

Information Sheet

Q1.

Thank you for your interest in the TreeKeepers Survey!

This research study is being conducted by DePaul University. We are interested in why and how individuals become involved with the TreeKeepers program, and the motivations and barriers to continue engagement through TreeKeepers events and continuing education.

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to fill out the following online survey. The survey will include questions about your involvement in the TreeKeepers program, attitudes about trees and the environment, and basic demographic questions. The demographic questions ask about age, race, gender, education and career status, living situation, and household income. The questions hope to gain a better understanding of the motivations and barriers that affect TreeKeepers' volunteer engagement, and their volunteer experience with TreeKeepers thus far. We also ask about other volunteer experiences, environmental attitudes, and perceptions of trees. The survey will be completed online via Qualtrics. If there is a question you do not want to answer, you may skip it.

This study will take about 20 minutes of your time. Research data collected from you will be confidential.

Your participation is voluntary, which means you can choose not to participate. There will be no negative consequences if you decide not to participate or change your mind later after you begin the study.

You can withdraw your participation at any time. If you change your mind while answering the survey, you may simply exit the survey. You can withdraw your participation after completing the survey and submitting your responses by contacting the researcher, Jess Vogt, at jess.vogt@depaul.edu. Since the information you gave me is still identifiable and linked to your email address, I can remove your data from the research at any time.

Your decision to participate or not in the research will not affect your status as a TreeKeeper or with Openlands.

You must be age 18 or older to be in this study. This study is not approved for the enrollment of people under the age of 18.

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about this study or you want to get additional information or provide input about this research, please contact Jess Vogt at jess.vogt@depaul.edu.

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact Susan Loess-Perez, DePaul University's Director of Research Compliance, in the Office of Research Services at 312-362-7593 or by email at sloesspe@depaul.edu. You may also contact DePaul's Office of Research Services if:

Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team. You cannot reach the research team. You want to talk to someone besides the research team. You may print this information for your records.

By completing the survey, you are indicating your agreement to be in the research.

Please click the button below to begin the survey.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Jess Vogt, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Studies, DePaul University, Chicago, IL, USA

General TK questions

Q2. How did you first hear about the TreeKeepers program?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Another active TreeKeeper | <input type="radio"/> News article or news outlet (including on the radio) |
| <input type="radio"/> An organized event (like Earth Day or an Openlands tree planting) | <input type="radio"/> Community organization |
| <input type="radio"/> Environmental organization | <input type="radio"/> Mailing list |
| <input type="radio"/> My employer/company | <input type="radio"/> Social media |
| <input type="radio"/> A college/university professor/teacher | <input type="radio"/> Already a member of Openlands |
| <input type="radio"/> Friend, family member, or acquaintance | <input type="radio"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |

Q3.

At the time you first became interested in TreeKeepers, did you know someone who had previously attended the TreeKeepers program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q4. Why did you sign up for the TreeKeepers program? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> To have a positive impact on the community | <input type="checkbox"/> Beautify the neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community service hours or opportunity | <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To meet new people | <input type="checkbox"/> To get outside |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To act locally | <input type="checkbox"/> For exercise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Know more about local government | <input type="checkbox"/> New career or to advance my career |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help mitigate climate change | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer suggested/required it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address heat, pollution, or flooding issues | <input type="checkbox"/> As a hobby |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learn about trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Seemed interesting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase trees and canopy cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Other reason. Please specify: <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Replace recently removed trees | |

Q5. Have you remained involved in TreeKeepers since completing the TreeKeepers classes?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q6. When was the last TreeKeepers event you participated in?

Q7. How many TreeKeepers events do you participate in per year?

- ☐ 0 events per year
- ☐ 1-2 per year
- ☐ 3-5 per year
- ☐ 6-10 per year
- ☐ 11-15 per year
- ☐ More than 15 events or activities per year

Q8. Have you ever led or participated in a group that organized a TreeKeepers event?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q9. How many TreeKeepers events have you led/organized?

Q10. When was the most recent event you led/organized?

Q11. What worked well for this event?

Q12. What obstacles, barriers, or problems did you encounter for this event and how did you solve them?

