



National Wildlife Federation

FY26 Event Summaries

This year, The National Wildlife Federation's Trees for Wildlife™ program supported the planting of 67,045 native trees with 26 partnering communities across 15 U.S. states. Nearly 23,000 people were engaged and taught the value of native trees for people and wildlife.

Youth Environmental Alliance! (YEA!) | 2,000 Trees

Broward County, FL | 2,969 people engaged

Year-round

Twenty-five of YEA!'s events were in-school programs with a hands-on environmental science lesson whose purpose was to show students how important trees are for air and water quality and wildlife, including birds. Some of the lessons also taught about food forests for self-sustainability and environmental sustainability. Ten events were environmental restorations including removing exotic plants and replacing them with native plants and trees. The three main ecosystems restored were freshwater wetlands, coastal mangrove habitats, and upland bird gardens.

Species planted: cocoplum, sea grape, firebush, wild lime, coastal plain willow, Simpson stopper, bald cypress, red mangrove

Wakulla County Garden Club | 900 Trees

Crawfordville, FL | 1,100 people engaged

January 2026

The 22nd annual Crawfordville Arbor Day Celebration was held on Florida Arbor Day, January 17, 2026, at Hudson Park, Crawfordville, Florida. 1,100 people attended and/or volunteered for the event. The National Wildlife Federation's Trees for Wildlife program contributed 900 trees (9 species) that were planted in pots and tended for a year by club members.

Species planted: red maple, pignut hickory, redbud, persimmon, blackgum, Eastern red cedar, black cherry, white oak, and rusty blackhaw



The Woodlands Township | 1,000 Trees

Woodlands, TX | 1,500 people engaged

January 2026

This event was the 50th anniversary tree giveaway for the Township. A total of 20,000 seedlings were given away and 1,000 trees were provided by Trees for Wildlife. The event hosted a very popular 'Ask an Expert' booth staffed by the township's forestry educators. Additional resources at the event included compost education, pollinator garden information, free wildflower seeds and a children's leaf rubbing activity.

Species planted: black walnut, American sycamore, green ash, Eastern redbud, flowering dogwood, black cherry, witch hazel, loblolly pine, shagbark hickory, false indigo, live oak, pignut hickory

North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF) | 8,700 Trees

Western North Carolina | 190 people engaged

January - March 2026

Spread across four restoration and giveaway events in response to Hurricane Helene recovery in Western North Carolina, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation planted thousands of native trees along riverbanks in the late winter and early spring of 2026. Further, with support from NWF's Trees for Wildlife program and other external partners, NCWF gave away thousands of native trees to the High Country community. This was an opportunity for landowners in Ashe, Watauga, Alleghany, and Wilkes Counties to receive free trees to restore riparian areas on their property impacted by Helene. Landowners who signed up to receive trees were able to connect with conservation organizations and receive free educational materials on how to plant native trees and how native trees support habitat for wildlife, control erosion, and improve water quality. The trees planted through these efforts will serve as critical habitat for wildlife, protect the banks from erosion, and reduce the spread of invasive species.

Species planted: elderberry, silky dogwood, silky willow, white oak, sycamore, Carolina silverbell, river birch, red maple, sugar maple, buttonbush, black willow



Cooper City Green Advisory Board | 100 trees

Cooper City, FL | 345 people engaged

February 2026

The Cooper City Senior Expo is an annual event put on by Cooper City to engage senior residents with national, state, and local organizations and offerings. There were 40 booths representing Medicare, county agencies, health and fitness programs, environmental agencies and elected officials. U.S. State Representative Debbie Wasserman-Ruben, Florida House of Representatives Barbara Sharief and Cooper City Mayor and Commissioners were all in attendance. The Cooper City Green Advisory Board booth gave away tree seedlings and NWF material to expo-goers.

