THANK YOU for your support of our 2015 program and general operations at Tree Trust. We are providing this summary as a statistical, narrative, and photographic report on our year. Please feel free to share their report with your board and/or interested staff. Thank you again for your support of Tree Trust and the communities we serve!

JOBPREP PROGRAMS
During 2015, Tree Trust’s JobPrep programs provided hands-on employment training, case management, and educational enrichment to 866 disadvantaged young people through five programs. These programs are provided to youth and young adults who have barriers to education and/or employment; are low-income, have special needs, and/or are at risk of not succeeding without assistance. At Tree Trust, these individuals have an opportunity to learn employment readiness skills, be placed into paid work experience, receive college and career coaching, and obtain other support services to navigate their journey to self-sufficiency.

Of the 752 participants who were able to provide data, 41% had a physical, emotional or learning disability; 62% were basic-skills deficient; and 9% were runaway, homeless, or living in a group home. Our participants predominantly resided in suburban Hennepin County, but youth from Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Dakota and Washington Counties were also served through our Summer Program. Our 2015 participants self-reported the following demographics:
Through the blending of several service models, we provided training, work experience, case management and educational programming. Participants performed a variety of different types of work which provided a mutual benefit to not only the participant, but also to our worksite partners. Work included landscaping and environmental improvement projects; property maintenance; rehabbing and rebuilding homes; and retail, administrative, childcare, and other types of work in private businesses, nonprofits, and governmental agencies around the Twin Cities.

**Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC)**

*Forty one (41) participating young people* worked for three to nine months to complete a variety of projects throughout the metro.

YACC participants helped the Tree Trust forestry department distribute 1750 trees in St. Louis Park and Minneapolis, plant 60 trees in North Minneapolis as part of the Free Trees Program, and provide assistance at two Learning With Trees school events. Throughout the year, YACC participants also worked on various park improvement projects and provided property maintenance on vacant city properties in Minneapolis, at Hennepin County Libraries, for the Metropolitan Council, and in several locations for the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority.

YACC participants worked more than **11,900 hours** and earned **370 attendance bonuses** and **34 credentials** in fields related to their work. Remarkably, these youth also earned **51 raises** by earning credentials and good evaluations and building their job skills.

**YouthBuild**

In 2015, YouthBuild served 25 youth with work experience, and additional 52 participants were provided with follow-up services, for a total of **77 youth participants**. Youth who were actively working in YouthBuild alternated one week of full-time employment with one week of school. Participants in YouthBuild learn valuable construction skills as they rehab and re-build homes in low-income areas. These projects are done with partner Urban Homeworks to develop affordable and supportive housing in North Minneapolis.

This year, YouthBuild program participants built or rehabbed **8 homes**. Participants also earned **39 raises** and **82 credentials**.

**Community Support Program**

In 2015, we matched **114 low-income parents** with unpaid work experiences at host sites throughout the Twin Cities. Experience was provided by **51 businesses**, nonprofits, governmental agencies and other sites. Participants gained job experience in the areas of administrative assistance, childcare, customer service, landscaping, food service, and healthcare. This experience is designed to assist parents in learning job skills to promote their future self-sufficiency.
Youth and Young Adult Services (YYAS)

This program served young people from suburban Hennepin County. Participants work with case managers to meet goals in the areas of employment, education, and life skills. Two hundred thirty two (269) participants explored careers, prepared for job placement or college entrance, and learned life skills that will help them succeed as adults.

30% of YYAS participants earned school credits, credentials, or certifications, 11% started secondary education, and 26% obtained full or part-time employment.

Summer Youth Employment Program - Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

During summer 2015, we placed 258 youth (56% of summer participants) on 16 crews at Twin Cities parks and recreation areas. Crews worked with their crew leaders to complete parks improvement projects that have real, lasting value to the community.

YCC crews completed forty projects including timber staircases built at playgrounds and beaches, retaining walls built at the Midtown Greenway, and paver patios installed at grilling areas in parks and community areas.

Participants were issued a collective 312 high school credits for completing lessons that were earned while working. In addition, 32 youth were selected for Governor’s Awards for outstanding leadership and achievement, and 125 youth participants received awards for perfect attendance.

