



2006 National NeighborWoods Program™ Grant Awards
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Baptist Crossroads Foundation (New Orleans, LA): *Florida Housing/Katrina Rebuilding*

Inspired by a vision and stirred by Mayor Ray Nagin's words that "home ownership is the most important factor in lifting a family out of poverty," this project will provide shade for 40 affordable homes in the Upper Ninth Ward by planting and caring for 56 trees and engaging more than 1,792 volunteer hours. The Ninth Ward in New Orleans is a neighborhood of fond memories for many former residents. Unfortunately, for a large number of those who now live in what is the city's largest municipal subdivision, their days are punctuated by violence, drugs, and poverty. Their neighborhood cries from neglect. In this neighborhood, the residents are predominantly African-American families of five or more, 60% are school-aged children, and the average household income is \$12,210. Partners will include: Habitat for Humanity, Parkway Partners, LSU Ag Center, New Orleans Chief Landscape Architect, and Baptist Crossroads.

Baton Rouge Green (Baton Rouge, LA): *City NeighborWoods TreeKeepers*

TreeKeeper is a tree planting and care training program for new, low skilled workers employed by the city's department of landscape and forestry who do not have the skills needed to care for trees, and adults and youth in underserved neighborhoods identified by Operation Restore Pride. In an effort to make Baton Rouge greener one neighborhood at a time, beginning with downtown first, TreeKeepers will learn site planning techniques and small tree planting/care practices in twelve hours of training classes, and participate in Baton Rouge Green's central business district tree planting project for hands-on experience. This project will plant and care for 75 trees and engage more than 1441 volunteer hours. Although Baton Rouge's mayor has unveiled Operation Restore Pride, a plan to improve the physical and economic vitality of underserved neighborhoods, and identifies trees as a need, there is no process to guide neighborhood reforestation. Through participation in a highly visible training program and projects in partnership with Mayor "Kip" Holden, central business district and neighborhood leaders' community ownership will improve and stewardship of trees develop. Partners will include: Office of Neighborhoods, Department of Public Works, Sensational Seniors, neighborhoods, and the central business district.

Delaware Center for Horticulture (Wilmington, DE): *Wilmington NeighborWoods Tree Program*

The Tree Program seeks to revitalize urban neighborhoods and raise awareness of the value of the urban forest, its capacity to improve the quality of air and water resources, and ability to protect human health. This project will plant and care for 67 trees and engage more than 430 volunteer hours. Wilmington, like many urban centers, is plagued with a host of problems: crime, drug use, impoverished neighborhoods, and underserved minority populations. DCH's Community Greening Programs, including the Tree Program, serve as the first step in bringing people together to generate ideas and build consensus for neighborhood revitalization through greening. Partners will include: KaBOOM!, New Castle Habitat for Humanity, City of Wilmington Department Parks and Recreation, Wilmington Beautification Commission, Kirkwood Park Working Group, and the 11th Street Bridge Civic Association.

G.A.T.E./Trees Indiana (Ft. Wayne, IN): *Harvester NeighborWoods*



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To revitalize an under-invested neighborhood through tree plantings and educate the area youth and residents about the benefits of trees and their care. The project focuses on strengthening the TreeKeeper youth corps and engaging area residents as stewards and guardians of their urban forest. This project will plant and care for 48 trees and engage more than 273 volunteer hours. The Harvester neighborhood is a highly neglected and abused area that contains a high concentration of low-value, single-family homes as well as public housing. This area also has a disproportionate number of vacant lots and houses in poor condition. Fort Wayne Area Association of Realtors statistics show that the average sale price for homes in this area is less than \$10,000. Partners will include: City of Fort Wayne- Southeast Neighborhood Advocate, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, Boys and Girls Club, Fort Wayne Housing Authority, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Greenscape of Jacksonville (Jacksonville, FL): Bruce Park NeighborWoods

To clean up the park, remove invasive species and litter, prune and mulch existing trees, and plant new trees to improve shade. This project will plant and care for 72 trees and engage more than 500 volunteer hours. Jacksonville is facing an increasingly high crime rate. For the seventh year in a row, Jacksonville is number one in murder rates in our state. The Mayor has introduced a new initiative, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), to address the challenges facing our neighborhoods by focusing on beautification, infrastructure enhancements, public safety and housing. By working with the Sheriff's Office to identify new methods to reduce crime. CPTED is a concept which contends that planners, architects, landscape and interior designers, and law enforcement can create a climate of safety in a community, right from the start by designing a physical environment that positively influences human behavior. Two neighborhoods have been identified as pilot sites for this overall initiative known as "Growing Great Neighborhoods: Seeds of Change". Partners will include: Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, JEA (local utility company), Greater Arlington Lions Club, and Jacksonville University.

