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What are the local emerging trends and national threats for community forestry?



Emerging influences of communities in tree campaigns

- Communities are identifying trees around schools as a high priority, to benefit both children and neighborhoods. Trees can be planted on streets within three or four blocks of schools to create a cool, green “umbrella” of shade for students walking, bicycling, or waiting for pick-ups.
- Communities are also asking questions about long-term sustainability of trees, after the initial three years of watering are funded. Data on condition of trees planted in the past decade were collected for two projects and are summarized [here](#).
- Several community groups have funding and capacity to contribute to [Ready, Set, Grow](#) and [Trees for Communities](#) in the City of San Diego. Others lack funding, but Kate Sessions Commitment is working with three community groups to increase their capacity. [More info](#).

Five years of community impacts from Covid and Kate's Trees



- Kate Sessions Commitment ("[Kate's Trees](#)") was launched in June 2019, renamed after "Kate" in January 2020, and turned virtual five years ago when Covid closed us all down. Canopy, community and climate action were called out for the [mission](#) and in the logo.

[Interns](#), community members, and local professionals have shaped our spirit, learning and leadership with intergenerational teams.

- [Accomplishments](#) include supporting community groups, mapping trees, advocating for tree protection, facilitating quality nursery stock availability, and [website](#) resources to Get started, Get Involved and Learn More.
- As we read and reflect on Covid impacts, we are reminded that we lost many elements of community. Covid fostered hyper-individualism, questioned public health actions, altered the geography of work and home, brought backlash to civil rights and equity, and highlighted parallels to global scope of climate action. We're working to rebuild some of this through community forestry.



Effects of national politics on urban communities and nature

- Attempts to freeze urban forestry projects funded by the USDA Forest Service in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have been paused. Work continues locally, and the funding is still at risk. More info about the City of San Diego's "Ready, Set, Grow San Diego" project (areas shaded orange in map) are at [City's webpage](#) and [KSC webpage](#). View list of other [local projects](#) funded by the IRA.
- Urban and community forestry depends on robust science about trees, urban settings, and communities. The USDA Forest Service is a world leader in this [research](#), by funding agency scientists, many university cooperators, and urban forestry practitioners for decades.
- Public health, climate data, climate impacts and adaptation are robust fields of knowledge and science that contribute to community forestry and urban nature, and have been threatened by reductions.

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