



Prince George's County

# STORMWATER STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

**APPLICANT** Town of Forest Heights

**PROJECT** Tree Keepers of Forest Heights

**GRANT AMOUNT** \$49,794

**PROJECT SUMMARY** In the summer of 2015, the Town of Forest Heights conducted its Tree Keepers program aimed at maintaining street trees and educating the community about the value of trees.

The Tree Keepers consisted of eight high school students, one college graduate student, and a community elder. To begin, the Tree Keepers participated in a three-day workshop taught by two certified arborists to learn about tree species, maintenance and care procedures, and the importance of street trees. In total, the Tree Keepers identified, examined, and maintained 150 street trees throughout the Town. Maintenance of the trees included watering and mulching

and pruning, if needed.

As the Tree Keepers maintained the street trees, they also conducted an educational campaign to help residents understand the value of trees in terms of property value, stormwater collection, and energy conservation. Residents also learned how to recognize disease and other potential problems in their trees and how to care for their trees long-term.

The Tree Keepers conducted additional outreach to the community at the Annual Forest Heights Day Family Event and at a meeting with the Town Council and residents, engaging a total of 630 residents.

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