



2021 Year in Review

# America's Powerhouse

**Americans are recognizing a new power in our forests: They are an essential pathway to slowing climate change and advancing social equity.**

People in cities are seeing how trees can save and improve lives by providing shade, absorbing pollutants and easing our minds on stressful days. Our groundbreaking Tree Equity Score tool, launched in June, makes it easier for people to advocate for trees in the city neighborhoods that need trees the most.

And people who live in, and care for, large forest landscapes are discovering that restoring forests devastated by climate change-induced wildfires, droughts, pests and diseases will help slow climate change. Our new Reforestation Hub is key to figuring out which forests to restore first.

American Forests is energized by the growing movement of people on the frontlines and all the way up to Congress who are discovering the power of forests. We are working together on local, national and even global initiatives to tap the power of collective action. This includes our It.org US Chapter that is the most inclusive and ambitious forest movement in our nation's history, resulting already in pledges to conserve, restore and grow 50 billion trees by 2030.

We celebrate 2021 and turn to a new year knowing we have never needed our forests more, and that our country has never needed American Forests more to provide bold servant leadership in difficult times.

I am extremely proud that, with your incredible generosity, we are using trees and forests to turn our challenges into opportunities for a stronger nation, including healthier communities and thousands of green jobs. Thank you. Our work has just begun.

**Jad Daley**  
President and CEO





## Urban Forestry

### We partnered with TAZO Tea to create an urban forestry workforce.

American Forests and TAZO Tea launched the TAZO Tree Corps in February, a paid, locally-hired workforce that is planting and taking care of trees to help mitigate climate change and bring jobs to socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods and communities of color.

The TAZO Tree Corps offers two weeks of paid tree-care training to people of color and then transitions them to full-time employment with The Davey Tree Expert Company. Fellows receive support services to help them navigate barriers to retention, including housing, transportation and childcare, and will also be trained in justice advocacy.

The project pioneers a new model to build and retain a diverse urban forestry workforce and help cities achieve Tree Equity. This year, it launched in Minneapolis, the San Francisco Bay Area and Detroit. In 2022, the TAZO Tree Corps will expand employment opportunities to Richmond, Va., and The Bronx, N.Y.

For the launch, singer-songwriter SZA created a video urging young people to join the TAZO Tree Corps and educating around the urgency to fight for climate justice.