Q13. What TreeKeepers activities do you currently participate in? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Planting
- ☐ Pruning
- ☐ Mulching
- ☐ Watering
- ☐ Teaching
- ☐ Inventory/Adopting a park
- ☐ Advocating (for example, contacting a representative); please specify:
- ☐ Other:
- ☐ I am not currently active in any TreeKeepers activities

Q14. Have you experienced other Openlands programs or project areas? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ TreePlanters Grants
- ☐ Public Forestry Events
- ☐ Tree-Mendous Tree Stories
- ☐ Building School Gardens
- ☐ Eco-Explorations
- ☐ Space to Grow
- ☐ Birds in my Neighborhood
- ☐ ComEd Green Region
- ☐ Openlands Lakeshore Preserve
- ☐ Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge
- ☐ The Chicago Region Trees Initiative
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other:

Q15. Are there other organizations outside of Openlands and TreeKeepers with whom you've been engaging in urban forestry or tree activities?

- ☐ Yes, please specify:
- ☐ No

Q16. Have you volunteered with any of the following **environmental organizations** in the past 2 years? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Audubon Society
- ☐ Blacks In Green
- ☐ Chicago Botanic Garden
- ☐ Chicago Wilderness
- ☐ The Field Museum
- ☐ The Morton Arboretum
- ☐ The Nature Conservancy
- ☐ NeighborSpace
- ☐ Sierra Club
- ☐ Student Conservation Association (SCA)

A local nature learning center (for example, Dunes Learning)

- ☐ Faith in Place
- ☐ Forest Preserve District or Friends of the Forest Preserve group (Cook, DuPage, etc.)
- ☐ Friends of Parks (Chicago Parks District), or other parks group
- ☐ Gods Gang
- ☐ Greenpeace
- ☐ Habitat 2030
- ☐ Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)
- ☐ Center)
- ☐ A garden club or similar
- ☐ A high school/college/university environmental club or organization
- ☐ A "green team" or work-related environmental group
- ☐ A neighborhood environmental group (block clean-up, recycling group, etc.)
- ☐ Other environmental group not listed above:

Q17. Have you volunteered with any of the following types of ***non-environmental organizations*** in the past 2 years? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Community services organization (homeless shelter, soup kitchen, animal shelter, etc.)
- ☐ Cultural organization (museum, aquarium, etc.)
- ☐ Health group (hospital, community health center, etc.)
- ☐ High school or college group or club, not related to the environment (as a student)
- ☐ Neighborhood group (neighborhood association, local chamber of commerce group, etc.)
- ☐ Parent group (Moms group, Dads group, parent teacher association, etc.)
- ☐ Political group (local political party, poll worker, etc.)
- ☐ Religious group (church, synagogue, mosque, etc.)
- ☐ Youth services organization (after school/extracurricular, youth sports, etc.)
- ☐ Other:

Personal efficacy

Q18. How much influence do you think someone like you can have over the following?

	A lot of influence	Some influence	Very little influence	No influence
National government decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local government decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The global environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q19. Do you describe yourself as an environmentalist?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Motivations

Q20. What has motivated you to stay involved in the Tree Keepers program?

Q21. The following is a list of statements with reasons people might volunteer with a group like TreeKeepers.

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
I volunteer with TreeKeepers to help protect the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I volunteer with TreeKeepers to feel connected to my surrounding landscape	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I volunteer with TreeKeepers because I want to gain experience for a future career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I volunteer with TreeKeepers because I enjoy learning new things about trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I volunteer with TreeKeepers to be part of a community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
I volunteer with TreeKeepers so I can give something back to my community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I volunteer with TreeKeepers because I enjoy the physical exercise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I volunteer with TreeKeepers to get away from the busy demands of everyday life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

I volunteer with TreeKeepers because I enjoy being with like-minded people

☐☐☐☐☐☐

I volunteer with TreeKeepers because it allows me to feel less guilty about the problems we cause to the environment

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

N/A

I volunteer with TreeKeepers because their work aligns with my values

☐☐☐☐☐☐

I volunteer with TreeKeepers because I like the way the program is organized

☐☐☐☐☐☐

I volunteer with TreeKeepers because it allows time to reflect

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Transportation

Q22. The next couple questions ask about how you get to TreeKeepers events.

Q23. How long was the commute to the most recent TreeKeepers event you participated in?

- ☐ Under 15 minutes
- ☐ 15 - 30 minutes
- ☐ 30 - 45 minutes
- ☐ 45 - 60 minutes
- ☐ 60 - 90 minutes
- ☐ 90+ minutes

Q24. What was the longest commute you've experienced in order to attend a TreeKeepers event?

