

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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State Forestry Awards \$4,900 Re-Leaf Grant to Rio Rancho

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Forestry Division has awarded \$4,900 in grant funding to plant trees at a new public park in Rio Rancho, according to State Timber Management Officer, Andrew Frederick.

The funds will be used to create a windbreak at the new “A Park Above” project, located at 2441 Westside Ct in Rio Rancho, near the Cabazon Subdivision.

“This new park project is designed around the idea of a park being sustainable and accessible to everyone in the community,” said Rio Rancho Parks and Recreation Resource Development Manager Dyane Sonier. “The Re-Leaf grant from State Forestry will greatly benefit this new park and provide much needed shade and protection from the wind.”

Funds from State Forestry’s Forest Re-Leaf Program will go toward the purchase of 60 trees that will be planted around the edge of the park. The City of Rio Rancho has already broken ground on the park and the trees will be planted by local residents and community groups.

“Having local residents get involved and plant trees is a great way to teach the importance of establishing community forests in our towns and cities,” said State Forestry Forest Re-Leaf Project Manager Andrew Frederick. “Planting trees beautifies our neighborhoods, improves quality of life and can also aid economic development.”

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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