Summer Youth Employment Program - Individual Employment Experiences (IEE)

During summer 2015, we placed 199 youth (44% of summer participants) in individual employment experiences in 55 schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses and government agencies throughout the Twin Cities. Participants were able to build experience in retail, food service, childcare, custodial, and administrative assistance roles.

In addition to their job duties, many participants completed lessons related to budgeting, interviews, workplace expectations, and money management. Lessons were completed with the assistance of case managers, and through these lessons 42 high school credits were issued to the participants from our school credit partner.
JobPrep Programs Evaluation and Outcomes

866 youth\(^1\) participated in JobPrep programs in 2015. Tree Trust evaluated our programs through examination of participation and retention rates, raises earned, analysis of pre- and post-assessments that rate improvement on 12 key measures of basic work skills, and analysis of post-program surveys of participants and parents/guardians.

Work and Raises

Tree Trust participants earned 409 merit-based raises or bonuses and 162 other awards for attendance and excellence. Of those who participated in paid-work experience programs, Tree Trust Youth worked more than 70,000 hours and collectively earned more than $654,000.

Educational Enrichment

All Job Prep programs provided a variety of educational enrichment. A total of 379 high school credits were issued and another 178 credentials or certifications were earned through the following types of trainings:

- OSHA 10 Hour construction safety training
- CPR/First Aid
- Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide
- Home Builders Institute Pre-Apprenticeship
- Diploma or GED
- ACT preparation
- Leadership training
- Assistance with completion of High School
- Forklift/HERC-U-Lift training
- Tree Care Industry Association Apprentice
- Driver’s Permit and Licenses
- Turf Maintenance
- Resume-writing and letter-writing
- Money management lessons
- Career exploration

Community Forestry

During 2015, Tree Trust’s Community Forestry Department planted and distributed a total of 2,533 trees and shrubs with the help of more than 200 volunteers. Through these events, 1,425 people were provided trees and shrubs for their personal property, and an additional 1,044 students were engaged in the planting and care of trees on school grounds.

Community Plantings

Tree Trust held eight community plantings in parks and recreation areas around the Twin Cities. Trees were planted with assistance from volunteers from the community and corporate partners.

Tree Sales

Municipal tree sale events facilitated by Tree Trust continue to be incredibly popular with local residents who are able to purchase a high quality tree at a fraction of the retail cost thanks to each city

\(^1\)92 youth were served in multiple programs; these duplicate youth have been removed to reach this final total.
underwriting most of the program costs. This program encourages residents to plant trees on private property, where the canopy cover is traditionally lower.

**Learning with Trees**
During school year 2014-15, Tree Trust partnered with two Minnesota schools to integrate environmental learning into their curricula, facilitate hands-on environmental education activities, and create outdoor classrooms on their school grounds.

Tree Trust staff worked closely with each partner school to create “Green Teams” of teachers, administrators, grounds maintenance staff, parents/guardians, and community volunteers to develop a landscape plan that would meet the schools’ environmental and educational objectives. Students participated by performing a variety of different tasks like digging, watering, or mulching a tree.

### Planting Event / Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location / Event</th>
<th>Trees &amp; Shrubs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arbor Day/Midtown Greenway (Minneapolis)</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Louis Park Reforest/Bass Lake Preserve (St. Louis Park)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cargill volunteer event/Purgatory Park (Minnetonka)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Properties (North Minneapolis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donaldson volunteer event (Bloomington)</td>
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<td>Edgebrook Park (St. Louis Park)</td>
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<td>Green Futures / Quarry Point Park (Apple Valley)</td>
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<td>Green Futures / Scenic Heights Park (Shakopee)</td>
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<td>Minneapolis Tree Distribution</td>
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<td>St. Louis Park Distribution</td>
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<td>Learning with Trees / Talahi Community Elementary (St. Cloud)</td>
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<td>Learning with Trees / Sheridan Hills Elementary (Richfield)</td>
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<td>Commercial Trees Planting (Minneapolis)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals:</strong></td>
<td><strong>2533</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2015 Programs Summary**

When all was said and done, in 2015 Tree Trust served **3,335 individuals**, provided paychecks to **752 youth and young adults**, and distributed and planted **2,533 trees and shrubs** in our Twin Cities community!