What Grant Recipients Are Saying About the Georgia ReLeaf Program:

When the City of Ringgold was hit with an F-4 and F-5 tornado back in April of 2011, it was a nightmare. Once daylight came up and we could better see the destruction caused by the tornado we started assessing the damage. Unfortunately, eight lives were lost that will never be replaced … houses and buildings were destroyed … but the trees that were lost could not be described. You could see from one side of town to the other. Within weeks, crews came to rebuild the houses and buildings, but what about the trees? (Georgia ReLeaf) paid for 56 substantive trees to be purchased, and the Parks and Recreation Department planted them in key locations such as parks, playgrounds and rights of way. All of these locations had been seriously destroyed during the tornado….What a difference this has made to our town that we love so much. Thank you for your resources and generosity.

Dan Wright
City Manager, City of Ringgold

Georgia ReLeaf funds were vital for our community to stretch beyond our usual planting efforts to address the amount of lost street trees. City planting efforts aim to maintain the community forest with sustainable native species as well as increase diversity, but the city budget is inadequate to replace such significant losses. Thanks to the Georgia ReLeaf funds, Madison will be taking a huge step forward to replacing its tree-lined streets.

Monica Callahan
Planning Director, City of Madison

Thanks to the Georgia ReLeaf grant, the Town of Newborn has been able to replace half of the trees destroyed in the April 2011 tornado. The Town couldn’t have done it without this wonderful grant, and we are extremely thankful.

Martha Ellwanger
Council member, Town of Newborn

The City of Trenton is extremely grateful to the Georgia Urban Forest Council for the grant to replace trees lost in the tornado of 2011. Our city’s look was profoundly changed by that storm and the loss of our trees will be felt for years to come. This grant helped us replace trees in our city center where they can be enjoyed by all.

Peter Cervelli
Better Hometown Manager, City of Trenton