

December 2023

# GET CITY



## NEWSLETTER

### This month in Get City

This month, Get City youth shared their stories about their **favorite trees** and made their own Tree Puppets. They critically explored "**Tree Equity**," navigating the "**Tree Canopy**" online in different neighborhoods in Lansing.

They also conducted and analyzed a **survey** to gain insights into the community's ideas and views on trees. Finally, they designed a flier to encourage the community to take action and participate in **planting** activities, and to **foster a sense of community** towards building a more sustainable community.

### GET City Program

STEM program for 5th and 7th grade students that focuses on three areas:

- **Building STEM expertise**
- **Building STEM citizenship**
- **Educating others**

Our overarching goal is to better understand how and why youth co-make in life-based and STEM-rich ways with families and communities.

### My Favorite Trees & Tree Puppets Activity

While discussing their **favorite trees**, the youth described the locations of these trees in their surroundings, their emotions, and special memories associated with these trees, as well as how they spend time around them. They explored online three fun facts about the tree, and what they wish others knew about these trees.

The youth showed their creativity by creating **puppet trees** from various materials, including recyclables, fabric, and sewing supplies. They engaged in multiple funny and wise dialogues between trees, tree-kids, and the tree-community, tree-car. In this way, they are able to convey messages about the importance of trees and how to create a more sustainable environment.



# MY FAVORITE TREES



**Daizhanay:** My favorite tree is a **hickory tree**. And I liked the tree because I could climb it and have lots of fun. There used to be a hickory tree near my grandma's house, but she decided to cut the tree down because it might fall on her house. One old lady in my neighborhood died because a tree fell on her house and her tree was taller than her house from the storms.



**Amarie:** My favorite tree is an **oak tree**. And my favorite thing about this tree is that it gives a home to animals. So I hope people cut less trees because it might hurt the animals' living environment.

And I feel like we should have a lot more trees in our environment for animals to live in the trees. Without the trees, people wouldn't be able to breathe and they'll also affect animals and then the ecosystem [...]. And another good thing about trees is that the trees help catch all of that CO2 to help us live a better environment.



**Chris:** Hi my name is Christopher and my favorite tree is the **apple tree**. Why my favorite tree is the apple tree because we get to pick up it and after I wash up and then we get to eat it. I go to my aunt's house mostly on Sundays. She has an apple tree at the backyard. We go to the backyard to pick them and then we wash them and sometimes we send them away or we eat them. Apple trees give me funny memories and that's why I love the apple tree.



# CONVERSATIONS WITH TREES

**Sam (Tree):** I cleaned 24.3 ounces of air today. What did you do today?



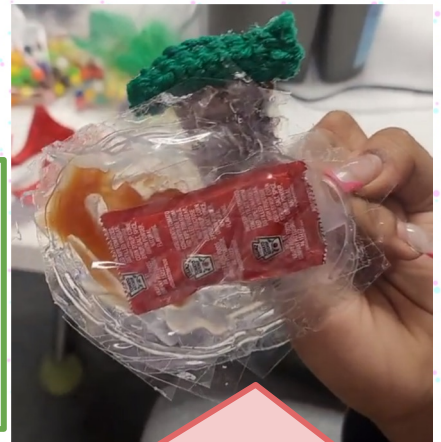
**Amiliano (Tree):** I did nothing but I got peed on today.



**Amarie(Tree):** Oh my gosh, I'm so tired of people hitting me.  
**Wisam:** What's your message for the car?  
**Amarie(Tree):** Stop hitting trees. Don't drink and drive.  
**Wisam:** What's your message for the factories?  
**Amarie(Tree):** Stop putting so much pollution into the air.  
**Wisam:** Why that matter?  
**Amarie(Tree):** Because it can affect our environment and the animals and humans that live in earth.



**Amarie:** My tree is mad because anytime somebody has to do the bathroom in the wild, it was like "Go pee behind that tree go pee behind the tree." So he's really mad that people always pee on him. So anytime somebody comes up to him, it tries to bite them.



**Taya's tree** is upset because it was littered on. Her tree is very small, the size of a finger, due to the litter. Her tree symbolizes the impact of litter, highlighting its small size.

