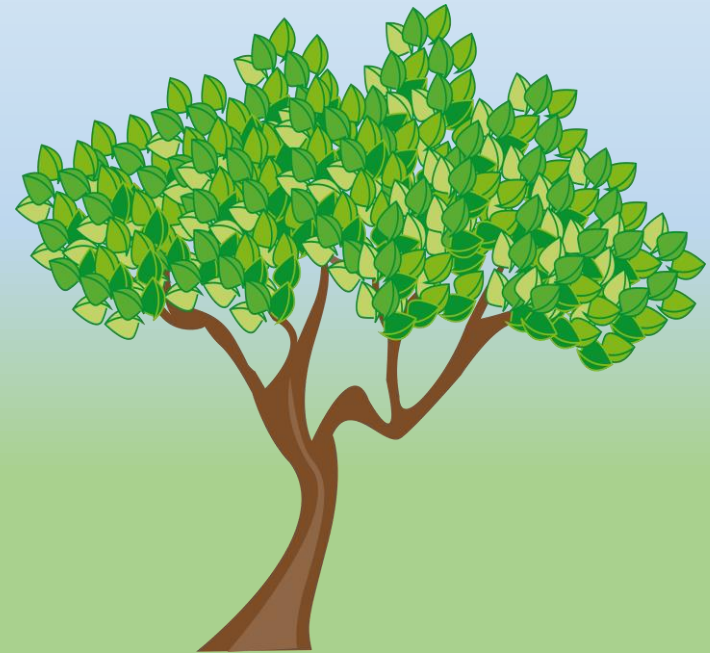


LEOH Trip

TREES FOR HOUSTON

February 21, 2024





Trees For Houston Welcomes You!



Trees for Houston is a non-profit organization dedicated to planting, protecting and promoting trees.

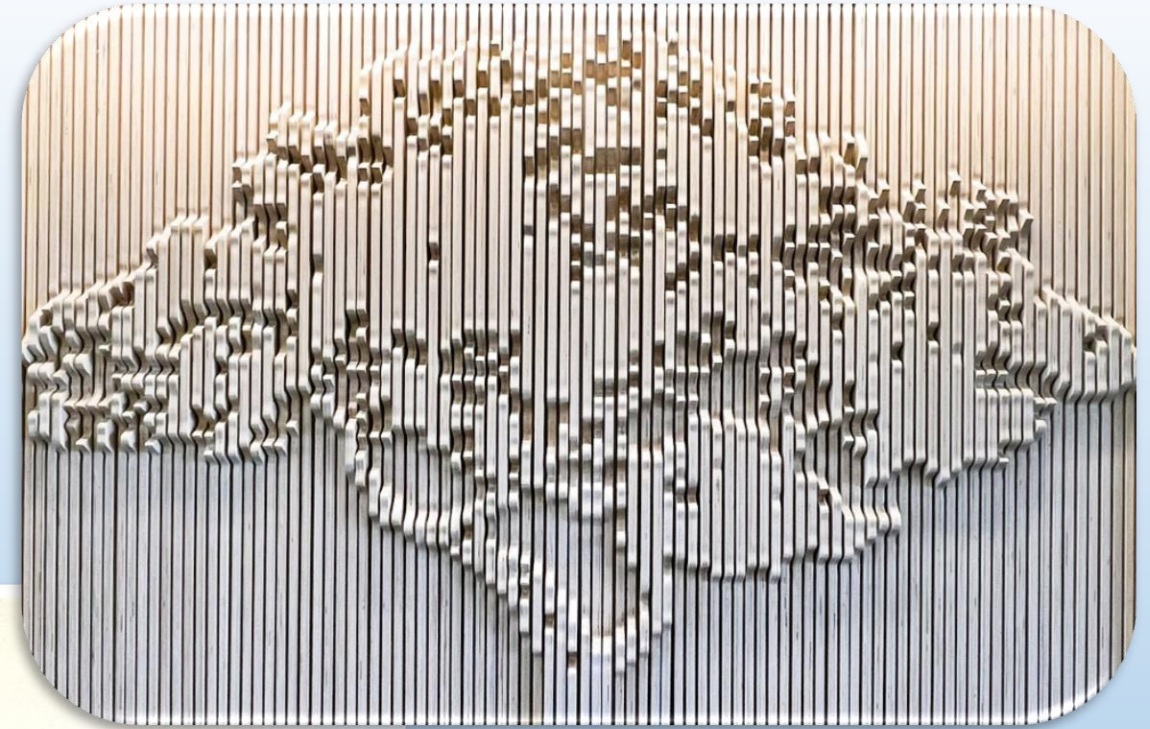
Bailey Rohde (Education & Outreach Coordinator) and her associates welcomed us to the new Trees for Houston Kinder campus at 1911 W. 34th St. in Garden Oaks.

