



## 2023 Trees Lexington Highlights

*Thanks to all the donors, sponsors and volunteers who made this possible!*

- Trees Lexington's Tree Giveaway Events and Pocket Nursery Program distributed **over 1000 trees** to Lexington community members for home planting.
- In 2023 Trees Lexington planted **240 trees**, mulched **169 trees**, weeded **123 trees**, and watered **237 trees**.
- **11 planting, pruning, mulching and watering workshops** were offered through our Tree Stewards program that trains community members to be knowledgeable and skilled tree activists and advocates.
- **More than 200 trees** were planted in community events at schools, parks, neighborhoods, churches and affordable housing developments.
- **More than 800 community members** discovered the importance of putting the right tree in the right place, proper planting techniques, and maintenance best practices by attending a Trees Lexington event.
- Trees Lexington partnered with **more than 20 civic groups** in tree planting and maintenance.

## A Flourishing Tree Canopy for All of Lexington

Trees Lexington is a non-profit organization that empowers community members to dig into the fun and fulfilling work of expanding and maintaining our local tree canopy. Trees Lexington advocates for a healthy and equitable tree canopy with the goal of increasing Lexington's tree canopy from 25% to 30% in the next 10 years.

Supporters of Trees Lexington know that trees play a pivotal role in addressing climate change, air pollution, and water quality and that trees are essential to human health and well-being. What people may not know is that not all neighborhoods have equitable access to the benefits of trees or other green infrastructure.

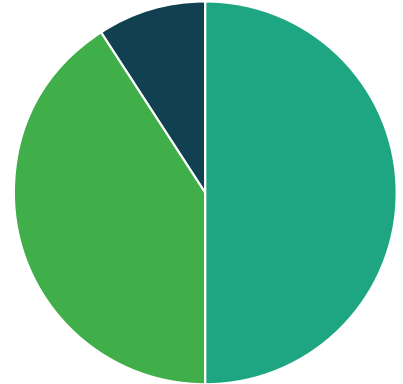
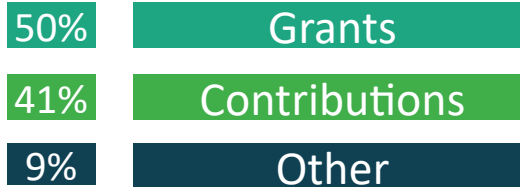
The term "tree gap" refers to the fact that the benefits of green infrastructure like trees aren't equitably distributed in urban environments. Research released from the US Forest Service and partners in 2020 found that there were approximately half as many trees on average in areas affected by housing discrimination compared to neighborhoods with higher incomes. Trees Lexington's vision is to grow a thriving tree canopy for all with an emphasis on low canopy areas.



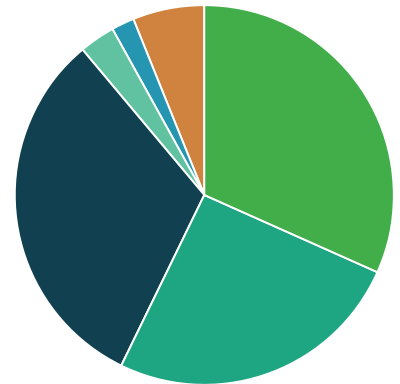
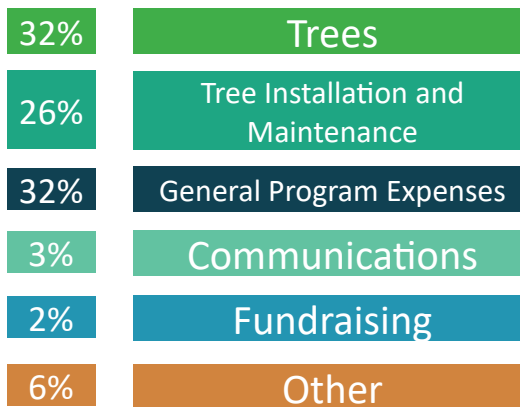
## 2023 Financial Summary

Total Budget: \$87,500.00

### Funding Sources



### Use of Funds



### Become a Trees Lexington Sponsor

#### *Plant it Forward*

Sponsor a tree giveaway. These popular events use a “right tree, right place” approach to helping Lexington residents plant trees on private property, the category most in need of more trees. People flock to these events to get good-sized, healthy trees, advice from arborists and take-home information on proper tree care. In 2023, we distributed over 1,000 trees.

