

FY23 URBAN TREES PROGRAM

ANNE ARUNDEL WATERSHED STEWARDS ACADEMY

TREE AMBASSADORS: PUTTING ROOTS DOWN IN NORTHERN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

AWARDED AMOUNT

\$54,851.00

NUMBER OF TREES

80



PROJECT SUMMARY

Replant Anne Arundel is the Watershed Stewards Academy's flagship tree planting program focused on engaging residents across Anne Arundel County to help address the county's significant canopy loss. From 2013 through 2017, Anne Arundel County has lost 2,500 acres of forest, the highest rate of any urbanized county in the state of Maryland. Replant began with the simple goal of planting trees in the county and has since developed into 3 initiatives, the largest of which is our Tree Trooper program. Tree Troopers are volunteers trained by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Watershed Stewards Academy in a specially curated 5 session short course focusing on tree biology, site selection, tree care, and effective community engagement, culminating in an in-person planting event. The Tree Troopers are then tasked with implementing a tree planting project in their communities (neighborhoods, congregations, schools and parks). Through this grant, they will expand Replant Anne Arundel into urban, low-income communities by creating and piloting a new model for community engagement called Tree Ambassadors. The Tree Ambassador model, developed in partnership with Abel Olivo, the Executive Director at Defensores de la Cuenca, addresses key barriers to residents of under-represented, urban communities and will be applied in this proposal in two communities: Brooklyn Park in Northern Anne Arundel County and bilingual members of the Latino community of Anne Arundel County.

The goals of this project are (1) create and pilot the Tree Ambassador program, including engaging 6-10 Tree Ambassadors representing the priority communities above (2) plant 60 trees over 6 community sites in urban areas of Anne Arundel County (3) engage 20 additional urban residents to plant a tree in their own yards, and (4) build momentum toward future tree plantings within our priority urban communities.

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