

# Rolling Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

*Providing leadership in protecting and improving the  
economic, social, and natural resources of residents in the RC&D area.*



## NEWS RELEASE

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### VAN WERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TREE PLANTING

Van Wert Elementary School will have a new look after this weekend is over! The school is receiving assistance through the Rolling Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council to plant 23 new trees on the campus. The trees will be approximately 3” caliper trees, so they will have almost immediate benefits to provide shade for playgrounds, assist with energy conservation on the school, and beautify the campus. Rolling Hills RC&D has partnered closely with the school and Keep Polk Beautiful to make this project happen.

The Rolling Hills RC&D Council is a local non-profit organization that covers nine counties in northwest Georgia. Rolling Hills is a recipient of the new Georgia’s Growing Green Program through the Georgia Forestry Commission that is funded by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Targeted in North Georgia where unemployment rates and tree canopy cover have changed most dramatically, the program creates green jobs and helps to restore local ecosystems by planting trees. “Approximately 550 trees on at least 52 different sites will be planted using contractors from our region,” stated Cindy Haygood, Rolling Hills RC&D Coordinator. “This project will not only help to bring dollars to our local landscape and tree industry, but it will have a lasting benefit by providing trees for public enjoyment.”

Other organizations will be joining in to plant more than 1500 trees as part of eighty-nine separate projects across the north Georgia region; creating and retaining green jobs in several areas including nurseries, landscaping, tool and equipment sales and landscape architecture. Projects will provide a variety of environmental benefits ranging from more shade and less storm water runoff in downtown areas, to energy conservation through the strategic placement of trees at schools. While some trees are going in the ground this spring, most of the trees will be planted this coming fall and winter.

“We’re excited to be working with Georgia communities on tree planting projects,” said Sarah Visser, GFC’s Georgia’s Growing Green Coordinator. “Georgia’s green industry has been hit hard by years of drought and the recent economic downturn. These funds provide an important way to help stimulate local economies while investing in the long term health of our urban forests.”

A complete listing of grant recipients and their contact information can be found at [www.gatrees.org](http://www.gatrees.org). For more information about Rolling Hills RC&D and its programs, visit their website at [www.rollinghillsrccd.org](http://www.rollinghillsrccd.org).

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