



## 2012 TREE TENDERS PROGRAM INFORMATION AND CLASS REGISTRATION FORM

### WHAT IS THE TREE TENDERS PROGRAM ABOUT?

Keep Genesee County Beautiful (KGCB) is offering a Tree Tenders program to train residents to plant and care for trees and become advocates for the urban forest.

### WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE TREE TENDERS PROGRAM?

The first phase of the program includes 12 hours of classroom training and hands-on experience. The second phase involves successfully planning and implementing an approved community tree planting in Genesee County. Once both phases have been completed, you will be certified as a Tree Tender.

### WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE FIRST CLASS BE OFFERED?

The Tree Tenders class will be offered on four (4) consecutive Thursday evenings:

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 PM to 9 PM**

Classes will be held at For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum, 2142 N. Genesee Rd. in Burton. Dinner will be provided. The class is free but registration is required.

### WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COVERED IN THE TREE TENDERS CLASS?

Eight different topic areas will be presented by various local experts. The topics include:

- Benefits of Trees
- Tree Biology
- Urban Stresses on Trees
- Tree Care
- Tree Planting
- Tree Identification
- Watersheds and Trees
- Planning and Implementing Your Community Tree Planting (on public property)

There will be several take home quizzes and homework assignments.

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE CLASSROOM TRAINING?

Once you have successfully completed the class you will begin preparing for your tree planting. Based upon your classroom training, you will be expected to:

- Identify locations for planting 5-10 trees (using a recent tree survey for City of Flint sites)
- Recommend the types of trees needed based upon location
- Secure funding for trees (KGCB will direct you to a funding source)
- Secure all needed permits and permissions
- Purchase and plant trees (in late April, May, June, September or October)
- Maintain, mulch, water and care for trees
- Educate the homeowner on tree care (if applicable)
- Complete a report and picture documentation to receive Tree Tender Certification

Tree Tender instructors and KGCB staff will be available to meet with you during this process to assist in making your community planting a success. KGCB will also cover the cost of additional related training at For-Mar on topics such as pruning and tree identification.

### **WHAT DO I NEED TO DO IF I WANT TO BECOME A TREE TENDER?**

Fill out the class registration form in this packet. The class will be limited to the first 25 people.

### **WHEN IS MY CLASS REGISTRATION FORM DUE?**

All registration forms must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. January 26, 2012. You may mail, fax, email or hand deliver the form to:

Tree Tenders 2012 Class Registration Form  
Keep Genesee County Beautiful  
1509 E. Court St.  
Flint, MI 48503  
767-9696 (phone) 820-8462 (fax) [hlubowicki@kgcb.net](mailto:hlubowicki@kgcb.net) (email)

### **HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM SELECTED?**

Once you have submitted your registration form, KGCB staff will contact you within a few days and provide more details and answer any additional questions you may have.

### **WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TREE TENDERS PROGRAM?**

Call KGCB at 767-9696 and ask for Holly Lubowicki, Program Assistant for the Tree Tenders program or Karen West, Program Director. Visit our website after January 1, 2012 at [kgcb.net](http://kgcb.net) for updated information.

### **WHY ARE TREES SO IMPORTANT?**

The Top 10 Reasons We Need Trees

1. Trees help purify the air we breathe by absorbing pollutants.
2. Trees increase property values and improve the tax base in communities.
3. Trees improve neighborhood appeal, attracting businesses, shoppers and homeowners.
4. Trees cool our cities and towns by reducing heat generated by buildings and paved surfaces.
5. Tree shade, properly placed, can save an average household up to \$250 annually in energy costs.
6. Trees reduce the amount of pollutants in sewer systems, saving communities millions of dollars in water treatment costs.
7. Trees soften harsh building lines and large expanses of pavement, making urban environments much more pleasant.
8. Trees provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, maintaining a balance with nature even in urban areas.
9. Trees reduce the amount of water-borne pollutants that reach streams and rivers.
10. Trees reduce levels of domestic violence and foster safer, more sociable neighborhood environments.