Heartland Tree Alliance (Kansas City, MO): Heathwood Community Center NeighborWoods

To revitalize an urban neighborhood by enhancing an existing KaBOOM! playground and the area surrounding the Heathwood Community Center (a 61-unit senior housing facility and 45,000 square foot education and activity Center. This project will plant and care for 55 trees and engage more than 180 volunteer hours. This project will be an opportunity for neighborhood residents and church members to come together and actively participate in the care of their physical surroundings. Partners will include: Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation, Mt. Carmel Church of God in Christ, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City.

Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain (Biloxi, MS): East Biloxi/Pass Christian Katrina Rebuilding

To plant 675 trees in the hurricane damaged neighborhoods of East Biloxi and Pass Christian, MS, and engage more than 1,440 volunteer hours. Community volunteers will work in partnership with city officials, schools, businesses, and other citizens to transform the battered urban landscapes of East Biloxi and Pass Christian. Many of the people of East Biloxi, a largely poor, African-American section of the city, were left stuck in misery and uncertainty following Hurricane Katrina. In East Biloxi, there



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are no houses remaining at all in some areas of the neighborhood. The wind and water washed them away completely, leaving only random chunks of foundations and an occasional set of steps leading nowhere. Pass Christian lies very close to where the eye of Katrina passed. Here, every business was destroyed, every municipal building was gutted, half its housing was destroyed, and the storm surge literally dug up and ripped out the town's water, gas and sewage lines. All municipal maintenance equipment was lost in the storm, making it difficult for the city to rehabilitate existing trees or plant new trees. Partners will include: East Biloxi Coordination and Relief Center, Pass Christian Park Commission, Mercy Housing & Human Development, Pass Christian Historical Society, and the Gulf Coast Community Design Center of Mississippi State University.

Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (Metairie, LA): Orleans-Jefferson Katrina Rebuilding

To restore tree canopies in the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans. This project will plant and care for 1,738 trees and engage more than 500 volunteer hours. Hurricane Katrina devastated southeast Louisiana. Its ferocious winds destroyed thousands of trees, and the accompanying storm surge drowned thousands of others in the weeks following the storm's landfall. Partners will include: Jefferson Parish Government, Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful, Parkway Partners, Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Town of Jean Lafitte, Algiers Economic Development Foundation, Katrina Krewe, Brown Foundation, and the following neighborhood associations: Lakewood, Broadmoor, Coliseum Square, Treme, and Esplanade Ridge.

Mississippi Urban Forest Council (Statewide, MS): Replant Hope Katrina Rebuilding

The project will be a combination of education, outreach and planting. This includes planting 100 trees at rebuilt homes for low income families, conducting five workshops to help locals create a comprehensive urban forestry plan, and outreach assistance throughout Mississippi communities. By working with Habitat for Humanity, MUFC will help to create home ownership in underserved communities. Partners will include: Mississippi Forestry Commission, Five local MUFC chapters, MS Municipal League, Delta Foundation, MS Women's Commission, Garden Clubs of Mississippi, MS Development Authority, and the Governor's Office.

Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (Wilkesburg, PA): Wilkesburg GreenLinks

The GreenLinks program engages residents in creating a healthy urban forest through street and park tree plantings, tree care events, street tree inventories, and vacant lot rehabilitation. This project will plant and care for 76 trees and engage more than 194 volunteer hours. The town of Wilkesburg is experiencing high rates of abandoned housing (15% of housing stock) and a poverty level over twice that of the rest of the county (26.8% vs. 13.1%). Wilkesburg also has a low rate of resident home ownership (58% renter-occupied) and the highest percent of section 8 housing units in Allegheny County. Median household income in 2000 was \$26,621, almost \$14,000 less than the Allegheny County median. Partners will include: Wilkesburg Citizen Advisory Committee on Shade Trees, Wilkesburg Department of Public Works, and the Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Openlands (Chicago, IL): Westside NeighborWoods Tree Garden



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The arboretum will be an education center and “tree museum,” with programming for schools and public groups, and training for TreeKeeper volunteers. This project will plant and care for 14 trees and engage more than 1,800 volunteer hours. It will also aid in the revitalization of a neighborhood that has already begun to attract young black urban professionals back into an area that has long been blighted. The neighborhood lost many manufacturing jobs in the 1950s and 1960s, and was a major site of riots following Martin Luther King’s assassination in 1967. It has just begun a road to recovery but is still rife with gang violence. Partners will include: the North Lawndale Greening and Fuller Park Community Development organizations.