Hours:

Minutes

Total Time

Q25. How do you usually get to TreeKeepers events? Please select as many as apply if you use multiple forms of transportation.

- ☐ Bus
- ☐ CTA Train ("El" or "L")
- ☐ Metra
- ☐ Bike

- ☐ Taxi, Uber, Lyft, or shared ride
- ☐ Personal vehicle
- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Carpool

Q26. If Tree Keepers organized carpooling to events is this something you would use?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Benefits/Drawbacks

Q27. This next set of questions asks for your opinion and knowledge about trees.

Q28. Please list up to 5 benefits of trees you can think of, in order of importance:

1 (most important)	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>

Q29. Please list up to 5 costs/drawbacks of trees you can think of, in order of impact:

1 (largest impact)	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>

Barriers

Q30. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A

I feel proud being a TreeKeeper.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel like I have a say in the direction of TreeKeepers work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Openlands is responsive to the needs of my community related to trees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TreeKeepers has an impact on my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
I feel a sense of ownership in the TreeKeepers program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel qualified to be a TreeKeeper.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I see value in planting trees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I see value in pruning trees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q31. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
It is easy for me to find out when and where TreeKeepers events are happening.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of transportation prevents me from attending TreeKeepers events.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel comfortable bringing my kids to TreeKeepers events.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
A busy work week prevents me from going to TreeKeepers events.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TreeKeepers events are generally at a time of day that is convenient for me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical or mobility issues prevent me from attending TreeKeepers events.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Trees

Q32. Thank you for your completion of the survey so far! We have just a few more questions that ask about your opinions on trees, and then some basic demographic questions.

Q33. Is there a particular tree or kind of tree that is (or was) special or important to you?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q34. What is (or was) special or important about this tree or trees?

Q35. For each of the following, select the option that best describes how much you know about that topic.

	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	None at all
Tree identification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree planting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree pruning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree watering	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mulching trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other post-planting tree care (pest/disease identification, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advocacy on behalf of trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q36.

For each of the following, select the option that best describes how confident you are that you could do that task.

	Very confident	Moderately confident	Slightly confident	Not confident at all
Identify the species of a tree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Properly plant a tree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Properly prune a tree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water a tree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Properly mulch a tree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How to contact my representative about tree concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Pictures

Q37. This last set of questions asks you about the environment where you grew up as well as some standard demographic questions. We really appreciate your completion of our survey.

Q38. Which picture best depicts the environment where you grew up?

A forest with lots of trees



Rural agricultural fields



Neighborhood in the desert



Neighborhood in the mountains



Suburban neighborhood without trees



Suburban neighborhood with trees



City neighborhood without trees

City neighborhood with trees



City apartment building without trees



Street with high-rise buildings, without trees



City apartment building with trees



Street with high-rise buildings, with trees



Demographics

Q39. In what year were you born?

Q40. Please identify your gender.

Q41. What race(s)/ethincity(ies) do you consider yourself to be?

Q42. Which of the following categories best describes the highest educational level you completed?

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ High school or GED equivalent
- ☐ Some college or technical training
- ☐ College graduate
- ☐ Some graduate training
- ☐ Post graduate degree

Q43. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

- ☐ Working full time for pay
- ☐ Working part time for pay
- ☐ Full-time student
- ☐ Part-time student
- ☐ Unemployed or laid-off
- ☐ Unemployed and not seeking employment
- ☐ Retired

Q44. Which of the following best describes where you live?

- ☐ Own your own place of residence
- ☐ Rent from a private individual or company
- ☐ Live in public housing
- ☐ Live with family

Q45. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

Q46. How many are under the age of 18?

Q47. What is your family status?

- ☐ Married or marriage-like relationship
- ☐ Divorced or seperated
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Single

Q48. During 2017, what was your yearly household income before tax? Your best estimate is fine.

- ☐ Under \$15,000
- ☐ \$15,000-\$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000-\$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000-\$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000-\$249,999
- ☐ More than \$250,000
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Final open response question

Q49. Are there any particular positive or negative experiences with the TreeKeepers program that you would like to tell us about? Please do so here.

Q50. Would you be willing to be contacted to participate in a follow-up interview with researchers about your experiences with the TreeKeepers program? *(Note that your interview participation and responses would also be kept confidential and shared with Openlands only in the aggregate, along with the responses of other interview participants.)*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q51. Thank you for responding to our survey!

Click the arrow below to submit your responses.

