

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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State Forestry Re-Leaf Grant Plants Trees in Las Vegas

SANTA FE, NM – Thirty new trees were planted recently as part of the Lincoln Park Renewal Project in Las Vegas, NM. Paid for by a \$5,250 Forest Re-Leaf Grant from the New Mexico State Forestry Division, the trees were planted to replace older trees that have exceeded their expected lifespan and are dying.

Hosted by the City of Las Vegas Parks Division and the Las Vegas Tree Board, the general public was invited to attend the event at Lincoln Park and help plant the trees, which will provide much needed shade and beauty to this historic area.

“Shade trees are a key component of our parks and must be replaced in order to preserve the nature and value of these public places,” said Las Vegas Parks Division Manager Jeff Rudolph. “Another benefit of events like this is that we instruct residents about proper tree planting and educate them about the value of urban and community forests.”

At the event held on Friday, April 25, members of the Las Vegas Tree Board and staff from New Mexico State Forestry demonstrated the proper methods of planting, watering and mulching trees and Las Vegas Mayor Alfonso Ortiz read an Arbor Day proclamation. Local cub, boy and girl scouts assisted in planting the trees throughout the park.

Since the program was established in 1990, New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf has awarded more than \$600,000 for tree-planting and education efforts.

New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf is solely funded through private donations from individuals, businesses and corporations. Donations can be made through a “New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf” check-off box on the New Mexico Individual Income Tax Form, Schedule D. There is also a donation check-off box on the Forestry Division’s Seedling sales order form. Donations can also be made online at nmforestry.com or by contacting the New Mexico State Forestry Division at (505) 476-3343 or at 1220 South St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87504.

Awards for up to \$6,000 per community were made to projects in five communities across New Mexico for the 2013-2014 program cycle. Administered by New Mexico State Forestry, the Re-Leaf Program supports community tree planting efforts aimed at improving the environment, educating citizens, and beautifying public places. 2013-2014 grant recipients include Las Vegas, Raton, Rio Rancho, Fort Sumner and Lordsburg.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.