Sacramento Tree Foundation (Sacramento, CA): *Re-Greening Our NeighborWoods*

To empower neighborhoods to develop and implement plans to care for, and ultimately replace their mature trees as part of a larger NeighborWoods Urban Forest Plan. This project will serve as a model for the many neighborhoods challenged by an aging urban forest and create a vision of what is possible through education and collaboration. This project will plant and care for 180 trees and engage more than 810 volunteer hours. Some underserved communities have never enjoyed the benefits of living in a dynamic urban forest. Modesto Ash trees make up 24% of Sacramento’s street trees. As they increasingly succumb to disease and poor pruning, Parkway Estates’ less than 10% canopy will be one of the hardest hit neighborhoods. Partners will include: Parkway Estates Tree Committee, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, City of Sacramento, and Sacramento County.

Shreveport Green (Shreveport, LA): *MLK NeighborWoods*

To revitalize the Martin Luther King Neighborhood by planting 250 trees on neighborhood streets and the major corridor, and engage more than 1,768 volunteer hours. The MLK area and its 6,000 residents have long been recognized as an underserved area. Complicating its recovery have been a series of unfortunate events: a devastating tornado in 2000, several years of drought, and insensitive development. A CityGreen analysis shows that the tree cover in selected areas of the neighborhood is 6%. According to the 1999 census, the median income is \$16,000. Partners will include: SWEPCO, Dr. Joe White, Horticulturist, Master Gardeners of Northwest Louisiana, Martin Luther King, Jr. Neighborhood Association, MLK Community Development Association, Community Foundation of Shreveport-Bossier, Department of Community Development of Shreveport, State Senator Lydia Jackson, and the City of Shreveport.

The Park People (Denver, CO): *Denver Digs Trees NeighborWoods*

Denver Digs Trees provides low-cost (\$20) and free (for low-income residents) trees for planting along the streets of the City & County of Denver. The program has been responsible for adding more than 28,000 public trees to Denver since 1989, when the program started with bond funding from the City of Denver. Since 2003, the program has successfully run without bond funding thanks to private support from donors like The Home Depot Foundation. This year the project will plant and care for 2,500 trees and engage more than 3,680 volunteer hours. Denver’s tree canopy coverage averages just over 6%. In July 12, Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper announced his vision for Denver’s urban forest: one million new trees in metro Denver by the year 2026. Partners will include: Denver



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Forestry, Denver Housing Authority, Energy Outreach Colorado, Denver Housing & Neighborhood Development Services, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, and Xcel Energy.

Tree New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM): *South Broadway NeighborWoods*

To provide trees and planting materials for sixteen new Habitat for Humanity-project homeowners. This project will plant and care for 80 trees and engage more than 1336 volunteer hours. An important aspect of helping underserved individuals attain homeownership is sustainability. Providing the trees comes with many benefits towards sustainability. This project will work in the underserved neighborhoods of South Broadway, South Valley, and Skyview West. Partners will include: United South Broadway Corporation and the Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity.

TreePeople (Los Angeles, CA): *NeighborWoods Partnership Launch*

This kickoff event will plant 900 trees across three underserved communities in Los Angeles, as part of a larger initiative to plant of 300,000 trees, and engage more than 1250 volunteer hours. The project will focus on three underserved neighborhoods: the Port region in San Pedro (a community of more than 450,000 residents, 49% of whom are Latino, and a majority of whom are young and economically disadvantaged, and with one of the lowest tree canopies in the city), Sun Valley (a flat, heavily industrial community with few trees, with low voter turnout and where 25% of residents are below the poverty line), and the East Los Angeles region (which has a very low tree canopy cover and where the median family income is well below the national average. Partners will include: Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks, USDA Forest Service, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and the City of Los Angeles.

Trees Atlanta (Atlanta, GA): *NeighborWoods Atlanta*

To partner with the YMCA and neighborhoods to plant trees leading to playgrounds and to educate children participating in youth programs, and expand NeighborWoods projects to include tree-needy areas beyond the city limits. This project will plant and care for 330 trees and engage more than 960 volunteer hours. The project includes several diverse, tree-needy and underserved areas. Partners will include: Reynoldstown Revitalization, KaBOOM!, Kirkwood Neighbors' Organization, YMCA of Greater Atlanta, Dresden East Civic Association, Chamblee neighborhood, Sagamore Hills neighborhood, and Reynoldstown/Cabbagetown neighborhoods.

Trees for Houston (Houston, TX): *NeighborWoods Houston*

To plant 1,000 trees at multiple sites in the greater Houston region within or adjacent to community development projects in moderate-to-low-income neighborhoods. This project will engage more than 1,600 volunteer hours. The greater Houston region has suffered from urban deforestation for many years: for every 4 trees cut down, only one is replaced. The urban tree cover in this area has declined from 31% to 26% since 1972. This project will focus on the following underserved neighborhoods: Alief, Acres Homes, Pleasantville, the East End, and Independent Heights. Partners will include: SPARK, I Have A Dream, East End Management District, Alief Community Association, Acre's Homes Neighborhood, Pleasantville Neighborhood, Truelight Missionary Baptist Church, Independent Heights



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Neighborhood, Houston Galveston Area Council, Habitat For Humanity, Woodglen Neighborhood, Trinity Gardens Neighborhood, and the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation.

