

## 2024 Treesilience STL Community Workshop Important Takeaways

### Key Question #1: How might we increase the acceptance and survival rate of replacement trees after a tree has been removed?

Barriers to Tree Acceptance	Barriers to Tree Survival
<p><b>#1 Fear of future hazard risk.</b> Fear of the future risk of property damage if the tree falls, or if roots damage the sewer line or foundation. Especially for large tree species.</p> <p><b>#2 Concern about maintenance.</b> Concern around the effort and cost to maintain trees and manage their debris (e.g. raking, watering, cleaning gutters)</p> <p><b>#3 Lack of accountability.</b> Agreement to replace the tree only to refuse it after the tree was removed. No way of knowing if a homeowner truly intends to take a replacement tree or not. Also no accountability to ensure a homeowner will accept a replacement tree.</p> <p><b>#7 Fear of failure.</b> Lack of a “green thumb” and therefore unwilling to take a tree out of fear of being unable to keep it alive.</p>	<p><b>#4 Lack of motivation.</b> Acceptance of the tree replacement but not wholeheartedly motivated to keep the tree alive.</p> <p><b>#5 Lack of awareness on how to maintain trees.</b> Lack of knowledge about maintaining trees - e.g. when to water, how much to water, how to prune, etc.</p> <p><b>#6 Physical labor of watering trees.</b> Physical inability to water the replacement tree, especially some of those who are elderly and those with disabilities.</p>

### Solutions

A total of 65 ideas were generated (see full report). Below are the top 3 most prominent solutions:

#### **#1 Facilitate connections of mutual support between neighbors and with neighborhood organizations.**

The most common solution generated was to help neighbors connect with each other to provide each other with support, inspiration and encouragement. Specific solutions included:

- A buddy system to support neighbors who are physically unable to water
- Community organizations may step up to help neighbors with tree maintenance

#### **#2 Increase education about Treesilience and tree maintenance in a way that is memorable and engages participants with different learning styles.**

The second most common solution was related to decreasing the fear of failure and lack of knowledge on tree maintenance by providing education in a way that is engaging. Specific solutions included:

- Fun and engaging in-person and virtual workshops
- Use of video to create short and sweet impactful “how-to” videos

#### **#3 Make operational changes to the removal / replacement process.**

This solution aims at increasing the acceptance of replacement trees by making operational changes to the process. Solutions included:

- To decrease the time between the removal and replacement
- Have a consistent point person for the homeowner

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**Key Question #2:** How might we prioritize our services (e.g. tree removal and pruning efforts) in a way that is fair to homeowners and also has the biggest positive impact on the tree canopy?

### Homeowner Criteria

“What criteria should matter in terms of choosing one household over another recognizing the primary goal is equity? In other words: All things equal from the tree perspective, how should we choose one homeowner over another?” The following were identified, not in order of priority:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First-come, first serve</li> <li>● Neighborhoods / Zip codes with less tree canopy</li> <li>● Multiple dead or sick trees in the nearby area</li> <li>● Youth (17 or under in the household)</li> <li>● Senior (65+ older in home)</li> <li>● If tree is threatening neighboring properties or near public community assets (e.g. schools)</li> <li>● People with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Race</li> <li>● Lower income levels (e.g. debt to income ratio, disposable income)</li> <li>● Ability to participate in a sliding scale model (where homeowner pays a portion)</li> <li>● Owner occupied vs. rental or vacant</li> <li>● Willingness to accept replacement tree and terms of contract</li> <li>● Length of time homeowner has been living there (more time = higher priority)</li> </ul>
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Solution #1	Solution #2	Solution #3	Solution #4	Solution #5
Seniors & people living with disabilities	Acceptance of replacement tree	Income level	Length of time owning home	Race

### Tree Criteria

“What criteria should matter in terms of choosing one tree over another recognizing that the primary goal is the benefit to the tree canopy? In other words: All things equal from the homeowner perspective, how should we choose one tree over another?” The following were identified, not in order of priority:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consequence (if tree failure occurs)</li> <li>● Hazard risk (includes likelihood of failure)</li> <li>● Tree service required (e.g. pruning should be prioritized over removal)</li> <li>● Cost</li> <li>● Canopy density</li> <li>● Tree mortality in the surrounding area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Species of tree (e.g. higher priority if existing tree is invasive, or if desired new tree offers more ecosystem benefits)</li> <li>● Vacancy rate (more vacancy = more trees)</li> <li>● Tree health</li> <li>● Homeowner access to resources</li> <li>● Commitment to replacement tree</li> </ul>
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Solution #1	Solution #2	Solution #3	Solution #4	Solution #5	Solution #6
Hazard Risk	Consequence	Canopy Density	Cost	Species	Service Needed