

## Eligibility and Selection

Neighborhoods are selected by NeighborWoods Coordinators and Program Partners based upon the following stipulations and considerations:

- Must be within the City limits
- Must be defined as low to moderate income by HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Must have available and appropriate planting sites
- Active neighborhood associations considered beneficial

### NeighborWoods Partners

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, The City of Oklahoma City, and The Tree Bank of Oklahoma

### Past Project Sponsors & Donors

Chesapeake Energy Corp., Valley Tree Farm, Total Environment, Crown Heights Baptist Church, Dunkin' Donuts, Sonic Store #4620, Big Sky Bread, Oklahoma Arborist Association, American Plant Products, and GDD Landscape

Oklahoma City's NeighborWoods Program has great potential to grow Oklahoma City's urban forest by assisting Neighborhoods in tree planting efforts. If you would like to sponsor a future NeighborWoods project, or would like more information about becoming a NeighborWoods recipient, please contact:

trees@okc.gov / (405) 297-2283



**The City of**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

# Oklahoma City's NeighborWoods Program

The NeighborWoods logo features a stylized tree with a person sitting on a bench in front of it, all in a light green color.

*Facilitating Urban Tree Planting  
through Community Partnerships*

Our mission: REGREEN

**R**evitalize older neighborhoods  
**E**nhance community appearance  
**G**arner community involvement  
**R**aise awareness of the benefit of trees  
**E**ngender neighborhood pride  
**E**ncourage environmental sustainability  
**N**urture our urban forest

*The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.*

*~ Nelson Henderson*

## Our Challenges

**Many American cities are experiencing shrinking tree canopies from urbanization, development, disease and neglect.**

Maintaining the balance between accommodating urban development and preserving the urban forest is a challenge. According to federal experts, tree-planting organizations and scholars of urban ecology, striking this balance requires cities to maintain their older trees and plant shade trees in new residential and commercial areas. It doesn't help that City budgets are often stretched thin just keeping up with growing demands for basic infrastructure and services. Fortunately, communities are finding ways to invest in themselves through programs like NeighborWoods.

## Our Purpose

**In 2004, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture awarded an Urban and Community Forestry grant to the City of Oklahoma City to fund Oklahoma City's first NeighborWoods initiative.**

The NeighborWoods program connects the community with business sponsors, who provide resources to purchase and plant trees in Oklahoma City's low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. Through this program, residents have opportunity to rejuvenate and enhance our urban forest while improving their property. In turn, NeighborWoods invests in the overall health and success of our community by creating tree canopies that increase the health and livability of our neighborhoods.

## Our Goals

**NeighborWoods perpetuates Oklahoma City's urban forest through community partnerships. It revitalizes neighborhoods, improves community appearance, promotes environmental sustainability, and increases awareness of the benefit of trees.**

Envision citizens of Oklahoma City working together to create more beautiful and environmentally sound neighborhoods through planting trees that were donated by a local business. Thanks to the new NeighborWoods program of the City of Oklahoma City, the vision of tree lined streets and canopy covered neighborhoods is coming true.

## Our Benefits

**NeighborWoods strengthens communities. It fosters relationships within the community, inspires pride of ownership, and beautifies homes while reducing heating and cooling costs and improving the environment.**

Trees are a long-term investment in the appearance of a neighborhood and can actually increase the overall value of individual homes. Within some of Oklahoma City's neighborhoods, tree canopy coverage is sparse or nonexistent, and trees are declining from old age or poor health. This program strives to fulfill reforestation and tree-maintenance needs of target areas. NeighborWoods provides meaningful and engaging work to volunteers, residents and partners, and communicates the availability of resources to those who need them.