



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2023

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Paterson Public Schools Awarded \$250,000 Grant To Plant Trees

Paterson, NJ – Paterson Public Schools was awarded a \$250,000 Trees for Schools grant to fund the costs associated with the purchase and planting of trees, this includes planning, site preparation, watering, monitoring and related expenses over a three-year period.

The Trees for Schools program is a joint effort of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Sustainable Jersey and The College of New Jersey. Funded by Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds, the Trees for Schools grant program will plant more than 3,000 trees across the state.

The trees that the District will be receiving are mature trees that will require professional planting. The project is slated to begin in Spring of 2024 and run from late March to May 31st, barring any delays that would then push the project start time to Autumn of that same year. So far, plans include plantings at fourteen schools, those being schools 5, 8, 10, 12, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28, Roberto Clemente elementary, Dr. Hani Awadallah elementary, New Roberto Clemente middle school, and John F. Kennedy high school.

Beyond beautifying our educational communities, these trees will play a part in making our schools feel more welcoming,” said Superintendent of Schools Laurie Newell. “Children will be able to watch these trees grow as they do and connect them to the memory of their schools as adults. Of course, they will also be useful as tools to teach our students about the world around them and the importance of nature in an urban setting.”

Chief Officer Of Facilities And Custodial Services Neil Mapp stated, “The greening of the District is part of an ongoing effort to provide more green spaces at school locations for our students and the community at large. Green spaces contribute positively to the mental and overall health of our students and families and are known to positively impact the indoor and outdoor air quality.”

STEAM Director Dr. Caccavella said, “This is such an exciting opportunity for Paterson Public Schools! The planting of trees is a positive step toward mitigating the effects of climate change in Paterson. We are so grateful to be the recipients of such a generous grant which will have a lasting impact on the environment.”

“These grants are an important step to help mitigate the impact of climate change and are an investment in healthier schools and communities,” DEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette said. “Trees store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases and energy use, thereby mitigating the impacts of climate change and strengthening the resilience of our communities. Equally important, the planting of these trees will inspire our young people to become tomorrow’s leaders in the fight against climate change.”

“Congratulations to the schools, colleges and universities that received a Trees for Schools grant. Planting and caring for trees help our students learn about ecosystems and the valuable role trees play,” said Randall

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Solomon, director of Sustainable Jersey. “We look forward to working with the grant recipients to expand their campus tree canopy while allowing students this important connection.”

The Trees for Schools grant recipients will now work with the project team to develop their tree project design and will participate in tree-planting workshops. The tree plantings are scheduled for spring 2024. For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/TreesforSchools>.

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