The campus was named in honor of its lead donor, the Kinder Foundation, and is intended to serve multiple purposes: staff headquarters, an outdoor pavilion and entertaining space, a tree nursery, and an Urban Harvest demonstration garden.

The building itself is quite modern, yet contains brick and wood, in keeping with the structure of its neighborhood 's homes, built in the 1930's and 1940's. The wood is *sho sugi ban* wood, a blackened and heat steamed form of ponderosa pine which is durable and resistant to rot and insect damage. Solar panels on the roof cover the electrical bill cost.

Artwork , such as the large three-dimensional “tree” shown here on a wall inside, enhances the building’s aesthetics.

Below, a wall displays the names of individuals and foundations that have generously donated to Trees for Houston.



SUSAN AND JIM BOONE
JILL AND CHARLIE TALISMAN
VIVIE AND CHRIS O'SULLIVAN
JIM HOLCOMB
MARYBETH AND TOM FLAHERTY
ANN LENTS AND DAVID HEANEY
KIRKWOOD TREE FARM LLC
SANDRA AND JOHN KEVILLE
THE WORTHAM FOUNDATION, INC.
HEATHER AND RHETT RENTROP
ANDREA AND JOHN T. YOUNG, JR.
KEN AND JANIE VALACH
PHILLIPS 66
CENTERPOINT ENERGY
THE FONDREN FOUNDATION
DILL AND KATHY VAN VEE
GLEN ROSENBAUM
CHEVRON
GREEN MOUNTAIN ENERGY SERVICES
PATRICIA AND TOM RITTER
JENNIFER AND LARRY NETTLES
J.E. & L.E. MABEL FOUNDATION
REAGAN AND DOUG BAUER
THE POWELL FOUNDATION
THE BROWN FOUNDATION, INC.
THE CULLEN FOUNDATION
NICOLE AND EVAN H. KATZ
CHRISTIANE AND KRISTOPHER STUART
VINSON & ELKINS LLP
CLARK CONDON
RANDI AND JEFF KOBING
THE OTT FAMILY FOUNDATION
MICHELLE AND GLENN WOOD
SARA PASCHALL DODD-DENTON FAMILY / H. FORT FLOWERS FOUNDATION
THE CLEARY FAMILY
LALINA AND ANDREW MCCORMACK
BARBARA AND PETER BAUER
JOHANE AND DAVID H. GARDNER
KYLE AND JOHN KIRKSEY, SR.
MELISSA AND BARTON KELLY
MARTHA AND JOHN BRITTON
PAT AND MARK KOENIG
MEG AND DICK WEEKLEY
VALENTINA AND ALAN ATKINSON
JOHN M. O'QUINN FOUNDATION
CAMPO FAMILY
RUTH AND TED BAUER FAMILY FOUNDATION
C.T. BAUER FOUNDATION

The initial goal in 1983 was to ensure that trees would line city streets in the heart of Houston.

Currently, there are around 800,000 trees in the Houston area.

Last year alone, almost 70,000 trees were planted, distributed, and donated through Trees for Houston events.

Most area parks, old and new, contain trees from Trees for Houston.

How important are trees? They are not only pleasing to the eye; they also provide welcome shade on a hot, humid day, and absorb carbon dioxide while releasing oxygen. The Arbor Day Foundation states that one mature tree can absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

Educational events assist in bringing awareness to the organization, encouraging participation and sponsorships.

An off-site tree farm grows around 5,000 trees per year, and contracts with area farmers to grow many more. Most trees are strong varieties.

Fruit trees have gained in popularity in recent years.



Trees For Houston IS MAKING A BIG SPLASH!

This water cistern in front of you can hold **6,000 gallons of water** at a time! Based on Houston's annual rainfall, it has the potential to capture **40,000 gallons of water each year**. The harvested rainwater will be used to irrigate thousands of trees at the 9,000 sq. ft. tree nursery behind this building, supplying **75% of the nursery's annual irrigation needs**.

FUN FACT:

Trees watered with rainwater grow 20% faster than those watered with city water.

HERE'S AN IDEA:

Purchase a rainwater capture system for your home. They're available at local hardware supply stores, and it's a great way to recycle and conserve water.

THE SUN SHINES ON Trees For Houston!

Trees For Houston is using the power of the sun to kick its carbon-cutting efforts up a notch. This 168-panel, 75-kW solar power system can generate up to **112 megawatts of solar energy every year**, reducing the building's annual energy use by 50%!

FUN FACT:

The estimated energy cost savings for the life of the solar array is equivalent to purchasing and planting more than 6,700 trees!

HERE'S AN IDEA:

Consider having solar panels installed at home to create your own clean electricity and lower your carbon footprint.

For more information on our solar offerings, scan the code:



RAINWATER CAPTURE SYSTEMS HELP THE PLANET BY:

Reducing the strain on water systems and promoting conservation.

