

Neighborhood Foresters in Grand Rapids

Presented by:
Stephanie Adams, executive director



Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

501(c)3 Non-Profit founded in 2008



EAB Timeline

Ash trees account for about 8,500 -- or 15 percent -- of trees in city rights of ways, parks and cemeteries. Including private property, there are about 40,000 ashes in the city.

- EAB found 2006
- 2007 pilot treatment program
- Friends founded 2008
- Also 2008
- 2009 EAB task force established through the Urban Forest Committee
- 2010 City takes over treatment
- 2011 Urban Forest Project started
- 2015 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment completed



values

	CARE for people and planet	COLLABORATION with team and community	
	GROW parks, trees, green champions and team	JEDI for access to parks and trees	PLAY is essential for the well-being of all

JEDI justice, equity, diversity, inclusion

Shade is an equity issue.

Tree equity is a matter of economic and health equity. Properties surrounded by trees have higher value.

Tree-lined streets reduce crime, air pollution and heat — and improve physical, emotional and mental health.

The way cities were designed by redlining in the 40s and 50s, some parkways in Grand Rapids are smaller and do not have enough room for trees.

Trees change people's health, lowers heating and cooling bills and create a therapeutic effect that can impact the entire street.

URBAN FOREST PROJECT

Three pillars of the program

- **Education**
- **Plant**
- **Maintain**

Additional values

- **Accessible**
- **Replicable**
- **Hands on**



Meet the team



Lauren Davis
Urban Forest Manager
lauren@friendsofgrparks.org



Robert Cloy
Urban Forest Coordinator
robert@friendsofgrparks.org



Becky Pobst
Urban Forest Coordinator
becky@friendsofgrparks.org



Becoming a Neighborhood Forester

To earn the Neighborhood Forester title, a person must attend the following four classes as well as a pruning project and planting project. Classes are completed in any order at your own pace.

- **Tree planting**
- **Tree pruning**
- **Tree identification**
- **Branching out in advocacy**



*** Site leaders must complete – JEDI training**

Annual Tree Events

- Mayor's Greening Initiative
- 750-1,000 tree plantings per year
- Green Your Block grants
- Pruning

community impact

2015 - PRESENT

1,300+ trees have been planted in the city of Grand Rapids

1,500+ neighbors, community members & corporate partners have rallied for the cause

1,200+ youth have received a sapling & education about the importance of our urban forest.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





Mayor's Greening Initiative

400 volunteers
plant 350 trees in
4 hours



Green Your Block

Free trees
requested by
community



Community Pruning Projects

Building capacity, completing crucial work

People build a healthy Urban Forest

Engaging, creating and executing high-quality volunteer events and educational opportunities gets people involved.

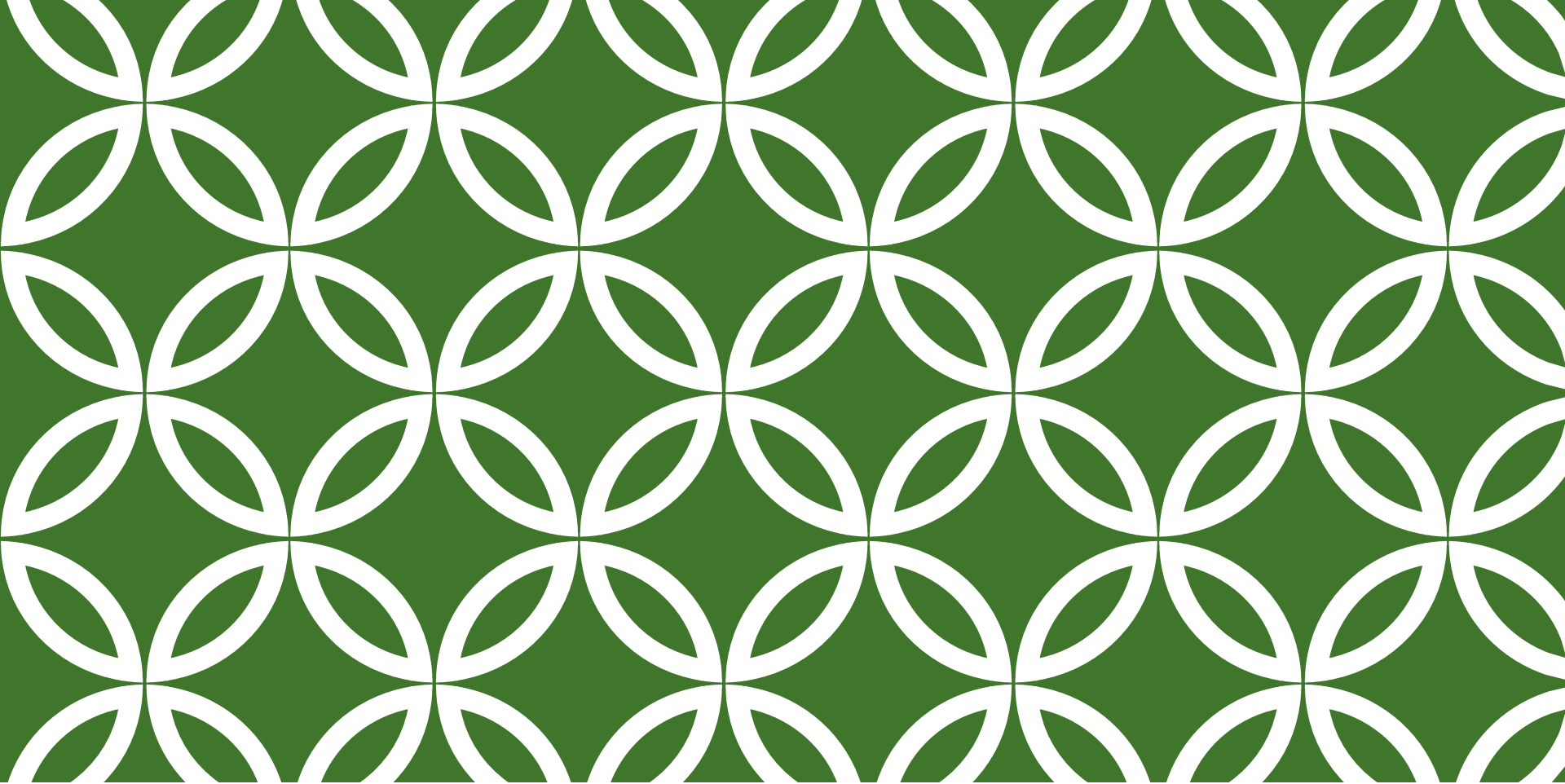
There's a place for everyone from 8-80 to get on board!

Volunteer → Advocate → Steward → Donor



Our Partners





Thank you!

Stephanie Adams

stephanie@friendsofgrparks.org

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