ENHANCING THE URBAN CANOPY OF EAST RIVERDALE AND THE TOWN OF BLADESBURG

CENTRAL KENILWORTH AVENUE REVITALIZATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INC.

AWARDED AMOUNT  $193,713.00  NUMBER OF TREES  300

PROJECT SUMMARY

Through a CBT Trust award from the Urban Trees Program, Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation will plant three hundred native trees in East Riverdale (Templeton Knolls) and the Town of Bladensburg. In the past four years, CKAR CDC has planted over a thousand (1,000) native trees in Greater Riverdale and Bladensburg using funding from the Prince George’s County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program. All these communities are under-served, and the tree plantings have improved the health and livability of these neighborhoods while helping to slow down run-off into the tributaries of the Anacostia River. Many of the trees were planted in private yards. CKAR developed a lot of expertise in getting the word out about the availability of trees and getting buy-in from the residents to care for, water, and maintain the trees. All homeowners sign a form promising to take care of the tree especially in the first two years.

The survival rate of these trees has been spectacular. For the Urban Trees Program, they will continue to plant in residential neighborhoods in yards and in the Right of Way in both Bladensburg and Templeton Knolls. They are partnering with the Town of Bladensburg, because they have several vacant lots and an old cemetery owned by the Town in need of trees. They no longer has internments, but it is historic and has been left to decline badly. There are many dead and dying trees. If the Town of Bladensburg removes all dead and dying trees, there will be plenty of room to plant some attractive trees. The cemetery abuts a commercial area with very few trees. This project will do much to boost the canopy in this part of town.

In addition, the Neighborhood Design Center has already identified locations for planting trees at two schools, a pocket park and along two busy roads (the attached plans call for planting sixty-nine street trees and twenty-two trees for the pocket park. The plans for planting at Port Towns E.S. and Bladensburg H.S have only partially been implemented. This planning and design work was done by the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC), but funding did not materialize to allow planting to take place. As part of the Urban Trees Program, we can complete the plantings. Lastly, we can plant trees at two other schools within the Town of Bladensburg. They are Bladensburg E.S and Annapolis Road International School.

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