**Chris:** Boo hoo hoo. My wife died from the climate change.



**Artifacts of My favorite tree activity**



## Tree Canopy & Tree Equity

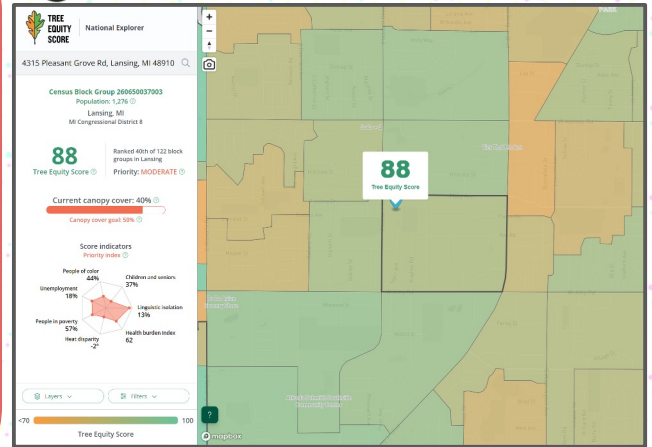
Get City Youth watched a video about **“Tree Equity”** and explored **“Tree Canopy,”** which is the layer of branches and leaves that cover the ground when viewed from above. They discovered the tree canopy in Lansing and searched for Tree Equity Score of their neighborhood, as well as across different states. **Tree Equity Score** measures how well the critical benefits of urban tree canopy are reaching those who need them most.

Here is the example of Tree Equity Score.

**Can you guess where this is?**

**You're right! It's our boys & girls club!**

We got **88** out of 100. It's a moderate score.



(source: Tree Equity Score)

## Tree Equity Survey

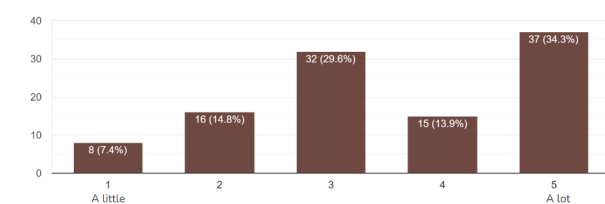
Get City Youth conducted **a survey** to explore the community's relationship with trees, including their feelings about trees, their ideas, and lived experiences with different types of trees.

They reached out to **112 people** including adults (parents, educators and other community members) and children of various ages. They analyzed the survey data with the mentors and created “word clouds” from the responses to open-ended questions.

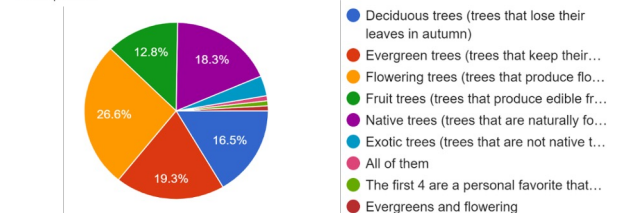
Therefore, they decided to design a **flyer** to share these findings with the community and invite them to participate in a tree-planting activity to improve the health and resilience of their environment and community. (See Get City flyer in the next page)



12) How important are trees to you in your neighborhood?  
108 responses



15) What kind of trees do you prefer for your neighborhood?  
109 responses



## GET CITY FLYER

**Share** our flyer and help us promote a **healthier, happier, and more just** community in a greener environment!



## DO YOU WANT TO PLANT A TREE??

### We need your help!!

Trees help slow down climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, preventing flooding, reducing city temperature, reducing pollution, and keeping soil nutrient-rich.

### Tree Equity

We found that lower income neighborhoods have less trees!

It is crucial to ensure that every neighborhood has enough trees to provide benefits such as clean air, shade, beauty, and health.



### The main findings of our survey about people's ideas on trees in Lansing



A survey shows that people's top favorite tree-related activities are:

- Relaxing in the shade (71%)
- Climbing (53%).



The most important functions of trees, as people think, are:

- Producing oxygen (83%)
- Providing habitats to birds and animals (54%)
- Removing carbon dioxide (40%)

**62%** of people surveyed have never planted a tree!

Come with your friends and family to help us plant trees!

Date + Location

Let's bring the community together!



GET CITY Youth  
Boy and Girls Club - Lansing

Have Any Questions? Contact 

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**Our mentors:** Angie, Wisam, Orwa, Jinshil, Lillian, Aliyah, Jaylen, Chris (training mentor)