



RELEAF
CVILLE

NURTURING KIDS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH NATURE

Trees save lives. Our mission is to protect the health and well-being of our low-canopy neighborhoods from the heat impacts of climate change.



PLANT



PRESERVE



EDUCATE

HOW WE'LL DO IT

Plant trees to cool homes and outdoor spaces

Preserve existing trees

Educate kids and families about trees and nature

R



WHO WE ARE

ReLeaf Cville is a project initiated by the City's Tree Commission and initially funded by the Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. It's a public/private partnership between the Tree Commission, Nature Conservancy, City of Promise, Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards and Van Yahres Tree Company.



IMAGINE

every neighborhood in Charlottesville as a forest where children and their families have access to clean air, shade trees, and vibrant green space. Instead, the reality in some Charlottesville neighborhoods is quite different:



WHAT WE KNOW

Charlottesville's tree canopy coverage declined from 50% in 2004 to 40% in 2018, a tree canopy loss equivalent to about 660 acres. Every neighborhood has declined. Plus, the rate of decline has more than doubled in the last 4 years as compared to the prior 10 years.

Residential zones below 40% tree canopy are considered "heat islands", unhealthy neighborhoods where residents suffer more from heat related illnesses and asthma.

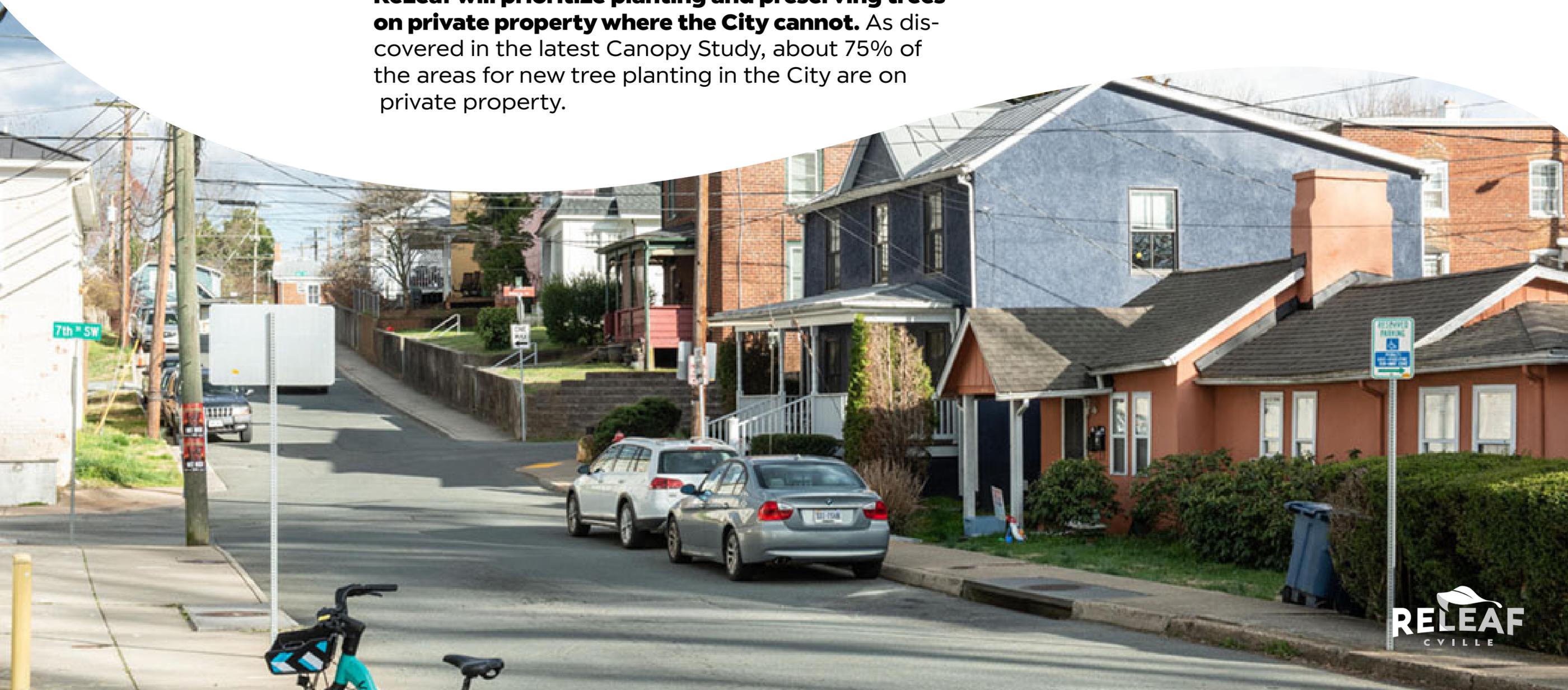
12 of Charlottesville 19 neighborhoods are below 40% tree canopy; three neighborhoods, 10th & Page, Rosehill and Starr Hill, are below 25% canopy cover, which corresponds to areas subjected to historical redlining and inequitable development policies.

