



FORSYTHCOUNTY
Department of Communications
Release 000276
February 13, 2009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORSYTH COUNTY RECEIVES
GEORGIA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL TREE LEGACY GRANT

County will utilize grant funds to plant trees at Central Park

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – The Georgia Urban Forest Council has awarded a Tree Legacy Grant of \$20,000 to Forsyth County. The money received will be used in the planting of approximately 100 trees in Forsyth County’s Central Park.

“Forsyth County is continually making efforts to lead by example and certainly recognizes the importance of trees in regards to quality of life and environmental health of the community,” said Board of Commissioners Chairman and District 1 Commissioner Charles Laughinghouse.

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 Georgia Urban Forest Council is pleased to provide grant assistance to Forsyth County, and we are proud to be partnering with The Home Depot Foundation in providing these funds,” said Mary Lynne Beckley, executive director, Georgia Urban Forest Council.

The winning application for this funding was a cooperative effort of Keep Forsyth County Beautiful, Forsyth County Extension Office, Forsyth County Master Gardeners, staff from Forsyth County’s Planning and Development, Parks and Recreation, and Finance Departments, and individual Forsyth County citizens.

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Central Park was selected for the tree planting because of the limited amount of trees in several of the developed active park areas. Implementing this tree project will provide shade for pedestrians and automobiles and will increase awareness of how trees can improve air quality, assist in erosion control and improve storm water quality.

The \$20,000 grant received by the county to fund the tree planting project will be 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 will also provide 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. Therefore, the match for this grant is at no cost to taxpayers.

The approximately 100 trees, consisting of willow oaks, red maples and crepe myrtles, are scheduled to be planted by late November 2009.

This tree planting project at Central Park will compliment the first such project, which was completed in December 2008 utilizing funds from the tree replacement fund.

Central Park is located at 2300 Keith Bridge Road in Cumming.

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