

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Southeast MI ARRA Tree Planting Project

How is this project helping put people back to work?

The intent of the ARRA funding is to stimulate job creation. This project supports and expands the Greening of Detroit's Workforce Development program by helping to employ 17 positions for the duration of this project and provide them with training for future employment in the green industry. Furthermore, local investments in green infrastructure help the nursery industry, landscape suppliers, and local business while improving property values providing other environmental and economic benefits.

Who are the partners on this project?

The **USDA Forest Service (USFS), Northern Research Station** is the federal agency responsible for administering the project and awarding the funds to the state.

The **Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE)** is the state agency receiving the federal funds and responsible for project oversight and reporting. Additionally, DNRE works with all partners to identify project locations, species selection and planting logistics.

The Greening of Detroit is a nonprofit organization that specializes in tree planting, maintenance, education and training in southeast Michigan. They are the local recipient of funding and responsible for project implementation.

The **Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)** is the state agency with authority over public rights-of-way where trees are being planted, specifically MDOT's Metro and University Regions. MDOT authorizes and permits the planting and maintenance of trees within these areas.

Where are the trees being planted?

Fall 2010 tree plantings involve 344 shade and ornamental trees being planted on the medians of: Woodward Ave. (M-1) between I-696 and 14 Mile Road (169 trees); Telegraph (US-24) between Puritan and Grand River (135 trees); and, Vernier (M-102) between I-94 and Kelly (40 trees).

Spring 2011 tree plantings are being reviewed now, but will involve an additional 356 trees in several freeway interchanges including I-94, I-75, US-23 and major trunklines in MDOT's University Region. Additional plantings may also occur within the MDOT Metro Region.

How big are the trees?

All trees are balled & burlapped (B&B) and between 8-12' tall.

What species of trees are being used?

For the Fall 2010 plantings, 23 different species and cultivars of shade and flowering trees were used including: Kentucky Coffee Tree, Princeton Sentry Ginkgo, Hackberry, Bloodgood London Plane, Silver Linden, Redmond Linden, Northern Red Oak, Sweetgum, Tulip Tree, Swamp White Oak, Green Vase Japanese Zelkova, Triumph Elm, European Hornbeam, Winter King Hawthorn, Ivory Silk Tree Lilac, New Bradford Flowering Pear, Cleveland Select Flowering Pear, Snowdrift Flowering Crabapple, Prairie Fire Flowering Crabapple, Spring Snow Flowering Crabapple, Serviceberry, Paperbark Maple, Red Sunset Red Maple and Autumn Blaze Freeman Maple.

A similar diversity of species (including evergreens) will be used for spring, 2011 plantings, based on site reviews.

Who will be maintaining the trees, and how?

The Greening of Detroit will use employees from its Workforce Development program, both youth and adult, to provide monthly watering and weeding of all tree plantings for three consecutive growing seasons. They will also monitor and address problems related to straightening/staking, pruning and the removal of any trees that don't survive during the three-year establishment period.

What local nurseries have supplied trees for this project?

Of the 344 trees purchased for the Fall 2010 plantings, the majority was awarded to Lodi Farms in Ann Arbor, and the remaining 70 trees were awarded to R&J Farms, located in W. Salem, OH.

Two additional Michigan firms, Panettas and Allemons Landscaping, are providing mulch for project planting. The Greening of Detroit will continue to seek local suppliers in determining Spring 2011 plantings needs.

How can I apply for a job with the Greening of Detroit to become a member of the Workforce Development program?

Contact Lionel Bradford, Workforce Development Director, or Linsey Gillery, Youth Employment Coordinator for the Greening of Detroit at 313.237.8733. You can also email info@greeningofdetroit.com

When will the project be complete?

The project will be complete by Sept. 1, 2011.