Encouraging sustainability by using a renewable and natural water source.

Acting as a reliable backup source in the event of natural disasters or water supply issues.

Just by using 100% solar energy alone, Trees For Houston will prevent up to 174,986 pounds of CO₂ from being emitted into the atmosphere each year. That's like:



¹ Impact statistics based on an average home usage of 2,000 kWh per month and the average carbon footprint of a 16.9 oz PET plastic bottle as determined by The American Chemistry Council.



² Not driving over 211,000 miles.

¹ Impact statistics based on a home using 2,000 kWh per month and the average mileage driven per year in the U.S.

Generous support provided by:



The Sun Club, a nonprofit founded by Green Mountain Energy, donated the solar panels and 6,000-gallon cistern.

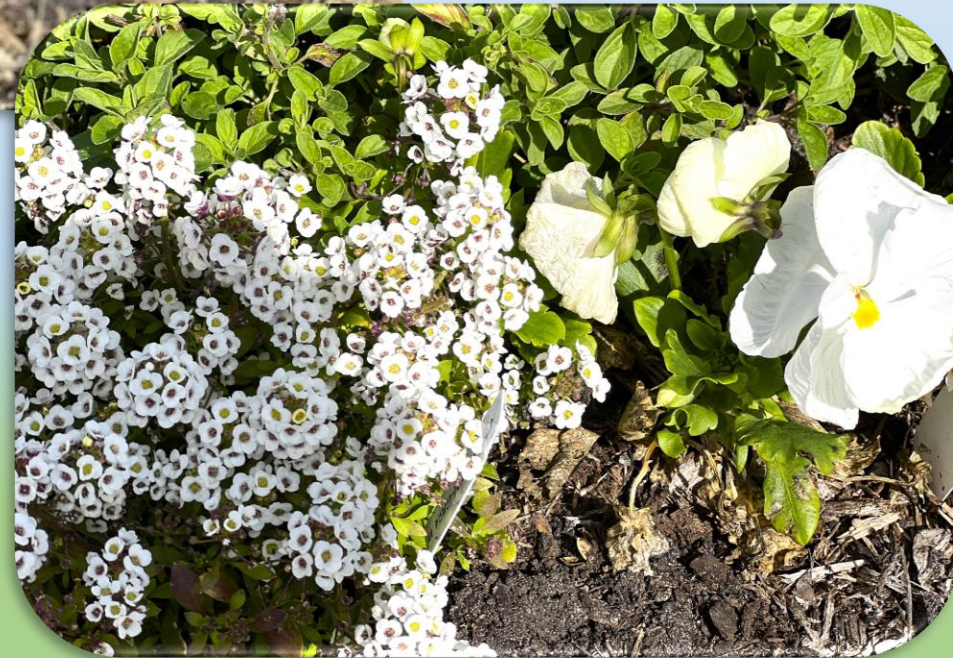




Landscaping and other features add to the attractive and welcoming outdoor setting.

Container planting, using a variety of colorful (and some edible) plants gave us ideas on how to utilize this method at home.





We enjoyed a tour of maturing seedlings, learning their characteristics and where they may be utilized the best.



Before leaving, we were invited to take some of the less mature seedlings with us, to do our part in making our surroundings greener and healthier!

Right Tree. Right Place.

For more information visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Trees



CenterPoint Energy encourages you to plant the "Right Tree in the Right Place" by considering the mature height of a tree and its appropriate planting distance from power lines.
For more information on trees and power lines, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Trees.

What do I need to do before planting new trees?

Before you plant, be aware of the location of any utility lines, including those underground.

To locate underground lines such as electric, cable, telephone and gas lines, "Call Before You Dig" at 811 nationwide. Please call at least two business days before you plan to dig.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

For an approved list of power-friendly vegetation, please visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Trees or call CenterPoint Energy at 713-207-2222, and a company forester will be notified to assist you.

Planting the "Right Tree in the Right Place," away from power lines, will help replenish local urban forests with quality trees, reduce CenterPoint Energy's need to trim or remove trees and increase your home's energy efficiency.

Low-growing trees suitable for planting near power distribution lines:

- Texas Redbud
- Fringe Tree
- Texas Hawthorn
- Yaupon Holly
- Dwarf Crape Myrtle
- Southern Waxmyrtle
- Texas Lilac Vitex
- Texas Pistache
- Mexican Plum
- Little Gem Magnolia
- Pygmy Date Palm
- Mediterranean Fan Palm
- Windmill Palm

Plant trees and shrubs well away from ground-level equipment to allow utility workers direct access.



CenterPoint Energy
ALWAYS THERE.™

Over a Century of Trusted Service

Learn more at treesforhouston.org; follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



Everyone enjoyed lunch nearby before heading home!

Thanks go to trip coordinator Ann Fairchild for another interesting trip, and to our Precinct One bus driver for safe travels!