs. And a win for people who benefit from everything else that trees give us — like shade, clean air and lower utility bills.

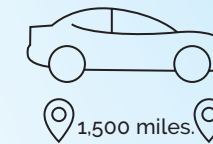


THE POWER OF TREES

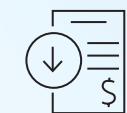
Trees are having their moment. It's no wonder. They help address some of our most pressing problems, from climate change to social equity. Below are just a few of the benefits of trees:



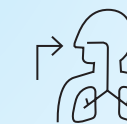
Trees capture carbon.
One tree can capture an average of 0.616 metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent over its lifetime. That is equal to the carbon emissions from driving one car 1,500 miles.



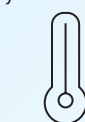
Trees lower utility bills.
They help reduce nationwide energy use by 7.2%, on average.



Trees clean our air.
In the U.S., trees absorb 17.4 million tons of air pollutants, preventing 670,000 cases of asthma and other acute respiratory symptoms annually.



Trees cool down neighborhoods. They help reduce surrounding air temperature by as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit, and by 20 to 45 degrees directly beneath them.



SEQUOIA CIRCLE

Special thanks to our Sequoia Circle members for their generous leadership-level gifts made in 2020

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americanforests.org/2020-year-in-review/

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Special thanks to our Foundation Partners for their generous grants made in 2020

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Special thanks to our Evergreen Society members who have included American Forests in their estate plans

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Special thanks to our State and Federal Agency Partners for their generous support in 2020

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California Department of Conservation
California Department of Forestry and Fire
Protection (CALFIRE)
Sierra Nevada Conservancy

USDA Forest Service
Washington State Department
of Natural Resources
Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation
and Development Council



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This summer laid bare the toll the climate crisis is taking on the United States. Death Valley sweltered under earth's hottest recorded temperature — 130 degrees — while unprecedented wildfires engulfed millions of acres in the West. Urgent measures are needed to restore resilient forests that can better withstand the "new abnormal," and American Forests is stepping up to the challenge.

RESTORING LANDSCAPES THROUGH CLIMATE-SMART TECHNIQUES

American Forests planted 70,000 thornforest tree seedlings on 70 acres



This spring, American Forests planted 11,000 seedlings in burned forests near Paradise, Calif., where the state's deadliest wildfire raged in 2018. This planting was part of a pilot trial for a range of climate-smart reforestation techniques.

And in Texas, American Forests planted 70,000 thornforest tree seedlings on 70 acres of former farmland in the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This project is the first to use our drought resilience strategy, which aims to grow native forests adapted to the area's increasingly dry climate.



PLANTING TREES TO COMBAT EXTREME HEAT IN DESERT CITIES

This comprehensive approach will ensure trees thrive, especially in places that need them the most



Extreme heat is a growing problem for cities nationwide, and it's been made worse by climate change. For desert cities, figuring out the best way to plant and care for trees is critical to saving lives.

This is why people in the Phoenix metro region are coming together to create and bring to life a plan for planting trees. American Forests is helping lead the Phoenix Metro Urban Forestry Roundtable, which includes members of academia and local organizations as well as city, county and state government. In addition to

planting trees in Phoenix with partners like Microsoft, we're also assessing which tree species can tolerate the area's high temperatures and developing best practices for keeping trees alive in desert climates.

This comprehensive approach will ensure trees thrive, especially in places that need them the most, reducing temperatures, improving air quality and advancing environmental and social equity. That's what we call Tree Equity. And when trees thrive in Phoenix, we can share and replicate what worked there with other cities.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

With the groundwork laid in 2020, we will advance forest solutions at unprecedented scale. In 2021, with your help, American Forests will:

- Reforest America's forest landscapes for health and resilience, including vast areas devastated by the wildfires of 2020. We will do this by deepening our climate-informed reforestation techniques, expanding our on-the-ground reforestation partnerships and increasing funding opportunities from government programs, corporate partnerships and carbon financing.
- Lead the national movement for Tree Equity so people in all neighborhoods reap the benefits of trees, regardless of income or race. We will launch the methodology for calculating Tree Equity Scores in city neighborhoods across the country, gain national media attention, secure major public funding and expand our partnerships with cities.
- Grow the U.S. Chapter of 11.org by securing new trillion trees pledges from governments, companies, nonprofits and civil society. We will create avenues for people with shared interests — such as climate-smart urban forestry and carbon finance — to share information and learn from each other.



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