ReLeaf will prioritize planting and preserving trees on private property where the City cannot. As discovered in the latest Canopy Study, about 75% of the areas for new tree planting in the City are on private property.

This past July, Charlottesville recorded its highest recorded temperature of 103 in the shade. Without the benefit of shade from trees, temperatures in the sun can register as much as 20 degrees higher.

Over 50% of the households in the 10th & Page neighborhood spend more than 10% of their income on cooling costs. The average homeowner in the City spends 2% of its income.

The Covid pandemic showed the critical need for access to nature and the outdoors for the mental and physical health of children and families.





WHAT WE'RE DOING FIRST

The first focus will be on the 10th & Page neighborhood which has a 18% tree canopy.

Next, we will initiate projects in other low-canopy neighborhoods. Our educational programs and events will be targeted to kids and families across the City, including:

Tree planting on private property in low canopy neighborhoods

Tree care and preservation for large, existing trees for lower-income homeowners

Educational outdoor and nature events for kids and families

Grants to teachers for lessons involving the value of trees and nature in the city

Events for teens to introduce them to careers in tree and environment-related industries

Improvement of outdoor green spaces

LET'S RELEAF CVILLE TOGETHER BECAUSE:

Leaves save lives

Scientific data proves that neighborhoods with less tree coverage have more heat- and pollution-related illnesses such as strokes, cardiac arrest and asthma.

Every kid outside

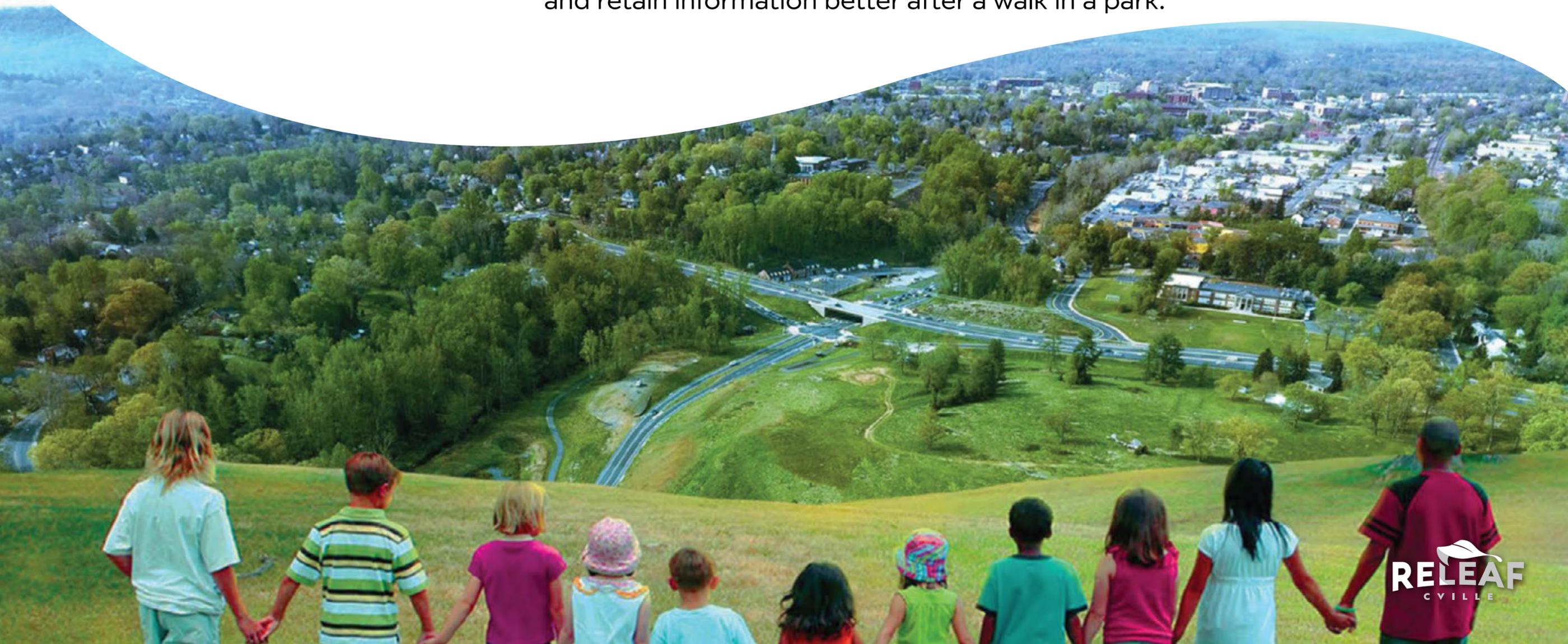
Playing outdoors in nature improve kids' physical development, enhances their social skills and increases their awareness of the need to protect our natural world.