Species planted: sweet bay magnolia, Simpson's stopper, dahoon holly, South Florida slash pine

Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) | 40,000 Trees

State-wide | 9,000 people engaged

March 2026

This was TEC's 12th annual statewide Tennessee Tree Day native-tree-planting event. An estimated 4,500+ individuals planted 88,225 native trees (40,000 supported by NWF's Trees for Wildlife program) at homes and in communities across Tennessee, with over 9,000 estimated people participating in planting trees for Tennessee Tree Day 2026.

Species planted: baldcypress, black gum, bur oak, Eastern redbud, elderberry, Northern red oak, persimmon, smooth sumac, Eastern white pine, tulip poplar

Town Vienna | 80 Trees

Vienna, VA | 12 people engaged

March - April 2025

This planting event took place over three weekends in March and early April in Wildwood Park. Eighty native trees were planted along the stream and in the forest of Wildwood Park, a town park in Vienna, Virginia. Each seedling was either caged with a metal cage, tied to a stake, or installed with a plastic tree tube to protect it from deer over-grazing.

Species planted: sweetbay magnolia, silver maple, overcup oak, swamp chestnut oak



Green Columbus | 9000 Trees

Columbus, OH | 3000 people engaged

April 2026

Green Columbus brought native trees to communities throughout Central Ohio as part of its annual spring tree distribution. More than 40 parks, schools, nonprofits, and community gardens received seedlings for locally led planting projects designed to support the local community. With the support of the Trees for Wildlife program, 10,000 native trees were provided towards the 50,000 total seedlings distributed by Green Columbus in 2026.

Species planted: Persimmon, American beech, black walnut, blackgum, american plum, black cherry, white oak, swamp white oak, scarlet oak, burr oak, chinkapin oak, pin oak, northern red oak, black oak, bald cypress, riverbirch, shellbark hickory, shagbark hickory, hackberry, redbud, white flowering dogwood, redosier dogwood, American filbert, butternut, bitternut hickory, American hornbeam

Jefferson City Parks, Recreation, and Forestry | 15 Trees

Jefferson City, MO | 35 people engaged

April 2026

On Saturday April 18th, local utility tree contractors assisted the Jefferson City Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department with a planting day along Binder Lake in Missouri to help address chronic wet conditions in the area and to reduce the area requiring mowing. Despite the recent storms and widespread power outages in the area, the event had an excellent turnout and resulted in the planting of 15 native trees.

Species planted: shortleaf pine, burr oak

Village of Homer Glen | 400 Trees

Homer Glen, IL | 350 people engaged

April 2026

For the second year in a row, the Village of Homer Glen, with support by the National Wildlife Federation's Trees for Wildlife program, gave away 400 free native trees for Arbor Day 2026 at Homer Glen Village Hall. The seedlings arrived and were packaged for the giveaway on Thursday, April 16th. The event was marketed on the town's social media accounts, and all 400 trees were picked up by Arbor Day, Friday, April 24th.

Species planted: redbud, tulip poplar, swamp white oak, American bald cypress, Jack pine, Shumard's oak, Pecan, bur oak



Town of Signal Mountain | 200 Trees
Signal Mountain, TN | 300 people engaged
April 2026

The Signal Mountain Tree Board and the steering committee for the Signal Mountain Community Wildlife Habitat with the help of the Signal Mountain High School Leos Club gave away 300 trees to the public on April 4th at the Recycle Center. 200 trees were subsidized by the National Wildlife Federation. Signal Mountain is a designated Tree City USA for the 17th year.

Species planted: persimmon, Shumard oak, and American bald cypress

Glandorf Elementary | 300 Trees
Glandorf, OH | 275 people engaged
April 2026

Glandorf Elementary's school environmental club, the Ecolizers, organized an Earth Week initiative after an on-campus Miyawaki forest project was canceled last April due to an unmarked underground line. Rather than abandon their goal, students partnered with staff to distribute nature journals to all students and provide each family with a White Oak tree, a bird feeder, and starter seed to create backyard "sit-spots." The program involved all K-6 students through integrated STEM lessons on nature journaling, with additional classroom extensions led by multiple teachers. During Earth Day celebrations, 300 trees and feeders were sent home, marking a highlight moment as students took ownership of environmental stewardship beyond campus.