## Tree Equity

### We created a tool that calculates Tree Equity scores.

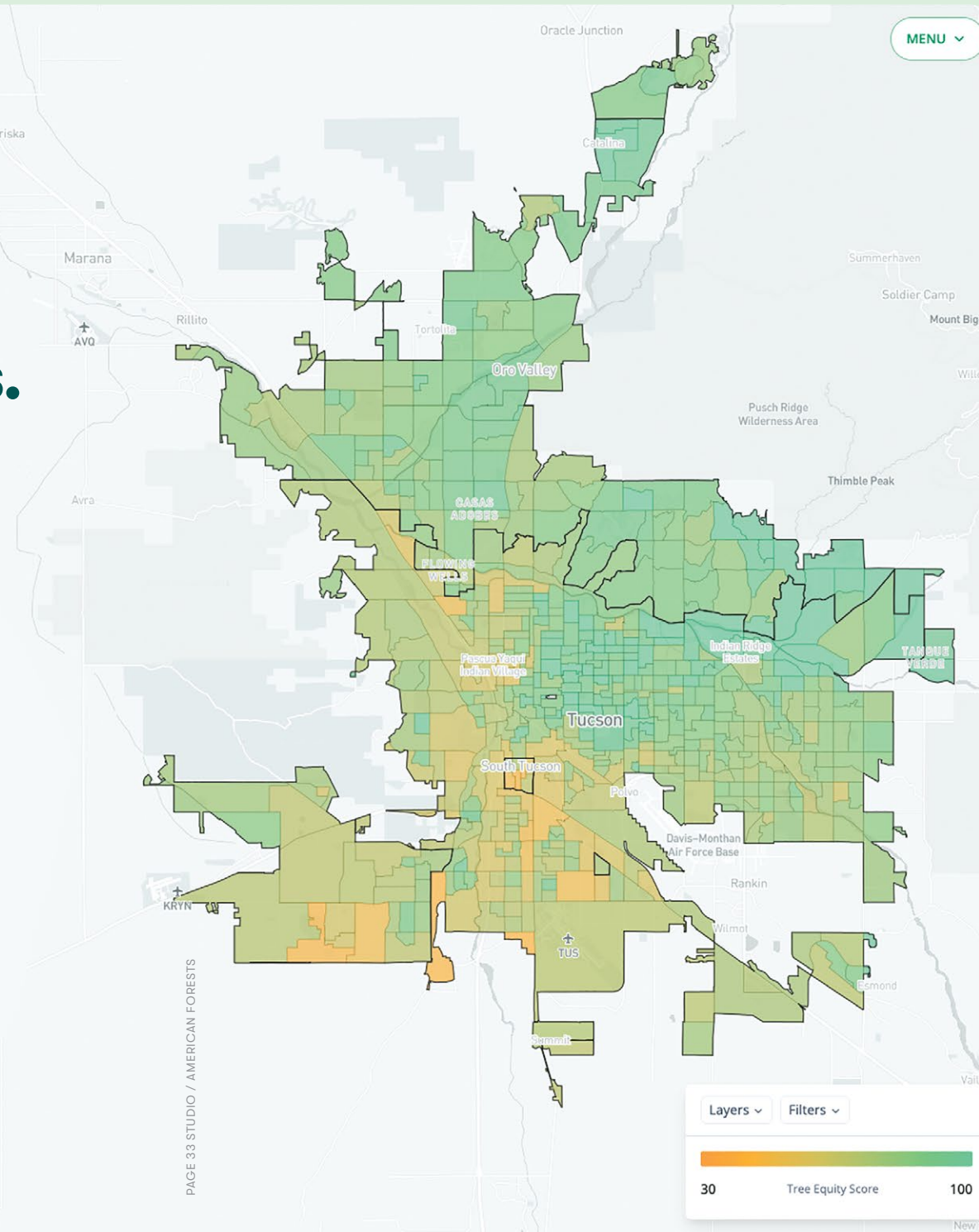
American Forests is laser-focused on creating Tree Equity in cities across the United States.

Tree Equity is about ensuring that all people benefit from everything trees do, like provide life-saving shade and help purify the air we breathe. But how do we know if there are enough trees in a neighborhood so everyone can reap those benefits? Our Tree Equity Score tool, launched in June, answers this question. It calculates a score for all 150,000 neighborhoods and 486 municipalities in urban America — cities and nearby towns that have at least 50,000 people.

Tree Equity Score is already being put to use. The City of Tucson, for example, is using it to make decisions on where and how much to invest in trees and other green infrastructure. And the Phoenix City Council used it to build support for creating a Tree Equity program, the first such program in the country.



To learn more go to [treeequityscore.org](https://treeequityscore.org).



## Innovation Lab

### We unearthed the challenges—and solutions—to seedling production.

As the number of commitments being made to plant trees in the United States skyrockets, one key question often surfaces: Will there be enough trees? At the moment, no. Planting on only half the land that could potentially be successfully reforested would require a whopping 34 billion tree seedlings. To meet that demand, the country's tree nurseries would need to increase annual production 2.4-fold.

New research, co-led by American Forests, shines light on this challenge and digs into the reasons why nursery production is low. The research is the most comprehensive look to date at the barriers nursery operators face in ramping up seedling production, including finding and keeping people who can do the work and taking on the economic risk to build capacity. But public investment and incentives for landowners could help by expanding seed collection and workforce development and improving pre- and post-planting practices.





Reforestation

# We developed a new tool to strategically reforest America.

To help combat the climate crisis and advance social equity, billions of trees need to be planted in the United States. But where are the best places to plant them? Areas, for example, where trees can thrive so they provide as many benefits as possible to people and the planet.

