

Feb / Mar 2022



## Roeland Park's Urban Forest Tree Canopy



Written by: Judy Hyde

Millions of acres of America's forests are located in cities and towns. These urban forests come in all shapes and sizes, forming the green infrastructure found everywhere from neighborhood gardens, to landscaped boulevards and parks in metropolitan areas, to regional wetlands.

The Urban Tree Canopy is the leafy, overhead cover from trees in an urban forest. Roeland Park's mature tree canopy provides multiple benefits to the city, its residents, and its visitors. Because of Roeland Park's commitment to investing in trees and maintaining its urban forest tree canopy, the city has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for nearly 30 years.

Communities plant trees to become more sustainable and livable. The aesthetic value of mature trees enhances the marketing value of city property to both new businesses and new residents.





Greenspaces with trees provide places to recreate. People walk and jog more on shaded streets, which promotes better health, encourages interaction with neighbors, and improves the sense of community. Studies show that heavily “treed” neighborhoods have less crime because more people are outside. Strategic placement of trees can even slow traffic.

Trees are natural air conditioners. The evaporation from a single tree can produce the cooling effect of ten room-size, residential air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. Neighborhoods with trees are seven to nine degrees cooler than those without.

Multiple environmental benefits from mature trees include natural mitigation of air, water, and noise pollution. Trees absorb traffic sounds in urban areas by 40%. They absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, mitigating the effects of climate change, the biggest challenge facing the health of our planet. Trees produce oxygen, intercept airborne particulates, and reduce smog, enhancing a community’s respiratory health. They reduce stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as roads, buildings and parking lots, reduce flooding, save city stormwater management costs, and decrease the flow of polluted water.



Mature trees, especially native tree species, provide critically important habitat for wildlife. Healthy forests, whether in natural or urban spaces, are key to the health of some of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world.

A healthy community forest begins with careful planning. Tree preservation, tree planting (with appropriate selection and placement), and proper tree maintenance all contribute to a sustainable urban tree canopy. In contrast, tree removal, site clearing during development, natural incidents such as fire and storms, and poor tree condition can contribute to a reduced amount of tree canopy. However, the percentage of urban tree canopy is just one factor to consider. Factors such as age and species diversity, condition of trees, and equitable distribution across income levels are also important.

(Photos provided by Judy Hyde)



# Invasive Tree-of-Heaven Removed

Written by: Gretchen Davis



While restoring Cooper Creek Park's ecosystem, the City of Roeland Park contracted with Habitat Architects to eradicate an invasive Tree-of-Heaven and its suckers. With the tree's robust root system, simply cutting it down would have only promoted its additional sprouting, even as far as 50 feet away from the tree. So Habitat Architects, following recommended eradication protocols, applied basal bark applications of herbicide to kill the tree and its suckering and then removed it.

The Tree-of-Heaven is a deciduous tree native to China that has become a widespread invasive species across North America. The tree's name comes from its rapid growth toward the sky. Growing as much as 10-15 feet per year, it can reach above the canopy to a height of 80 feet or more. It spreads through prolific seed-producing and by sprouting from its robust poisonous root system that prevents native plants from

growing nearby. The Tree-of-Heaven can survive drought, poor soil, and air pollution. Once established, it can take over a site and form an impenetrable thicket.

The Tree-of-Heaven has leaves 1-4 feet long with 10-40 individual leaflets which, when broken, have a distinctive odor much like burnt peanut butter. The bark of the tree resembles a cantaloupe rind.

Eight invasive trees have been removed from the park and have been replaced by ten native trees donated by the Tom Savidge Memorial Fund. Planted in November near the picnic table, the diverse trees are being maintained by ten families living in the Cooper Creek Park area. In addition, 130 native trees and shrubs will be planted by Habitat Architects in the fall of 2022, helping to restore beauty and health to this riparian ecosystem.