Species planted: white oak

Farmingdale State College | 100 Trees
Farmingdale, NY | 80 people engaged
April 2026

Farmingdale State College's Office for Sustainability held a native tree sapling giveaway in recognition of both Arbor Day and Earth Day on April 23, 2026. A table with the native saplings was set up outside of the Campus Center (one of the highest traffic areas on campus). "How to" instructions for each species were given out with every tree to ensure that proper planting methods were utilized. All of the students, faculty, and staff that visited the table were engaged and excited to learn about the importance of native tree species. 10 of each species were kept by the grounds crew to be strategically planted around campus.

Species planted: Allegheny serviceberry, pitch pine



Seeds of Living Education (SOLE) & Hamburg ReTree | 200 Trees

Hamburg, NY | 250 people engaged

April 2026

Students across Hamburg School District learned the importance of plant life cycles, healthy ecosystems, soil, and native plants. Time was dedicated to sharing how important native trees are to the community, the environment, and local wildlife. 200 native trees were gifted to 4th grade students. All of the students are proud to step up as dedicated environmental stewards and caretakers of the Earth.

Species planted: red maple

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission | 300 Trees

Grosse Pointe Park, MI | 250 people engaged

April 2026

With Support of the National Wildlife Federation, all 4th graders attending school in the city were given a white pine sapling with information about Arbor Day and the importance of trees. They were also given a blank poster to complete a tree-related drawing, which was judged by Beautification Commissioners. The winners were recognized by the mayor and the community at the City Council Meeting on May 11, 2026. All posters were hung at city hall, libraries and businesses throughout the city for Arbor Week (April 20-2024).

Species planted: white pine



City of Sun Prairie | 300 Trees

Sun Prairie, WI | 300 people engaged

April 2026

The city hosted an Arbor Day Seedling Giveaway on Friday, April 24 from 11am-3pm at the Wetmore Park shelter in Sun Prairie, WI. At this event, 225 seedlings were distributed to attendees, and an additional 25 were reserved and picked up by residents following the event. While everyone who attended the event was eligible for a seedling, there were several opportunities for residents to earn additional seedlings. This included two activities at the event: a tree trivia, and an outdoor scavenger hunt. Participating in either activity allowed attendees to select a second seedling. Participants could also bring a food pantry donation in exchange for additional seedlings. This generated two oversized totes full of donations for the local food pantry, Sunshine Place. The remaining 50 seedlings were planted in public parks in Sun Prairie for all to enjoy.

Species planted: Alleghany serviceberry, American hazelnut, elderberry, chokeberry, pin oak, Eastern white pine

Village of Wilmette | 150 Trees

Wilmette, IL | 125 people engaged

April 2026

This event marked the Village's third Arbor Day tree giveaway at the Wilmette Public Library! Similar to years past, attendees were excited for the giveaway and multiple arrived 15 minutes early in anticipation. Having two Village Arborists and the Park District Horticulturalist and Parks Planner available was also a great way for attendees to connect with the broader community and answer questions.

Species planted: tulip poplar, eastern redbud, white oak

Borough of New Hope | 100 Trees

New Hope, PA | 70 people engaged

April 2026

The New Hope Borough Shade Tree Commission celebrated Arbor Day with the planting of an Eastern Redbud and giveaway of 100 native trees. The mayor read the Arbor Day Proclamation. A member of the Shade Tree Commission provided a demonstration of proper planting techniques for the seedlings. Tree seedlings were given away along with protective sleeves and stakes, as well as the NWF provided planting and care instructions.

Species planted: Eastern red cedar, swamp white oak, Eastern redbud



Howell Shade Tree Commission | 200 Trees

Howell, NJ | 200 people engaged

April 2026

The Seedling Giveaway was held at the Howell Department of Public Works along with support from the National Wildlife Federation and the Howell Shade Tree Commission. Over 200 native trees were distributed with over 200 community members in attendance.

