



**2005 National NeighborWoods Program™ Grant Awards
Supported by The Home Depot Foundation**

Baton Rouge Green (Baton Rouge, LA): *Greening Melrose East Community Development Project*

To reforest the five streets identified by neighborhood residents in the Melrose East subdivision. A 2004 ecological assessment showed that the subdivision has less than a 3% tree canopy cover and is dominated by non-native, short-lived tree species. Additionally, existing shade trees are declining due to age and lack of proper tree care and maintenance and a sustained collaborative neighborhood business owners and residents. The environment is the next logical revitalization to further enhance the quality of life, living conditions, and community morale already underway in these business and apartment complexes.

Casey Trees Endowment Fund (Washington, DC): *Watts Branch Park Housing Project*

To provide the technical and financial landscaping resources for 18 houses in this 53-home affordable housing project under development by Habitat for Humanity. The nearby Watts Branch Stream Park, one of the most neglected and abused in the city, now has a master plan that includes extending green space and trees into adjacent neighborhoods including to schools and housing projects. This project directly addresses the need to improve the environment and tree canopy in this sector of the community and will increase its chances for success by fully involving residents. The project combines the extensive community-building resources of three experienced and credible community organizations with a wealth of experience developing affordable housing, safe and healthy parks, urban forests and green space and sustainable neighborhoods. The groups all have demonstrated commitments to working with residents, students, and volunteers for long-term community revitalization.

D.C. Greenworks (Washington, DC): *DC TreeKeepers Program*

To address the widespread need for improved outdoor environments in low-income, minority neighborhoods like Shaw, Anacostia, and Trinidad. Improving neighborhood environments will reduce crime and trash, and increase economic opportunity, pedestrian traffic, and community pride. For precisely this reason, we choose to focus on the street trees. Trees not only have the potential to catalyze multiple environmental and economic benefits for dynamic urban neighborhoods, but also hold enormous social value by serving as a symbol of community investment. Community Tree Planting has been a great way to unite, build trust, and encourage stewardship among diverse groups of people living in the same neighborhood who don't normally have a reason to meet and interact. We plant trees, but also host tree workshops to bring people together.

Friends of the Urban Forest (San Francisco, CA): *NeighborWoods Program*

To make tree planting more affordable and desirable in San Francisco's underserved neighborhoods where the environmental, social, and economic benefits of trees are most needed. Increased tree coverage achieved through community-led tree plantings can improve the air quality, calm traffic, reduce noise, reduce crime and violence, build community relations and pride, relieve symptoms of some childhood diseases such as ADD, and improve school performance in young children. Community

involvement is at the heart of tree planting and tree care programs. Through tree-planting events and tree-care maintenance, we bring communities together and empower them to improve and care for the health of the natural landscape and their neighbors.

Greening Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI): *Main Street Adopt A Tree Program*

The goal is to increase canopy coverage to 40%. In the 1960s the city of Milwaukee lost over 200,000 trees to the Dutch Elm epidemic. Although many trees on public property were replanted, many on private property were not. Trees currently make up just 16% of the city's canopy cover. Greening Milwaukee will reestablish urban greenery by working with community groups and individual citizens to plant hundreds of trees throughout the spring and fall. Areas of the city hardest hit with tree canopy loss are economically deprived and disadvantaged neighborhoods. Our project, located in underserved areas, focuses on communities taking ownership to make their spaces cleaner and healthier. We are focusing on serving over 200 affordable homes built by various organizations in revitalized areas.

Sacramento Tree Foundation (Sacramento, CA): *NeighborWoods Program*

To strengthen the volunteer corps and NeighborWoods programs. We build affordable, efficient, and healthy homes with funding and volunteers, benefiting individuals, families, communities and the environment. The Volunteer program will utilize volunteers recruited, trained and supported by the Volunteer Coordinator to specifically support the NeighborWoods program. These program volunteers will serve their neighborhoods, communities and support the environment by planting trees and contributing to the enhancement of the urban forest. As residents and businesses replant and care for their street, park, and school these measurable benefits accrue in the quality of life of the neighborhoods.

