



**FORSYTHCOUNTY**  
Department of Communications  
Release 000351  
December 2, 2009

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GRANT FUNDS NEW TREES AT CENTRAL PARK**

*Trees funded through Tree Legacy Grant*

**FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia** – Forsyth County’s Central Park has 183 new trees, planted recently thanks to funds from a Tree Legacy Grant.

The Georgia Urban Forest Council awarded a Tree Legacy Grant of \$20,000 to Forsyth County in December 2008. The winning grant application was a cooperative effort of Keep Forsyth County Beautiful, Forsyth County Extension Service, Forsyth County Master Gardeners, staff from Forsyth County’s Planning and Development, Parks and Recreation, and Finance Departments, and individual Forsyth County citizens.

The \$20,000 grant received by the county to fund the tree planting project was matched by the county in-kind with staff planning and oversight by the county arborist, Parks and Recreation Department maintenance staff and volunteers.

The county also provided a match of \$19,000 from the county’s tree replacement fund. The tree replacement fund was established in the late 1990s. For almost all development, compliance with the county’s tree ordinance and replacement of trees is accomplished by saving existing trees combined with new on-site landscaping. In some cases, however, these two techniques still cannot bring the site in compliance with the tree ordinance. In those cases, developers are only allowed to pay into the fund as a last resort.

“The match for this grant was at no cost to taxpayers,” Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Kinsey said. “The match came directly from the county’s tree replacement fund.”

The goals of the Tree Legacy Grant require the trees to be professionally planted and the

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project to follow a plan for long-term maintenance. The project should also have a spirit of collaboration and volunteerism.

Johnson Landscapes Inc. managed the planting of the trees at Central Park. The maintenance plan addresses proper feeding and moisture control, mulching, watering, fertilization, continuous monitoring and maintenance, disease and insect control, and pruning. Master Gardeners will routinely inspect the trees, and Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers will maintain and monitor the trees.

The Georgia Urban Forest Council is a state-wide nonprofit organization with the mission of sustaining Georgia's green legacy by helping communities grow healthy trees. The purpose of the Tree Legacy Grant Program, which is funded by a grant from The Home Depot Foundation, is to provide funding to Georgia communities for urban forestry projects involving tree plantings to achieve environmental goals.

The trees planted at Central Park include 84 Willow oaks, 20 red maples, four Crepe myrtles and 75 pine trees. Central Park is located at 2300 Keith Bridge Road in Cumming.

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