Cool & Connected Oak Cliff

Cooling with Trees and Greenspace
Dallas is hot and getting hotter, with summer temperatures regularly soaring above 100°F. Well-positioned trees and green space can reduce ambient temperatures by 5 to 10°F.

THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT: The urban heat island effect is a phenomenon caused by the lack of trees, vegetation and green open spaces in urban areas, combined with dense, hard surfaces like concrete and asphalt. Heat generated by the sun and everyday activities like idling traffic is trapped in these hard surfaces, exacerbating high temperatures and poor air quality. During summer months, urban heat islands contribute to higher instances of respiratory difficulties and heat-related illness and mortality.

GREENING OAK CLIFF: Working with community volunteers, we are planting 1,000 trees in the neighborhood and at local schools. Community-based “green teams” will water and tend to the trees for the first few years until they are at the point where they can sustain themselves.

CONNECTING TO THE CEDAR CREST TRAIL: Throughout 2018, Dallas County will be constructing the Cedar Crest Trail, a new hard-surface hike-bike trail for the neighborhood. Our tree plantings will help create shaded walkways to connect residents to the new trail.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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The Trust for Public Land, the Texas Trees Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy are uniting with the Dallas community on Cool and Connected Oak Cliff, a project to bring together community members, students and volunteers to plant and care for 1,000 trees in the Oak Cliff neighborhood and at area schools.