Trees are one of the most important resources for our natural and urban environments. For over 30 years, TreeFolks has been the only urban forestry nonprofit in Central Texas that focuses on strengthening communities and building forests.
The trees planted, adopted and cared for by our volunteers, supporters, and staff will provide many benefits for years to come, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Impact 1</th>
<th>Impact 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filtering the air and water to create better ecosystem conditions</td>
<td>Providing food and shelter for many wildlife species</td>
<td>Sequestering thousands of tonnes of carbon to combat the climate crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fostering diversity to build more resilient forests</td>
<td>Lowering air temperatures more than 9°F</td>
<td>Slowing floodwaters and erosion to mitigate disastrous flooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lowering ground temperatures more than 45°F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Certainty is a rare commodity these days, but I will assert with confidence that, absolutely, trees create joy. As absurd as that may sound to some, amid the current strife, discord, and conflict, I have found reasons to celebrate joyously with my colleagues and peers this year. All things considered, I continue to feel that working with TreeFolks is an ideal job for me. Looking ahead at the challenges, both known and not, I foresee the potential pitfalls, but I can still anticipate the sense of accomplishment that the meaningful work of TreeFolks will bring.

A global pandemic, the crisis of structural racism, divisiveness in politics, and our own organization’s leadership evolution have established the context in which TreeFolks now operates. So why the joy and celebration? This team of professionals, that I am fortunate to be part of, demonstrated an amazing combination of focus and flexibility throughout this past season. Our community continued to express its dedication to the mission by volunteering and donating, despite other important concerns. The increasing urgency of our mission was met with the immediacy of our response, made possible with the support of our incredibly committed and talented Board of Directors and our wide range of funders, partners, and collaborators.

As you review our annual report, I hope the breadth of our efforts and depth of our impact will become apparent. I am proud to share the story of this past year, and I invite everyone who reads it to share in the joy of trees.

Sincerely,
Andrew W. Smiley, Executive Director
To the TreeFolks Community and beyond:

The momentum, successes and challenges of this past year can be understandably overshadowed by the events of the past few months. For a while, the threats posed to our health and our economy by COVID-19 seemed to be the singular focus of our collective thoughts.

As we scrambled to make sure we had a plan to protect our families from these new threats, I am proud that our staff, board and supporters remain steadfast to our shared purpose of ensuring our children can live in a world filled with hope and opportunity—a world with clean air, fresh water, cool shade, and habitat for wildlife.

In the past year we have been heartened by the growing world-wide acceptance of a simple fact: trees are an essential part of the solution to global warming. Planting a tree is something we can all do. It’s the most accessible way to fight climate change, while also directly building our community into the healthy, beautiful, and peaceful place we want it to be for ourselves, our families, and our neighbors.

While stay-at-home orders have been in place, I have welcomed the widening appreciation of Austin’s parks and greenbelts among our community members as they search out safe places to find peace and enjoyment during lock-down. That moment you find a tree and enter its shade, you take a deep breath, you pause, you are filled with hope.

On behalf of the board of directors, we express our deepest gratitude to those of you who support Treefolks. By doing so, you are giving your community the opportunity to experience those moments of hope. You are thinking globally and acting locally. You are part of the solution to the existential crisis of our time. At Treefolks, we will not be deterred from our mission. We are planting more trees, engaging and educating our community, expanding our connections and our impact. We have a vision for a greener world, and we will get there—one tree at a time. Roll up your sleeves and come along. We’ve got work to do and we can’t do it without you.

Sincerely,
Abi Shirley, President, and Rich DePalma, Past President
Our CommuniTrees program includes Ready, Set, Plant!, a partnership with the City of Austin and the Austin Watershed Protection Department that works to build canopy diversity while rebuilding riparian areas in Austin’s parks and along vital Austin waterways. It also includes Community Tree Plantings and our tree watering initiative where trees are planted and cared for in Travis County Parks.
NeighborWoods, a partnership with the City of Austin, provides free trees to Austin residents to combat the urban heat island effect and build canopy diversity. This program also includes one of our newest initiatives, Remove & Replace, where we work with low-income households to remove hazardous trees from their properties and replace them with healthy new trees.

Austin residents adopted 4,800 trees through the NeighborWoods Program.
The Education Program brings the community together through Tree ID Walks, where participants explore Austin’s well known trails on guided tours to learn how to identify Texas native trees. For a deeper dive, our Urban Forest Stewards Course provides a multi-month collection of workshops and classes where students graduate to become active community forest leaders. Our Urban Forest Stewards Course provides a space for community members to learn about the importance of our urban forest while becoming certified stewards of it.

