Trees

make the city a healthy, pleasant place to live.

- Trees reduce asthma-causing air pollution.
- Trees save money on heating and cooling costs.
- Neighborhoods with more trees have lower crime rates and stronger community ties.
- Trees provide a quiet, shady place to rest and play.

Contact us for more information!

Applications due April 18, 2008

Does your neighborhood need more trees in its parks, lots or streets? Contact us to apply, and to learn more about the CityRoots program.

Rachael Dobson
CityRoots Program Manager
Urban Ecology Institute
355 Higgins Hall, 140 Commonwealth Ave
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
dobsonr@bc.edu
617-552-6792

Sample Summer Schedule

Week One: setting goals; brainstorming; field trip to Arnold Arboretum
Week Two: site design; tree selection; field trip to planting site
Week Three: outreach and community building; Environmental Justice speaker
Week Four: tools and safety; youth-led planting day
Week Five: urban ecology research; Vacant Lots Environmental Justice activity
Week Six: final planting; celebration

Celebrating 10 Years
1998 Urban Ecology Institute 2008
CityRoots

CityRoots:

Planting Pride, City Wide

Youth Crew
Six Week Summer Project

*Youth Leadership
*Civic Engagement
*Environmental Justice
*Urban Ecology

July 7--August 15, 2008

Apply by April 18, 2008!

CityRoots: Planting Pride, City Wide

It Takes You!

What does it take to radically transform streets, parks and vacant lots into safe places for neighbors to come together? It takes informed, motivated, and proactive youth who are involved in their community. The CityRoots Youth Crew curriculum is designed to engage youth in issues of urban stewardship and environmental justice. We invite you to apply for a CityRoots grant to empower your youth crew through education and direct involvement in creating change.

If selected, groups receive free plants, trees, gardening supplies and a Community Forester to work with your youth crew 1 day a week for 6 weeks over the summer. Grants are available to youth crews with access to sites with public benefit such as parks, streets, apartment complexes and front yards.

> I liked doing the tree project the best because it helped us recruit other teens into our program.
> —Sonia, youth crew senior, Chelsea GreenSpace

Before applying, groups should:

- **Select a site—projects that focus on tree plantings tend to survive longer and will be given greater priority for grant support**
- **Obtain permission to plant on the site**
- **Locate an adequate water source nearby**
- **Think about maintenance: trees should be watered intensively for 3 months after planting and will require periodic pruning and watering for 2 years**

Project Components

UEI staff offers a curriculum, drawn from the four components described below, that works with summer youth crew programs.

***Urban Ecology:** Your group members will measure the planting site, learn which plants will grow there, choose the plants they like, and plant them at the end of the 6 week curriculum.

***Youth Leadership:** This is a student-led project; it gives students the opportunity to take leadership roles in making visible changes in their community over the course of a summer.

***Civic Engagement:** Youth will learn outreach techniques and canvass the neighborhood to gain support for their planting project. The curriculum will connect activities to larger community issues and provide students with the skills to make change.

***Environmental Justice:** How is planting trees in your neighborhood an environmental justice issue? The curriculum will connect the summer's activities to the larger Environmental Justice movement and explore other areas of inequity in your community.

Youth Crew members will learn—and teach their peers—about urban ecology, tree care, and environmental justice.

Learn more!

Contact the Urban Ecology Institute to learn more about the CityRoots Youth Crew program. Rachael Dobson, CityRoots program manager, is available to speak with you about the program and the application process. Contact her at 617-552-6792.

Visit http://urbaneco.org/city_roots.asp to download an application; information on current and past projects is available at: http://www.urbaneco.org/Photo_gallery.asp

Students will have the opportunity to test the soil at the planting site, create the site design, and take leadership roles in all stages of the planting project.