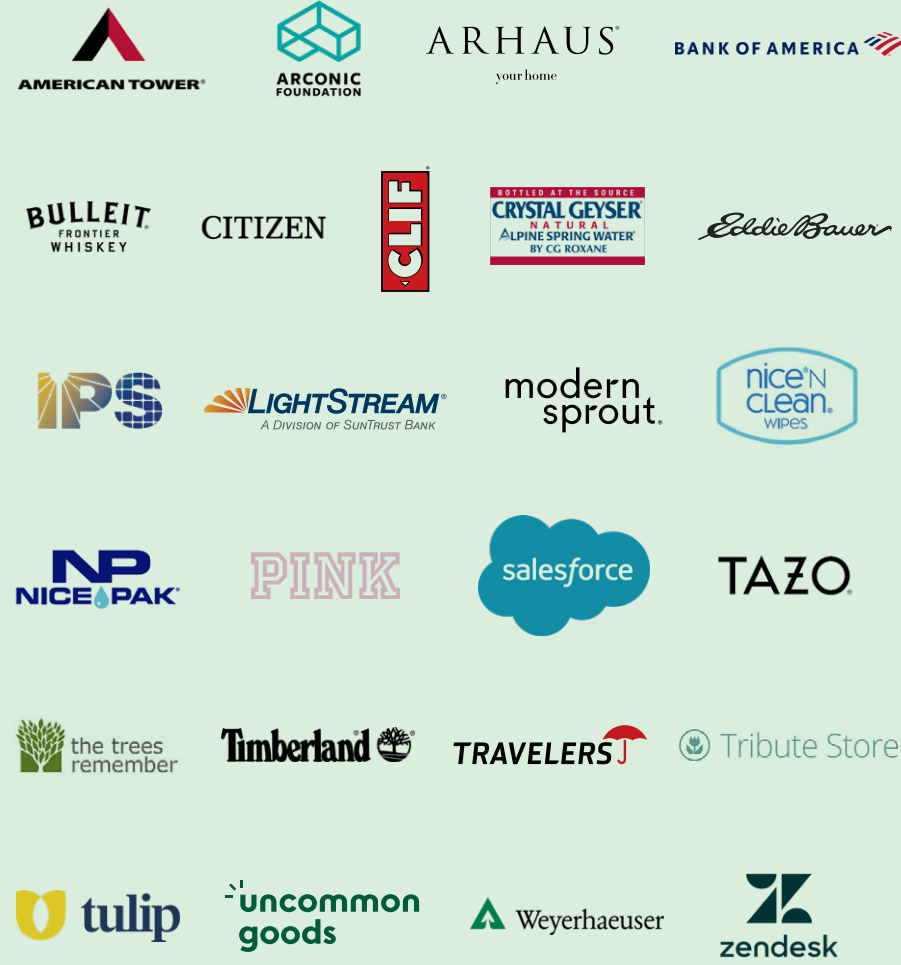
The Reforestation Hub helps answer this question. This online tool, launched by American Forests and The Nature Conservancy in February, has the most comprehensive reforestation data ever assembled for the U.S. Users can find reforestation opportunities in their county or state, and run this data through filters, including current land use and ownership. This tool shows how many new trees are needed and how much carbon the revived forest could store.

It identifies up to 133 million acres in the country that could be reforested.

## But we didn't do this work alone.

### Corporate Partners

Special thanks to our Lead Corporate Partners for their gifts in 2021



And to our generous Corporate Partners for their 2021 contributions

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Special thanks to our Sequoia Circle members for their generous leadership-level gifts made in 2021

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\* Members of the Board in 2021.  
Donors of \$250-\$999 recognized in the online version at [americanforests.org/2021-year-in-review/](http://americanforests.org/2021-year-in-review/)

### Foundation Partners

Special thanks to our Foundation Partners for their generous grants made in 2021

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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 2021

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Bureau of Land Management	State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board
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City of Providence	U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities
County of Mariposa Resource Conservation	Yosemite - Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council





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## Looking Ahead

In 2022, American Forests will remain laser-focused on the most pressing moral and strategic imperatives of this moment — slowing climate change and advancing social equity — always through the power of forests. But we will do so at a faster pace and larger scale than ever before.

In alignment with our new four-year strategic plan, we will accelerate climate-resilient reforestation across all public forests, fully leverage forests and forest products as climate change solutions, advance Tree Equity in cities and use our new brand to inspire more people to become forest champions. And we will do it all through our powerful partnerships and coalitions, such as the 1t.org US Chapter.

Forests hold solutions for today's unique and urgent challenges, but they need our help. Let's meet this moment together.

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