20 Urban Forest Stewards received their certification in 2020.
Our Reforestation Program is best known for the large-scale work we spearheaded in Bastrop County after the devastating fires in 2011 and in Hays County after the disastrous Memorial Day floods of 2015. This year we piloted the nationally recognized Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program. This initiative works to reforest riparian buffers in Eastern Travis County to help slow floodwaters and erosion while bringing back the canopy.

The Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program planted over 50,000 trees on 87 riparian-zone acres.

The trees planted during this initial pilot phase will sequester 11,285 tonnes of CO2 over the next 25 years and contribute revenue-generating Carbon+ Credits.
In the 2019-2020 Texas tree planting season, TreeFolks engaged a total of 1,357 volunteers for a total of 4,086 hours, which equates to $104,058!
About Tom:
Many in the Austin area know Tom Spencer as a tireless and effective leader in the nonprofit sector and a recognizable spokesperson for our environment, including native plants and trees. As Executive Director of TreeFolks, Tom championed our mission to build stronger communities by planting and caring for trees. Although only employed at the organization for a short time before suffering a debilitating stroke, he had a profound impact on our lives and our work. These millions of trees will stand as part of Tom’s legacy, to be celebrated now and by generations to come.

“The Tom Spencer Million Trees for Austin Fund was established by TreeFolks to honor Tom Spencer and his bold vision of planting another million trees in our community. Tom has inspired us to pursue this goal, and we invite others to join the campaign.”

- Tom Spencer
Fiscal Year: August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020

Total assets as of August 1, 2019: $727,339
Total Current Assets as of July 31, 2020: $541,360
Total Fixed Assets as of July 31, 2020: $128,125
Total Assets as of July 31, 2020: $669,485
Change in Net Assets: -$57,854

Revenue by Source:
- Earned Revenues: 40%
- Contributed Support: 18%
- Corporate & Group Contributions: 10%
- Gifts in Kind - Goods & Services: 5%
- Gifts in Kind - Trees: 4%

Expenses by Program:
- TCFRP: 30%
- NeighborWoods: 27%
- Fundraising: 10%
- Education: 6%
- CommuniTrees: 12%
- Administration: 15%
TreeFolks would not be able to execute our programming without the help of our dedicated and incredible volunteer Board of Directors.

TreeFolks Board of Directors:

Abi Shirley, President
Vincent Debrock, Vice President
Kimberly White Erlinger, Vice President
Marcus Gore, Secretary
Brett Thompson, Treasurer
Rich DePalma, Past President
Mary Ann Neely, President Emeritus

Richard Craig
Christy Williams
Alexa Loken
Gregory Ippolito
Ray Castillo
Clark Bockhan
Aaron Odland
Kyle Hoskins

Learn about our Board of Directors and its members at www.treefolks.org/about
Interested in joining our board or sitting on a committee? Email us at admin@treefolks.org
Christy Williams, Grants Committee

The Grants Committee contributed to the review and editing of large grant proposals, identified prospective grant sources, and supported staff in the development of a strategic grants plan. We are on track to reach our grants goal of $290,000 for fiscal year 2020-21, and the Grants Committee will continue offering guidance and insight into grant strategies and prospects.

Kyle Hoskins, TreeFolks Young Professionals

TreeFolks Young Professionals has had a great year featuring a revamped membership model, website, social media presence, and many members trained to represent TreeFolks as ambassadors. We’re always accepting applications to expand our TreeFolks YP Core Team to help organize educational, fundraising, and service events targeted at young professionals.

Alexa Loken, Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee has worked hard this year to finalize our strategic plan for upcoming years, as well as assessing current strengths and areas for improvement. We’ve prioritized online events in recent months, including TREEvia and other educational community events, and look forward to being creative in our marketing efforts for the rest of the year.
Board Updates

Aaron Odland, Education Committee

TreeFolks’ Education Committee members are influential in the decisions made by the TreeFolks Education Coordinator in the day-to-day operations of UFS, Tree ID Walks, Sapling Adoptions, and Seed Collection and often participate as speakers in UFS. Most recently, the TreeFolks Education Committee has approved the transition of UFS to an online-only course model, a new model for TreeFolks programmatic support, and the Stewardship Project Tracking System. Future plans for the committee include expanding its membership to include more diversity and continuing to guide the expansion of online learning opportunities.

