

UTAH

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

TreeUtah, a nonprofit volunteer tree planting organization, partnered with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands, generating diverse tree planting projects throughout the state, often focusing on underserved areas in the community. One of the largest underserved areas in the State of Utah is on the west side of Salt Lake County. This is generally a lower-income area and has a diverse representation of cultures.

In September of 2020, Utah was hit with a severe hurricane-strength windstorm, which leveled over 2,500 trees throughout Northern Utah. Many of those trees were 60 to 100 years old. This loss was felt in all areas but was especially devastating in urban areas on the west side of the county, already struggling to build a healthy tree canopy as the lower-income area of the Salt Lake Valley.

Due to this loss, and the need in general, TreeUtah has planted more large park trees in the west side of the Salt Lake Valley in 2021 than any other planting season. While it will take some time before newly planted trees will be able to replace decades-old trees, this new emphasis will continue to inform plantings going forward and will add to the urban forest where it's needed most to establish a more equitable tree canopy. What we plant now will have an impact for generations to come.

Every year TreeUtah, with the support of community partners and the help of more than 2,500 energetic community volunteers, plants over 10,000 trees. This past spring, TreeUtah engaged people throughout the state in diverse neighborhoods. Twenty of the fifty-five total events were in parks and schools on the west side of Salt Lake County, which will help mitigate generations of neglect but also help address the immediate need from the trees lost in the storms of September 2020.



(Left) Family Planting in Rose Park, Salt Lake City. Photo: Amy May

(Right) School Planting at Rosewood Park, Salt Lake City. Photo: Amy May

