



Nashville Tree Foundation Launches “ReLeaf 2020” to Replant 10,000 Trees in Wake of Tornado

Local tree preservation organization will lead campaign to replace trees lost throughout Middle Tennessee; effort will kick off with tree giveaway and planting on March 28

Nashville, Tennessee (March 11, 2020) – Nashville Tree Foundation, Nashville’s leading tree planting, preservation, and education organization, today announced the launch of a community-wide initiative to replant 10,000 trees ravaged by the tornado that struck Middle Tennessee on March 3.

Called ReLeaf 2020, the campaign will raise \$1 million to replant 10,000 trees in local communities decimated by the early morning storms, including North Nashville, Germantown, East Nashville, Donelson, Hermitage and neighboring areas.

The effort will kick-off on March 28 at Hermitage Park at 11 a.m. with a ceremonial tree planting to honor first responders, NES workers and the thousands of volunteers who stepped forward to help with tornado recovery. Immediately following the tree planting, Nashville Tree Foundation will give away 200 new trees to residents impacted by the storms.

ReLeaf 2020 is a revival of the first ReLeaf campaign, which Nashville Tree Foundation launched following the tornado of 1998. That effort, led by the organization’s founders including Betty Brown and Eleanor Willis, resulted in Nashville Tree Foundation helping bring devastated neighborhoods back to life by replanting more than 6,700 trees over three years.

Nashville Tree Foundation encourages all those interested in supporting ReLeaf 2020 to visit nashvilletreefoundation.org, where a \$25 donation will cover the cost of planting one tree. Individuals and corporations that wish to sponsor the effort can contact Nashville Tree Foundation Executive Director Andrew Bell at 615-292-5175 or andrew@nashvilletreefoundation.org.

“Middle Tennesseans awoke on March 3 to find precious lives lost, beloved homes destroyed, and our natural landscape scarred by a cruel act of nature,” said Bell. “We join our neighbors in mourning the devastation of that day and pledge to help rebuild. After the tornado of 1998, Nashville Tree Foundation played an important part in restoring our stricken community. Now we stand ready to do it again, and invite the people of our city, state and nation to lend their support.”

Area residents are invited to attend the launch of ReLeaf 2020 at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 28 at Hermitage Park, 2720 James Kay Lane, Hermitage. Following the ceremonial tree planting to honor first responders, NES employees and volunteers, the Nashville Tree Foundation will give away 200 trees, all native to Tennessee, on a first come, first serve basis to residents impacted by the storm. Should the number of residents who desire trees exceed the supply, their names will be added to a list to receive trees at future giveaways Nashville Tree Foundation is planning throughout the year.



Also, on March 28, Nashville Tree Foundation will plant 40 indigenous trees at Hermitage Park and at four local Metro Nashville public schools: Dodson Elementary School, Dupont Tyler Middle School, Hermitage Elementary School, and Tulip Grove Elementary School.

All trees planted through ReLeaf 2020 will count toward Root Nashville, the public-private campaign to plant 500,000 trees in Davidson County by 2050. Nashville Tree Foundation is a founding member of Root Nashville, in partnership with Metro Nashville, the Cumberland River Compact, NashvilleHealth, The Nature Conservancy, and Hands on Nashville.

“We are shocked and saddened by the tragic losses of last week’s tornado,” said Noni Nielsen, Nashville Tree Foundation Board President. “For 34 years, Nashville Tree Foundation has worked to protect and enhance the environmental health and sustainability of our city by nurturing and growing our trees. No one is certain how many trees were lost in the recent storm, but we expect the number to far exceed the devastation of 20,000 trees lost in 1998. Just as we did then, the Nashville Tree Foundation is committed to helping our city replant and regrow.”

About Nashville Tree Foundation

Founded in 1986, The [Nashville Tree Foundation](#) has worked to preserve and enhance Nashville’s urban forests by planting trees in urban areas, identifying the oldest and largest trees in Davidson County, and educating the public about the value of trees.

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