



Cool Schools

Texas Trees Foundation
DALLAS, TEXAS

Planting Day at Clinton P. Russell Elementary School



DALLAS, TEXAS IS WARMING AT A FASTER RATE THAN OTHER LARGE CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.* Not only is Dallas hot, but so are Dallas ISD elementary school campuses. Presently, **Dallas ISD elementary schools have an average of 7% tree canopy**—making for hotter play and learning areas resulting in children spending less time outside. To beat the heat and ensure that “**no child is left inside,**” Texas Trees Foundation’s Cool Schools program, launched in 2016, strives to plant 80-100 trees at every Dallas ISD elementary school to increase the tree canopy to at least 20%, creating cooler, greener, and healthier school campuses.

The University of Champaign Urbana of Illinois research shows that kids who spend more time outside end up paying more attention inside. Trees and nature lower aggression and symptoms of ADHD, and are better able to concentrate, complete tasks and follow directions.

Trees cool the surfaces of the surrounding environment through shading and offer

additional ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, air pollution removal, energy savings, and stormwater savings. The benefits of greening strategies, such as tree planting can be as high as **15°F of cooling** in some areas on hot summer days.* A study in California found that **for every \$1 spent** in California cities on tree planting and maintenance, **there were \$5.82 in benefits.****

The Cool Schools program provides outdoor learning areas on school campuses for a hands-on environmental learning experience to instill a good land ethic and to create a healthy environment.

Once schools are selected and fully funded, each school is provided:

- Project coordination
- Green Team (teacher committee) facilitation
- Landscape design created by teachers, students, and parents
- Landscape installation, equipment, and technical assistance
- Landscape amenities (benches, boulders, etc.)

FOR EVERY



SPENT ON TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE**

- Training and resources for teachers
 - o STEM-based TEKS certified curriculum developed by Texas Trees
 - o Interactive educational opportunities and activities
- Trees and shrubs
 - o 1-year maintenance included
- Tree Planting Volunteer Day and Celebration Day

1000+ students, staff, and local community members are positively impacted by the implementation of each Cool School. In 2016, Texas Trees completed two pilot projects (Felix Botello Elementary and Onesimo Hernandez Elementary). 176 trees were planted resulting in \$227,290 in ecosystem services over 40 years, that include: carbon sequestration, air pollution removal, energy savings, and stormwater

* Texas Trees Foundation's Dallas 2017 Urban Heat Island Management Study
** U.S. Forest Service and University of California, Davis