#### *Train our Stewards*

The best intention to plant trees can go awry from lack of knowledge and experience. In Tree Stewards trainings, participants learn “right tree, right place” fundamentals and best practices from highly respected arborists. After completion, trainees take on a tree project in their neighborhoods.

#### *Narrow the Gap*

Trees Lexington focuses on narrowing the “tree gap” by planting trees in parts of Lexington with the lowest tree canopies. Sponsors support our partnerships with civic groups and neighborhoods to ensure a flourishing canopy for all of Lexington. Sponsors for these events include financial sponsors as well as in-kind sponsors.

Contact Trees Lexington at [info@treeslexington.org](mailto:info@treeslexington.org) for more information about how you can support our work!



## Digging in with Community Partners



In Fall of 2023, 146 volunteers picked up shovels, water jugs and wheelbarrows full of mulch (many for the first time) to plant 101 beautiful trees in low canopy areas at William Wells Brown Elementary School, Bainbridge Place neighborhood, and the Oakdale Apartments, an affordable housing complex by Beargrass Development. Funded by Lexington Fayette Urban County Government in partnership with Lex Grow Trees, Trees Lexington provided tree education, detailed planting and care instructions, a hands-on learning experience and community meals.

Trees Lexington loves to partner with the community to make new friends, shift the paradigm about trees and increase understanding and appreciation of the many benefits trees bring. Participants were invited to tell their

“tree stories” and even those who initially thought they didn’t have one, would end up telling a story of what a particular tree meant to them. Some were “my father put a tire on a tree for me to swing on”, “I picked mulberries every summer from a tree in my neighborhood”, and “I climbed a certain tree as a kid and every year I got stronger and could climb higher”.



After the community planting event at Oakdale Affordable Housing, Beargrass developer Jeremy Dyer wrote,

*“Thanks to your efforts, our community now has 32 beautiful and healthy trees that will provide shade, beauty, wildlife habitat, erosion control, and other environmental benefits for years to come. We are delighted to see the transformation of our landscape and the positive impact it has on our residents and visitors. We were impressed by the enthusiasm, knowledge, and dedication of your staff and volunteers, who worked tirelessly and professionally to organize the event, prepare the site, help plant the trees, and clean up the area. The entire team was an absolute joy to work with, and they went out of their way to ensure the event was a success. We are especially grateful for the educational outreach that you provided for our residents and their children, who learned about the importance of trees, how to properly plant them, and how to care for them. In addition to our residents, we can honestly report that every single person on our team learned something positive from the event.”*

## Meet Carri, Our Tree Tender



Carri Lyda Lucier monitors all the trees we've planted on a regular basis. She meticulously checks out every tree for proper mulching, watering, pruning and overall health. We don't just plant trees, we commit to them.

Carri explains her thoughts on tree care like this, "Equally important to planting a tree is helping it get a good start. In forests, trees grow from seeds. But when we transplant a tree, the tree's root system gets disrupted. The most important thing you can do for a newly planted tree is to water it regularly for several years. Equally important, keep a donut shape of arborchips around it. These two things alone will help your tree have a great start."

## Join Us at a Trees Lexington Event

*Check our website [www.treeslexington.org](http://www.treeslexington.org) for dates, times and locations!*

### Tree People Meet-Ups

Meet up with members of Trees Lexington arborists, board members, staff, volunteers, and friends for our monthly social hour where the talk always has something to do with - you guessed it - TREES! Be informed, inspired, and have a good time on the 4th Tuesday of the month (except December).

### Tree Adoption Days

Thanks to the generous donations of individual, foundation and corporate sponsors like the Kentucky Colonels and the Fayette County Conservation District, twice a year Trees Lexington brings 300+ trees to be adopted by Lexington residents for planting in Fayette County. The tree costs nothing except your commitment to planting, mulching, and caring for your tree properly. This includes a commitment to making sure your tree receives a deep watering each week at the equivalent of 1" of rain (or more during dry spells, and for trees that love moisture).

### Mulch Madness

It's a different kind of March Madness! Pick up a shovel and join us for a Mulch Madness event and mulch your trees at home!

### Tree Walks

Join our knowledgeable tree experts to walk with a small group to learn interesting facts about the trees in your community.

### Community Tree Plantings

You provide the private property in Fayette County, and Trees Lexington provides the trees, tree education and planting assistance.

## Dig in with Trees Lexington

- Volunteer
- Subscribe to our newsletter
- Become a Tree Steward
- Come to our monthly Tree People Meet-Ups
- Donate

Visit [www.treeslexington.org](http://www.treeslexington.org) or find us on Facebook and Instagram for more info!

