

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Tree Giveaway Is a First for Wilmington

Wilmington, DE – With the final numbers in, the Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) is proud to report Wilmington city residents received more than 140 free trees for planting at their homes through Wilmington’s first Tree Giveaway. The event was made possible through the generous support of the Rockford Woodlawn Fund.

“Increasing Wilmington’s tree canopy is a vital part of DCH’s mission, so we were incredibly grateful to partner with the Rockford Woodlawn Fund to host the city’s first-ever Tree Giveaway,” said Vikram Krishnamurthy, DCH’s executive director. “Working with local partners to connect plants with people is one of the things we do best, and this event was the culmination of one of our strongest partners coming forward to address a real need in our community. As we continue to address issues related to Wilmington’s tree canopy, events like this one targeted toward planting trees on privately-owned land rather than our traditional street and park tree plantings on public land have become especially important and imperative to our mission.”

Over 70 city households participated in the Tree Giveaway, resulting in the planting of more than 140 free trees on private property throughout the city. While the focus of the Giveaway was three areas of the city that would benefit from the additional tree canopy - Hedgeville, Northeast, and East Side, the event was open to all city residents. Recipients submitted applications to Sam Seo, DCH’s community forester, providing contact and residency information, ensuring 100 percent of the trees stayed within city limits. Participants received two trees and chose from a selection of magnolia, fig, apple, and black gum varieties. Pick-up locations staffed by DCH volunteers included Kosciuszko Park, Kingswood Community Center, and Duffy’s Hope Community Garden.

“Understanding how important the city’s tree canopy is to maintaining the health of all of the surrounding communities throughout the region, we felt it was important to invest in an event that reached beyond the borders of public land to residents’ front yards,” said Vernon Green, chief operating officer of the Rockford Woodlawn Fund. “By partnering with DCH on this project, we were certain we would achieve our collective goal of increasing the number of trees in the city and providing educational resources to those who took the initiative to participate.”

**PHOTOS ATTACHED. FOR ADDITIONAL IMAGES, CONTACT CATHERINE KEMPISTA AT CKEMPISTA@THEDCH.ORG.**