Shreveport Green (Shreveport, LA): *Street Tree and City Parks Projects*

To create a corps of engaged youth and adults who will advocate and educate at the community level. Through service learning experiences, they will become tree stewards who can continue to spread the word on the benefits of trees and reforest current green spaces. We plan to "re-green" portions of neighborhoods as a way to not only visually enhance streets, but also address health, societal, and economic issues. We will perform an inventory of all areas in advance of planting, forcing our audience to understand the thoughtful, proper process of the right tree in the right place. By involving the residents in the tree selection, planting, and maintenance, they will be a part of the restoration of their community. Three schools and two parks located in these areas will be involved. Additionally, we have been contacted by Senator Mary Landrieu's office, seeking assistance in promoting the Smart Growth initiative in Shreveport. The specific neighborhoods selected exhibit moderate to severe crime rates and a decided lack of community. By increasing the canopy cover, we hope to offer the residents a cooler and more attractive environment, thus encouraging them to mingle outside and interact with their neighbors, as well as enjoying all of the benefits that a good tree canopy can offer.

The Park People (Denver, CO): *2005-06 Denver Digs Trees Program*

Through heightened neighborhood participation and stronger partnerships, we hope to see an increase in the number of trees being planted in Denver's low-income communities. We will focus on neighborhoods that have: less than 5% tree canopy coverage, more than 20% poverty, the highest crime rates (140 crimes per 1,000 cpm), the lowest average household income (average \$38,555), and the lowest average home value (average \$186,942 compared to \$278,024 citywide). We presently work with a number of affordable housing organizations, including Habitat for Humanity and the Denver Housing Authority. These partnerships provide us access to low-income housing projects where trees can play a special role in increasing property values, saving energy, and strengthening communities. Our hope is to expand our partnerships with affordable housing groups to extend our reach across the city.

Tree New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM): *Pockets of Poverty Project*

Despite the known benefits of trees, most communities are challenged financially to launch massive tree planting efforts. We hope to address this budgetary constraint by providing trees for one of Albuquerque's thirteen Empowerment Zones and Federally designated "Pockets of Poverty." There are approximately

85,000 trees in our city's public spaces. Five to ten percent of these trees are old or need replacement, and one to two thousand of these are either dead or have been vandalized, downed, and need replacing. The South Broadway neighborhood is currently making changes through various revitalization efforts. We hope to further this sense of pride and civic responsibility through tree planting and beautification efforts. These plantings will also enhance the overall health of Albuquerque's urban forest along with making the South Broadway Neighborhood and adjacent areas more livable.

TreePeople (Los Angeles, CA): *Palms Restoration Project*

To create tree-lined streets in the West Los Angeles urban-dense residential neighborhood of Palms. The addition of trees to this neighborhood can induce cars to drive more slowly and safely, creating a more secure neighborhood for local schoolchildren, while creating a cleaner environment, adding value to real estate, enhancing social interactions, and even reducing crime rates by up to 50%. Los Angeles is plagued by crowding and overdevelopment, environmental and health concerns, depleted urban canopy, and increased air and water pollution. This planting project addresses concerns of environmental and neighborhood degradation through the planting of more than 100 trees. This project furthers community growth and empowerment by supporting hundreds of neighborhood residents, students and community leaders as they take personal stewardship for the earth, ensuring its renewal and growth far into the future. The Palms Restoration Project empowers neighborhood residents to plant trees and work together in making their city streets greener, safer, and healthier. Together, these actions support stronger, more sustainable neighborhoods and revitalize communities.

Tree Utah (Salt Lake City, UT): *MetroGreening Program*

To promote tree planting projects in a tender water climate by involving a broad spectrum of Metro Area developers, corporations, civic leaders, neighborhood organizations and residents in waterwise planting and education projects. We provide tree care workshops for anyone who asks, but give under-served communities priority in our tree planting projects. The project is broken down into five components: KaBoom! Playground Planting Project, Onequa Corners Redevelopment WaterWise Tree Planting Project, Permaculture Demonstration Project, Habitat for Humanity's Waterwise Landscaping Plan, and The Home Depot Nursery Supervisor Training. Properly placed, planted, and cared-for trees provide so many benefits including: lower crime rates, more invested neighbors, reduced energy usage, buffers to urban noise pollution, increased property values, retained ground water, cleaner air, and stronger, healthier, more sustainable, and revitalized communities.