Kimberly White Erlinger & Richard Craig, Development Committee

The 2019 RootBall was the most successful yet! On a beautiful October evening, a record number of guests enjoyed the beautiful, leafy surroundings of Barr Mansion and we exceeded our fundraising goal of $75,000. COVID-19 has brought the happy days of charitable fundraising in booming Austin to a screeching halt. We hope to meet this new challenge by redoubling our efforts with major individual and business donors and by expanding our grant writing efforts. We have a very good story to tell and are confident of success when we can get it heard.
Clark Brockhan, Infrastructure Committee

The Infrastructure Committee worked to identify urgent infrastructure needs, including the replacement of the electrical junction box at the office. We have also reviewed other critical needs, such as expanded office space, a new commercial-grade truck for watering services, an upgraded water pump and pump house, and the current need for additional tool storage. As the size of our staff and the reach of our programs continue to grow, this committee will continue its commitment to making sure our team has what is needed to fulfill our vital mission.

Marcus Gore, Planting Committee

We helped improve the tree planting and volunteer process of managing 15 planting events and hundreds of volunteers. The committee was instrumental in identifying issues to be resolved and opportunities to improve our setup & take down, our interactions with the volunteers, and improving our cohesion with the planting supervisor team. Obviously this year will be a challenge with the COVID threat posing problems at all levels of gathering volunteers, being able to depend on the availability of supervisors, and defining new processes for handling tools to keep everyone safe. But knowing this team always works thoughtfully and positively helps us feel comfortable that we will address these challenges to the best of our ability, and to the extent we are allowed, and the result will still be a positive one for volunteers, supervisors, and TreeFolks staff.
Corporate & Community Support
- ABC Bank
- Alaska Airlines
- Alert Media, Inc.
- Alliance Abroad Group
- Applied Materials
- Austin and Abi Shirley
- Austin Subaru
- Barr Mansion
- Barton Springs Nursery
- BBVA Compass Bank
- Better Half Coffee & Cocktails
- C3 Presents
- Circuit of the Americas
- David Weekley Homes
- DCI Engineers
- e3 Properties
- Environmental Design, Inc.
- The Galbi-Miliken Family
- Gretchen Janzow, Realtor
- Hadden + Cowan Architects
- H-E-B
- Heritage Tree Care
- Holtzman Partners
- Hugh Jefferson Randolph Architects
- Hyatt Regency Lost Pines
- IBM
- Jester King Brewery
- Kettler Roofing Company
- Kimberly White Erlinger
- Leaf Landscape Design
- Legacy Whisky
- Lisa Nienhuis
- Live Oak Brewery
- The Mandy System
- Mindy Vesovo
- Nudge Design
- Perry Lorenz
- Pilgrim Building Company
- Praecipio Consulting
- Randalls/Albertsons
- Rebecca Becker
- Reliant Energy
- Revolution Spirits
- Richard Craig
- RisherMartin Fine Homes
- Sett Studios
- Stewart Films
- Studio Robins Dempsey, Inc.
- TELUS International
- Texas Disposal Systems
- TreeFolks Founders
- Water Storage Tanks, Inc.
- Hyatt Regency Lost Pines
- IBM
- Jester King Brewery
- Kettler Roofing Company
- Kimberly White Erlinger
- Leaf Landscape Design
- Legacy Whisky
- Lisa Nienhuis
- Live Oak Brewery
- The Mandy System
- Mindy Vesovo
- Nudge Design
- Perry Lorenz
- Pilgrim Building Company
- Praecipio Consulting
- Randalls/Albertsons
- Rebecca Becker
- Reliant Energy
- Revolution Spirits
- Richard Craig
- RisherMartin Fine Homes
- Sett Studios
- Stewart Films
- Studio Robins Dempsey, Inc.
- TELUS International
- Texas Disposal Systems
- TreeFolks Founders
- Water Storage Tanks, Inc.

Foundation & Organizational Support
- A Living Tribute
- American Forests
- Apache Foundation
- Arbor Day Foundation
- Austin Community Foundation
- Austin Parks Foundation
- Austin Youth River Watch
- Bayhurst Foundation
- Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation
- EarthShare of Texas
- Eldred Foundation
- Environmental Fund of Texas
- Generation Serve
- I Live Here, I Give Here
- Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
- James A. “Buddy” Davidson Foundation
- Keep Austin Beautiful
- Keep Families Giving Foundation
- Meyer Levy Charitable Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- One Tree Planted
- Red Wheelbarrow
- Rushing River Foundation
- Shoal Creek Conservancy
- St. David’s Foundation
- Sustainable Food Center
- The Trail Foundation
- Texas Urban Forestry Council
- Urban Forest Grant Program, City of Austin
- Wells Fargo

Government & Public Agency Support
- Austin Department of Development Services
  - Community Tree Preservation Division
- Austin Energy
- Austin Independent School District
- Austin Parks and Recreation Department
- Austin Water
- Austin Watershed Protection Department
- Bastrop County
- Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority
- City of Austin Office of Sustainability
- Hays County
- State Bar of Texas Environmental & Natural Resources Law Section
- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Travis County