Trees Forever (Des Moines, IA): NeighborWoods Des Moines

NeighborWoods Des Moines will involve four components: two park plantings, one neighborhood planting, and a neighborhood planning process which will eventually lead to planting projects. This project will plant and care for 641 trees and engage more than 685 volunteer hours. Underserved neighborhoods to be included are: Ewing Park in Des Moines' southeast side, Greenwood Park along Grand Avenue, Grandview neighborhood along the northeast side at Brubaker and Hoyt Schools, Chautauqua Park neighborhood, Woodland Heights neighborhood, Greenwood Historic District, and King Irving neighborhood. Partners will include: Municipal Arborist for City of Des Moines, Northeast Neighbors Association, Mayor of Des Moines, Des Moines Fire Chief, Deputy Director of Facility Management, Des Moines Public Schools, and the Chautauqua Park Neighborhood Association.

Trees, Water & People (Ft. Collins, CO): Spring Canyon Park NeighborWoods

This project will plant and care for 50 trees and engage more than 200 volunteer hours at Spring Canyon Community Park. This park in Southwest Fort Collins is being built in an area which has unfortunately become deforested due to a history of agriculture and public use. This project particularly focuses on the subdivisions of Timber Ridge (a trailer park with over 300 homes and 1,000+ residents), Springfield Court (a low-income apartment complex of 63 units), Quail Hollow, and Silver Oaks. Partners will include: City of Fort Collins Parks Department, Forestry Department, Olander Elementary School, Springfield Court Apartments, and Centennial High School.

TreeUtah (Salt Lake City, UT): NeighborWoods Utah

This project includes four "Start Seeing Trees" NeighborWoods Month Plantings/Trainings and a "Start Seeing Trees" Awareness Campaign. The four plantings/trainings are: YouthWorks At-Risk Youth Intensive Skills Training/Planting at TreeUtah's Eco Garden, Bennion Elementary School Student/Parent Training and Planting, and two under-invested community plantings. The Start Seeing Trees Art and Education Campaign will include a school-wide poster contest. This project will plant and care for 30 trees and engage more than 1,196 volunteer hours. Most people think these trees are lovely to look at, but do not realize that trees help retain our precious ground water, mitigate our urban heat island problems, reduce asphalt and gasoline volatilization, lower cooling costs, promote human well-being, and provide urban wildlife habitat. Partners will include: YouthWorks, Chapman Library, Fair Park Community Council, Bennion Elementary School, Day-Riverside Library, and the Utah Society for Environmental Educators.

UC Green (Philadelphia, PA): University City NeighborWoods

This project is part of the overall shared vision of neighborhood revitalization in West and Southwest Philadelphia, and will plant and care for 250 trees and engage more than 1,500 volunteer hours. This section of Philadelphia has less than 10% tree coverage and 50%-95% impervious surface; in some parts of our community, tree coverage is less than 1%. University City is a unique community



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because of its high student population, and resulting low percentage of homeowners (18%). It is an extremely diverse and international neighborhood with many different ethnic populations, and its culture is anything but homogeneous. This diversity brings with it many varied perceptions about trees, plants and community. The enormous student population is transient in nature, rarely concerned with long-term initiatives or property values commonly found in most communities. Finding projects that offer shared goals and benefits that can bring these multiple populations together is important for neighborhood stability and to develop pride of place. The communities targeted have a population of over 47,000 and an average household income of \$33,250. The racial profile is 40% African American, 39% white, 16% Asian/pacific islander and 5% other/Hispanic. The housing stock is primarily circa 1900-1939. Partners will include: TreeVitalize, Morris Arboretum, City of Philadelphia Fairmount Park, City of Philadelphia, People's Emergency Center CDC, Enterprise Heights CDC, PA Horticultural Society Tree Tenders, Penn State Extension, YouthBuild, Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Spruce Hill Community Association, Cedar Park Neighbors, West Shore Community Association, Walnut Hill Community Association, Sansom Street Community Coalition, Garden Court Community Organization, Powelton Village Civic Association, Saunders Park Neighbors/Green, West Powelton Concerned Citizens, Cross Kingsessing Fifth Division Community of Neighbors, Kingsessing Advisory Council, University City Tree Tenders, Friends of Clark Park, Friends of Barkan Park, Malcolm X Park, and the University City Garden Club.