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

To inspire, motivate, and educate local residents to address the management, care, planting, and protection of trees in their own neighborhoods. This program brings communities together to work toward common goals of revitalizing their neighborhoods to have a greener, healthier urban environment. Atlanta's natural tree cover has been removed at the rate of 60% over the last 20 years. According to NASA, metro Atlanta is losing trees at the rate of 50 acres a day. Nothing revitalizes or stabilizes a neighborhood more than its community coming together to support and work toward common goals. Trees Atlanta's programs offer weekly opportunities for neighborhood groups, families, students and employee groups to plant, mulch and prune trees or help remove invasive plants that inhibit natural growth in greenspace areas in neighborhoods all over the metro area. Having natural, healthy areas for children to play and for families to walk to dine, to socialize and to exercise is vital to the stabilization of a neighborhood.

Trees Columbus (Columbus, GA): *East Wynnton Park Project*

Using the East Wynnton Park neighborhood as a model, to restore the Columbus tree canopy. The majority of 8th Street has been rebuilt in the last four years. Once recognized on national television as home of the most "drug-infested corner" in our country, East Wynnton Park also represented one of the most impoverished census tracts in Muscogee County. A full-time community organizer works daily in the field with neighborhood residents, community leaders, governmental officials, and other non-profits to address neighborhood issues. In 2004, East Wynnton Park was recognized with a HUD Gold Secretary's

Award for “Best in American Living.” Our partnership on this project with NeighborWoods will enhance a neighborhood which provides affordable housing in an area of Columbus where it is needed. The residents of the area have already enthusiastically supported efforts to revitalize their community and make it a model for other areas.

Trees Forever (Marion, IA): *Grandview Park Project*

Based upon a new Park Reforestation Plan, Grandview Park needs 357 new trees. Based upon our experience with hundreds of Iowa communities and neighborhoods, Trees Forever knows that greening neighborhoods with tree planting is an ideal way to grow community engagement, strengthen the social fabric of neighborhoods, and give neighbors a renewed sense of hope for the future. Greening projects provide visible, tangible positive results while bringing residents together for the good of the neighborhood. Trees Forever will use a number of facilitative techniques for visioning that not only engage people in their community and build knowledge of the community forest and natural environment, but that also demonstrate ways a neighborhood can work together around greening projects. We have sought out a number of potential housing partners.

UC Green (Philadelphia, PA): *West Philadelphia Canopy Restoration Project*

The project is designed to address the problem of tree canopy cover and the related environmental, social, economic, and health problems that have been linked to a limited tree canopy. The neighborhoods chosen have less than 10% tree canopy coverage. Portions of our community have long-time civic associations, but most of our community is without a unifying community organization. It is our experience that the energy and effort of most of the civic organizations is consumed by crime issues such as gun violence, robbery, prostitution, abandoned buildings, and collapsing structures. The immediate needs related to this focus leave little time and energy to include a greening component as a part of the associations mission or activities. UC Green provides leadership for the greening component of the community’s revitalization. We partner with businesses, local CDC’s such as the People’s Emergency Shelter CDC and The Partnership CDC, and local real estate developers. We provide technical assistance for tree plantings, landscaping plans, and we mobilize and supervise volunteers.

The Alliance for Community Trees was incorporated in 1993 as a problem-solving center for leaders of community-based urban forestry groups. Its founders shared a vision of healthy, functioning urban ecosystems nurtured by a broad base of community stewards. Today, ACT is a growing network of organizations engaged in urban and community forestry. Its members are involved in grassroots community greening, publication education, policymaking, job training, environmental design, and other activities that support better urban forest stewardship. ACT members have planted more than 7.8 million trees by engaging more than 450,000 volunteers. Information on ACT and its members can be found at www.actrees.org.

The Home Depot Foundation invests in nonprofit organizations that are in the business of building better communities. The Home Depot and many of the suppliers who help fill the company’s shelves contribute to The Home Depot Foundation to help fulfill their shared vision of creating stronger, healthier neighborhoods. The Foundation focuses its efforts in the areas of affordable, efficient, and healthy housing production and rehabilitation and tree planting to restore urban and rural forests. See www.homedepotfoundation.org for more information.

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