

# Mayor Daley's GreenStreets Program

USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry



*Bringing Forestry to People through Collaborative Stewardship*

**Description:** In the past 17 years, GreenStreets has planted more than 60,000 trees and hundreds of thousands of shrubs, vines, perennials and annuals throughout the City's streets and neighborhoods. This enormous greening effort has improved the quality of life in Chicago by instilling a sense of pride and a sense of community among its citizens. By lining city streets with trees, hanging baskets, planters, and creating more green space, GreenStreets is helping improve Chicago's air, water, and land resources. Urban trees mitigate air pollution, quiet noise, provide shade and windbreak, capture stormwater, create a more comfortable climate by reducing the urban heat island effect, provide habitat and food for wildlife, and improve citizen's mental and physical health, educating children and adults about the importance of natural environments, and aesthetically improving Chicago's built environment.

## Key Issues:

- Diversify and expand Chicago's urban forest to prepare for threats such as emerald ash borer.
- Continue efforts to reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air and water quality, reduce noise pollution, and improve quality of urban life.
- Revitalize neighborhoods through tree planting and community action to create a more livable community.

## Accomplishments:

- **Tree Planting** – 2006 federal funds and local match enabled GreenStreets to plant approximately 1,200 trees. Trees will be planted at schools, neighborhoods, and areas with low tree canopy cover and high surface temperatures to help reduce the urban heat island effect.
- **Chicago Public Schools** – Federal funds and local match have enabled GreenStreets to plant more than 500 trees in parkways surrounding Chicago schools.
- **Asian Longhorned Beetle** -- To date, GreenStreets has planted nearly 2,500 parkway trees in the ALB zone replacing more than 1,500 trees removed.
- **Salt Mitigation Strategy** – Each winter, the city lowers motor vehicle speed limits to reduce the amount of salt spray that affects adjacent street trees. Studies are underway to determine the effectiveness of this program.

## Budget History:

Mayor Daley's Green Streets Program (\$ Thousands)							
	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
<b>Totals</b>	\$200	\$75	\$497	\$198	\$0	\$325	\$350*

\* Senate proposed (House proposed \$0)

## Future Direction:

- Use City of Chicago Department of Planning canopy cover data layers to target areas with significant heat-island effects for replanting efforts.
- Continue to reforest Chicago neighborhoods devastated by the Asian longhorned beetle.
- Continue planting trees on Chicago's parkways, expressways, and schools.
- Support plantings that diversify existing tree population to better address threats such as emerald ash borer.
- Continue partnering with public and private organizations and community groups.

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