Species planted: chestnut oak, loblolly pine, hemlock

Keep Corinth Beautiful | 300 Trees

Corinth, TX | 400 people engaged

April 2026

Keep Corinth Beautiful's tree giveaway was part of a volunteer appreciation party at the Greatest American Cleanup. Not only did volunteers receive trees to plant locally in their home or business, but many residents visiting the park also received a tree along with tree care information. Recipients of the trees were excited and grateful to have the opportunity to plant a tree in their community. *Species planted:* burr oak, red maple, white oak

Earth Tomorrow / West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) | 200 Trees

Atlanta, GA | 130 people engaged

April 2026

With the generous support of Allied World, NWF's Earth Tomorrow program partnered with the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance for an Arbor Day celebration. 130 persimmon and sugar maple trees were given away at the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) Urban Forest Festival on 4/25/26. The remaining 70 trees were planted in partnership with WAWA at approved sites in Atlanta.

Species planted: American persimmon, sugar maple



City of Huber Heights | 300 Trees

Huber Heights, OH | 400 people engaged

April 2026

The Huber Height's tree and plant giveaway was organized by the Parks and Recreation Board and is used to celebrate Arbor Day in the community. The Board had previously engaged a nursery to obtain 165 native plants to give away. The support from NWF's Trees for Wildlife enabled the city to add 300 trees to that. This year, the city also removed over 180 invasive Bradford Pear Trees and has promised to replace those trees 2:1.

Species planted: white oak, pawpaw, sassafras, black cherry, flowering dogwood, redbud, river birch, sugar maple, red oak, white pine, American persimmon, tulip poplar

National Wildlife Federation / Islamic Society of Baltimore | 100 Trees

Baltimore, MD | 135 people engaged

April 2026

NWF partnered with the Islamic Society of Baltimore (ISB) to plant 51 native tree seedlings and give away 49 seedlings to community members. Elementary, middle, and high school students at the Al-Rahmah school, located on the ISB campus, planted the trees for an event celebrating Earth Day. ISB is in a flood plain, and these trees were planted to help reduce stormwater runoff, increase wildlife habitat, and add shade to outdoor spaces.

Species planted: swamp white oak, white fringetree, red maple, sugar maple, sweetbay magnolia

University of Michigan-Flint Campus | 500 Trees

Flint, MI | 300 people engaged

May 2026

Native tree seedlings were given away to Genesee County middle school students and teachers during the University of Michigan-Flint's Super Science Friday event on May 1, 2026, which provided middle schoolers with hands-on lessons about forests, their connection to people and wildlife, and the importance of trees. Middle schoolers learned about different native species, how to plant and care for trees, and how to measure trees like a forester. The native trees were given away and planted at UM-Flint by UM-Flint wildlife biology students and faculty.

Species planted: white pine, Allegheny serviceberry, pawpaw, sugar maple seedlings, white oak



Lafayette College | 400 Trees

Easton, PA | 495 people engaged

May 2026

On May 9th-11th, Lafayette College gave away 161 trees to community members who attended the annual pay-what-you-can plant sale. This sale was attended by approximately 400 community members. On May 14th, 20 volunteers came to plant the remaining 274 plants and trees. They are being cared for by the university's grounds crew and farm apprentices for future placement at Lafayette College in alignment with the newly revised Landscaping Policy, which dictates that all new plants must be native.

Species planted: Hackberry, pawpaw, sugar maple, honey locust, Washington hawthorn, pin oak, redosier dogwood, elderberry, blackhaw, winterberry, silky dogwood, black willow, sweet birch, sweetbay magnolia

Friends of Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center | 200 Trees

Davie, FL | 225 people engaged

July 2026

To celebrate International Moth Week, held on July 18-26, the Friends of Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center hosted a multi-day giveaway where 200 native tree seedlings were distributed to community members. Friends of Long Key provided information on the importance of restoring the local tree canopy while also highlighting the ecological importance of moths and the actions we can take to help them thrive.

Species planted: Simpson's stopper, sweetbay magnolia, pop ash, dahoon holly