



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Tree Giveaway to be Held in Tupelo on March 11th

Tupelo, Miss.—The City of Tupelo has partnered with the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the National Arbor Day Foundation to offer the Mississippi Tree Recovery Campaign, in response to the tornado that hit the city on April 28, 2014. The tree giveaway is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 11, 2016, from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the JT Nealy Pavilion in Tupelo’s Veterans Park. The event will be hosted by the City of Tupelo Public Works Department. This (2016) will mark the second year that these organizations worked together to provide a diverse mix of native tree species to homeowners in Tupelo and Louisville.

When the EF4 tornado struck the Mississippi communities of Tupelo and Louisville, it left massive damage in its wake, and residents are still working to restore their neighborhoods. The shade, aesthetics, and other benefits lost from the damage to mature trees will take years to recover. The Mississippi Community Tree Recovery Campaign plans to distribute new trees in these devastated communities as the recovery process continues. Tupelo Mayor Jason Shelton said, “Trees are an integral part of any city, but Tupelo takes particular pride in caring for the city’s trees. The loss of mature tree canopy due to the tornado will take years to replace, but the City of Tupelo is taking action now to ensure the future citizens of Tupelo have a healthy, thriving city full of trees.”

The Mississippi Forestry Commission and the National Arbor Day Foundation will continue their collaborative project to bring the Community Tree Recovery Campaign to the Cities of Tupelo and Louisville for the second year. While also reaching out to the City of Columbia to provide their citizens with free seedlings, following the devastating tornado that struck that town on December 23, 2014. The Mississippi Community Tree Recovery Campaign is a joint partnership between the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Arbor Day Foundation. The goal of the Tree Recovery Campaign is to assist residents of storm-affected communities, by helping them replenish their urban tree canopy with native tree species during the recovery process.