A tree for every yard is good for everyone

Trees significantly improve health. Neighborhood trees also provide needed shade, reduce energy costs, combat climate change, prevent stormwater flooding and provide a home for wildlife.

Focus on nature

Natural areas within a city have long been known to reduce stress and improve neighborhood safety. Recent studies even show children concentrate and retain information better after a walk in a park.



DONATE

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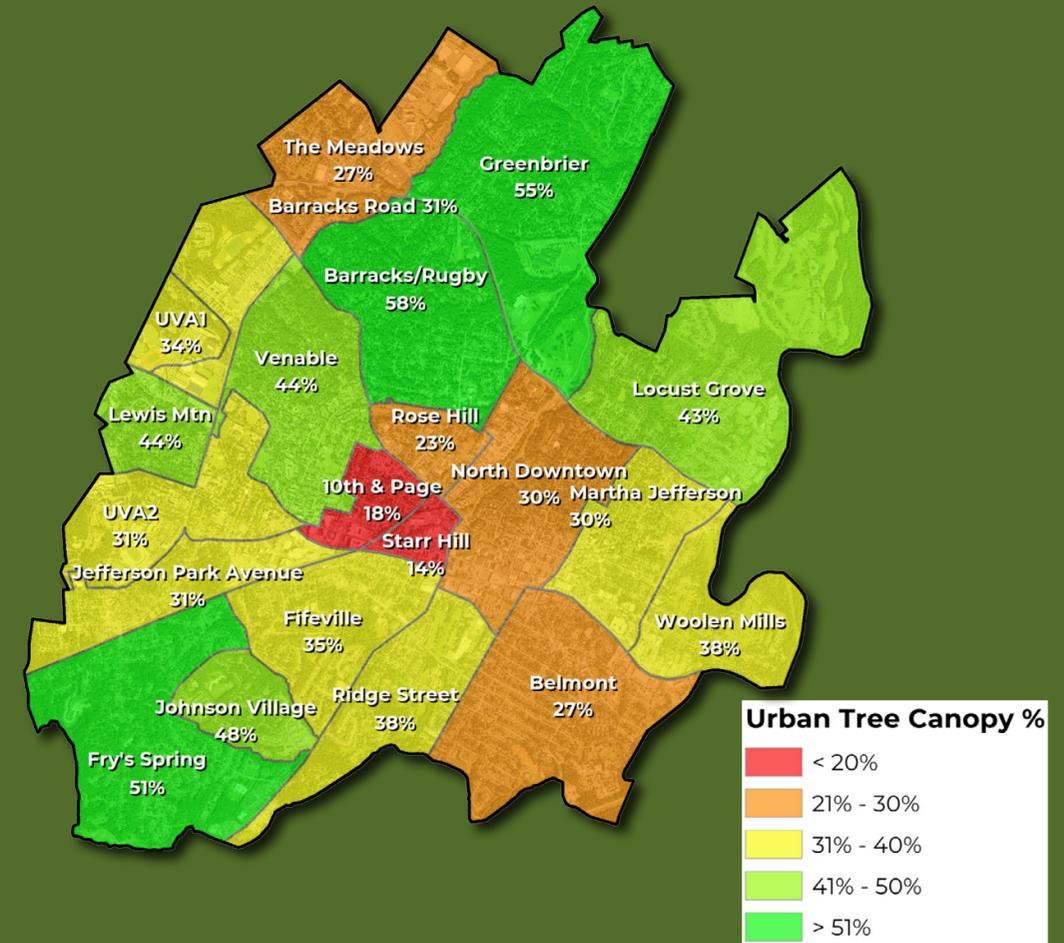
By mail

CACF, 114 2nd Street SE, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Advisory Committee

Peggy Van Yahres, Tree Commission
Roxanne White, former Tree Commission
John Blackburn, Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy
James Bryant, Charlottesville School Board and homeowner in 10th & Page
Shana Clarke, Van Yahres Tree Company
Mary Coleman, The City of Promise
Brian Menard, Tree Commission
Mark Zollinhofer, Tree Commission and Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards

Charlottesville Tree Canopy Study



Neighborhoods below 40% canopy coverage are known as “heat islands” where residents suffer more from heat-related illnesses. 10th and Page, Starr Hill and Rose Hill neighborhoods have the lowest tree canopy coverage in Charlottesville.



Thanks to T&N Printing for their support