

The Canopy

March 2026



Celebrating our exciting progress!

Trees protected
to date:

493,129

Trees planted
to date:

5,861

Tree Connect
Events to date:

218

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- Celebrating incredible volunteer efforts
- More opportunities to plant this spring
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March Kicked Off with a Pot-A-Palooza



Forty-three enthusiastic volunteers joined us on Sunday, March 1, at NSEA's native plant nursery to pot native tree seedlings – a **whopping 1,600 of them!** Potting the seedlings helps them grow and strengthen until it's time for them to move to their forever homes somewhere in Whatcom County. Thank you to everyone who spent their sunny Sunday afternoon working hard to accomplish this essential task for our planting program! Thanks again, NSEA, for working with us to provide wonderful work and storage space for our seedlings and to our amazing Tree Wrangling team for all their hard behind-the-scenes work that makes these events possible!



Calling All Dog-Lovers!

On Sunday, March 8, we were thrilled to launch a new tree-planting project with Whatcom Humane Society at their shelter on Division Street. With the amazing help of 36 dynamic volunteers, we planted 116 native tree seedlings alongside the spacious dog-walking field. These will provide welcome shade for shelter dogs and the volunteers who give them exercise and enrichment. The new trees will also help reduce the dogs' reactivity by providing a visual screen that will make exercise less stressful for the dogs and the humans who walk them.



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Calling All Dog-Lovers! cont.

March 8 Photos

Our next work party on March 15 is full! Thank you to everyone who has signed up, we'll see you Sunday!

March 22 still has room for more volunteers. If you love animals and trees, these events are an amazing opportunity to do rewarding work that helps both at the same time. Join us March 22 at WHS!

March 22 Registration



Adding to Jensen Family Forest Park



On March 29th we'll join Whatcom Land Trust and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation to kick off a fantastic new reforestation project at Jensen Family Forest Park! The 21.5-acre park, at the corner of Birch Bay-Lynden Road and Stein Road, is home to an impressive mature native forest that was cleared in the center. We're aiming to

expand that forest and to reclaim the area along the edges of the clearing that has recently been occupied by invasive plants. Join us March 29th, April 11th, or April 18th from 12-3PM at this park to welcome spring with some fun and rewarding tree-planting! Sign-up links below:

March 29

April 11

April 18



National Invasive Species Awareness Week

February 23rd-27th was National Invasive Species Awareness Week (#NISAW). This annual event was designated to, well, raise awareness of invasive species, their impact on native ecosystems, and how everyone can help to reduce the spread of invasive species and protect native ecosystems from further harm.



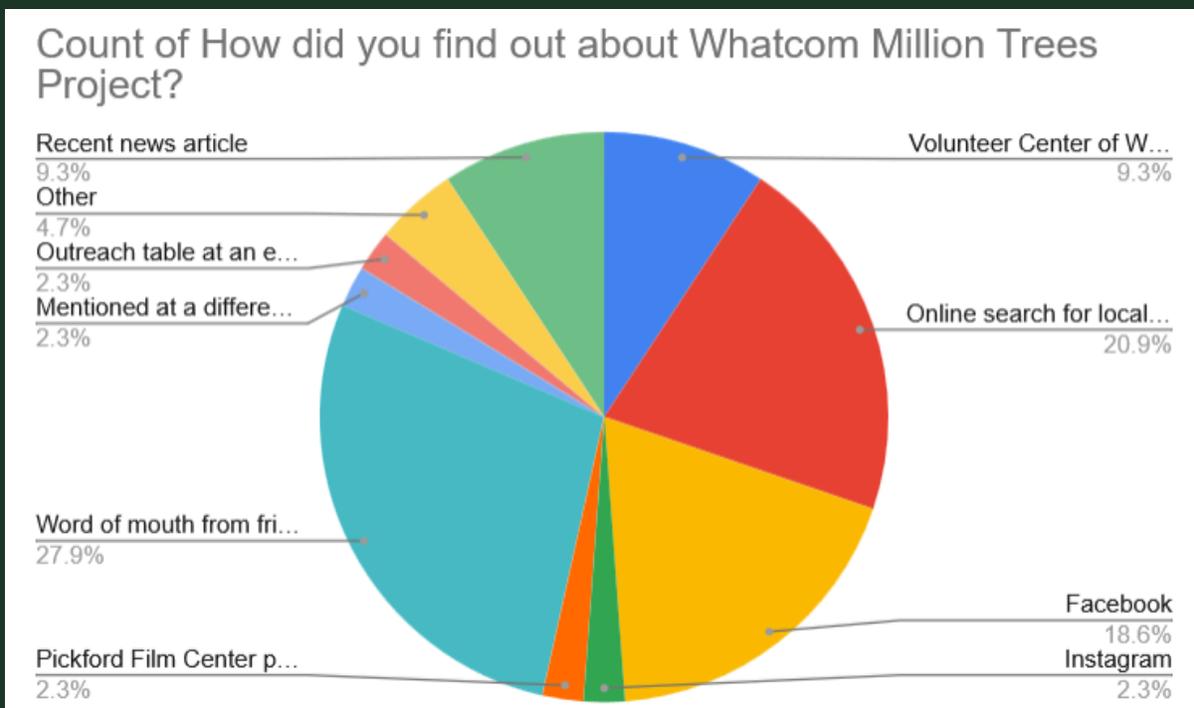
We celebrated the week by highlighting our ongoing campaign to protect Whatcom County's mature trees from the scourge of English ivy. We shared the updated version of *Ivy Eyes: Growing a Movement to Save Trees in Whatcom County*, a 12-minute mini-documentary which has an exciting update at the end! If you haven't had a chance to watch it yet or want to view it again and share with friends, click the above image to watch!



A Record Month for New Volunteers



A very warm welcome to all new volunteers, and a big thank you to everyone who raves about WMTP to friends, family, colleagues, or classmates! February saw a record number of new volunteer sign-ups (best month since August 2023). More than a quarter of them said they found out about our volunteering opportunities by word-of-mouth referrals! Thank you for talking us up!



Landmark Tree Ordinance Extended, On Its Way to Permanent!

LTO Info



On February 23rd, Bellingham City Council voted to extend the interim Landmark Tree Ordinance (LTO), an emergency ordinance that was originally enacted in 2024 to limit the removal of trees within city limits that exceed 36” in diameter at breast height (dbh). With this latest extension, the City Council has kicked off the ‘Type VI’

process to consider what’s working in the ordinance and what is not in order to craft a final and permanent city ordinance.

There may be further opportunities for public comment later this year. Keep an eye out for announcements from the City of Bellingham, in this newsletter, and on our social media to help ensure landmark trees continue to be protected in Bellingham! You can learn more about the ordinance, see the landmark trees that have been mapped, and learn how to nominate a tree for protection or report violations via the ‘LTO Info’ link!



Thanks for reading!

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