(Photos provided by Ardie Davis and Judy Hyde)

# The Roeland Park Recreation Campus



## Roeland Park Community Center

(913) 826-3160

### Program Registration Phone

(913) 831-3359

### Community Center Office & Fitness Room Hours

Monday-Thursday: 7am-8 pm

Friday: 7am-5pm

Saturday: 8am-1pm

Sunday: Closed

### Roeland Park Sports Dome

(913) 362-8700

Please call for open gym and  
court rental availability.

[www.jcprd.com](http://www.jcprd.com)

*Please note: All upcoming  
programs are subject to  
change based on the  
recommendations of local  
government and health officials.*

## FAMILY FUN

**Family "Candy Bar" Bingo - \$12 per person (20% discount after 3rd family member)**

**Mar. 11, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

We've added twists and special treats to make this bingo more active, silly, and a family night to remember! Pizza dinner served at 6 pm, bingo to follow. Winners receive a king-sized candy bar.

*\*Bingo Events: Cost of admission covers snacks and staff time to administer the bingo program. No additional charge for bingo.*

## YOUTH

**Becoming a Babysitter (Ages 12-16) - \$72 Feb. 18 or Feb. 22, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm**

Personal safety, job expectations, appropriate age activities, and how to diaper and feed babies covered. First Aid and CPR certification.

## 50 PLUS

**Family Feud - \$5 Feb. 24, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

Compete against fellow 50 Plus participants in our silly rendition of the TV gameshow.

**Mardi Gras Mah Jongg Party - \$15 Mar. 1, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm**

Let the good times roll at this marathon of Mah Jongg! Catered lunch included.

**Selling Online - \$10** Clearing out clutter? Learn how to sell online safely.

**eBay, Etsy, Amazon - Feb. 9, 1:00pm – 2:00 pm**

**Facebook, Craigslist & Poshmark Mar. 9, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Tai Chi - \$36 (4 Classes Per Session)**

**Wednesdays, starting Feb. 9 and March 9, 10:00 am – 10:50 am**

**Thursdays, starting Feb. 10 and March 10, 5:00 pm – 5:50 pm**

A slow, gentle exercise with benefits in endurance, flexibility, and muscle strengthening.

**Zumba® Gold - \$39 (5 Classes Per Session)**

## Spring Break Daily Fun - \$40 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Join-in daily for these fun spring break activities, March 14-18! We'll play inside and out, if the weather permits. Please pack a sack lunch and water bottle; snacks provided. Sign-up for one day or several days; each themed day is a separate registration. No refunds after March 4th.

DUCT TAPERS (Ages 7-12) March 14th	NERF BATTLERS (Ages 8-12) March 15th	SWEET CREATORS (Ages 6-12) March 16th	SHAMROCKERS (Ages 6-12) March 17th	CRAFT MASTERS (Ages 7-12) March 18th
Create artwork and useful objects out of duct tape!	Target practice, fortress building, and NERF battle the day away!	Have sweet and silly fun mak- ing yummy treats to take home!	A day jam packed with St. Patrick's Day fun!	Love to create trendy DIY crafts? This day is for you!





The Arts Advisory Committee will be working with the City to incorporate art into the new staircase to be installed at the intersection of Roe Lane and Elledge Drive on the east side of the Aldi Store parking lot. A call for artists will be issued by the committee requesting proposals to integrate art into the staircase.

You can find the "Call for Artists" on the Roeland Park Website under the arts committee page and on the bid page. The Arts Advisory Committee looks forward to reviewing your artistic design for the stairs.

## Join A Citizen's Committee!

Do you want to become more civically involved? Join a Citizen Committee! These advisory committees provide the Governing Body crucial recommendations and manage different aspects of the City. From Racial Equity to Sustainability, and from Community Engagement to Art Advisory, these committees are part of the fabric of our city. You must attend two committee meetings before City Council can appoint you. To find a full list of committees and to apply, go to [roeland-park.net/251/volunteer-opportunities](https://roeland-park.net/251/volunteer-opportunities).





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