



THEN &
NOW

"NEIGHBOR WOODS" PHASE II
GREENVILLE, NC
2021 LEGACY TREE FUND GRANT



THEN:

The West Greenville neighborhoods of Greenville, North Carolina, were originally home to mostly African American farmers and tobacco warehouse employees. Once known as the "Queen City on the Tar," Greenville held the largest flue-cured tobacco processing center in N.C. However, after the Great Depression, advancement of new agricultural technologies, and road development divided the city, many prosperous neighborhoods in West Greenville fell into decline. Over the past two decades, the city has invested millions of dollars revitalizing the area.

Re Leaf of Greenville – a non-profit dedicated to increasing the city's urban tree canopy – has paid special attention to West Greenville as well. Re Leaf hosted Community Tree Days in The Moyewood Public Housing Project in 2007 and 2017, and started "Neighbor woods" in 2021. Re Leaf and community partners completed Phase I of "Neighbor woods" in Spring 2021. They planted 60+ trees in empty lots along the redesigned and constructed 10th St. Connector that bisects downtown.

"The Phase I Neighbor wood sites are on a major road between the north and south of Greenville. The trees we planted provide green spaces to soften the view and provide a better gateway between the two sections of the city," said Hunt McKimmon, President of Re Leaf of Greenville.

NOW:

Phase I of "Neighbor woods" went so well, Re Leaf applied for, and was awarded, a \$4,975 Legacy Tree Fund Grant to plant 50 trees for Phase II.

"We look for projects that have a strong community commitment—meaning that the citizens are actively involved and participate in the tree planting," said Leslie Moorman, Executive Director of the NC Urban Forest Council. "Re Leaf partnered with the Lucille Gorhom Unit of the Boys and Girls Club to plant and maintain trees in their neighborhoods."

Research proves the presence of trees in residential outdoor spaces helps promote ties among neighbors, and increases community interest and involvement.

"These trees will become twenty-foot-high canopy trees by the time the Club members finish high school. These children and the trees they planted will grow up together to make West Greenville a better place than it is today," said McKimmon.

In November 2022 the groups planted, mulched, and fitted Gator Bags on a combination of oak, redbud, ginkgo, and other native trees. Planting a variety reduces the risk of disease spreading among a single-variety planting, which would then force them to all be cut. In addition to community, these "Neighbor wood" trees will provide shade and exchange oxygen for carbon dioxide in West Greenville.

Each year, the North Carolina Urban Forest Council awards Legacy Tree Fund grants to community groups, civic associations, block clubs, garden clubs, and other non-profit organizations for urban forestry projects involving tree planting. Since 2011 the Legacy Tree Fund has helped plant thousands of trees in communities across North Carolina. Visit <https://www.ncufc.org/Legacy-Tree-Fund.php> to donate to or apply for a grant.

