

1 S. Main Street, 7th Floor
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
Phone: (586) 469-5285
Fax: (586) 469-6787
www.macombgov.org/planning

News

Macomb County Executive
Mark A. Hackel



Planning & Economic Development

For Immediate Release

Gerard Santoro
(586) 242-7032

Media Contact: Gerard.Santoro@macombgov.org

Date: November 14, 2016

Green Macomb's Urban Forest Partnership grows in Utica

Volunteers gathered today along the Clinton River in Utica to install new landscaping as part of Macomb County's Green Macomb initiative and the newly created Urban Forest Partnership.

Welcomed by Mayor Jacqueline Noonan of Utica and County Executive Mark A. Hackel, the group installed more than 330 plants, shrubs and trees along the Clinton River Hike and Bike Trail in downtown Utica. The plantings will help to beautify the trail corridor as well as to reduce and filter storm water runoff to the Clinton River.

"Macomb County is proactively taking steps to make our communities greener," said Executive Hackel. "These plants will not only enhance the aesthetics along the trail network, they will also help to protect one of Macomb's most treasured resources, the Clinton River."

Employee volunteers from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' Motor Citizens program were joined by others from Six Rivers Land Conservancy and ReLeaf Michigan to install the plants and trees. Plant species were selected for their ability to filter storm water as a buffer along the river corridor and provide beautiful showy flowers in the spring, summer and fall. They include a variety of native grasses and wildflowers, viburnum, eastern redbud, bald cypress and eastern red cedar.

The project was funded by a grant through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's State and Private Forestry Program. Matching funds to purchase materials were provided by ITC Holdings. Additional funding was provided by the city of Utica's Downtown Development Authority. In-kind donations will provide ongoing care for the plants.

The demonstration planting reinforces the message that the right tree in the right place with the right purpose can improve much more than the aesthetics of a community. Indeed, trees can help to improve air and water quality, reduce energy costs, elevate feelings of contentment and increase property values.

Beginning in spring 2017, Green Macomb will work with ReLeaf Michigan, volunteers and local communities to plant over 1,000 additional trees to increase urban tree canopy throughout Macomb County as part of a grant project through the U.S. Forest Service and Great Lake Restoration Initiative.

The Green Macomb initiative was created by the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development to support green infrastructure efforts that strengthen the economic vitality, quality of life and environmental well-being of the region. For more information, visit green.macombgov.org.

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