

A background photograph showing three people engaged in planting a tree in a park. On the left, a man in a white t-shirt and blue jeans is using a shovel to dig. In the center, a young boy in a white t-shirt and green shorts is also using a shovel. On the right, a man in a white t-shirt and blue jeans is kneeling and working with the soil. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a grassy area.

Newark Green Ladders

Growing the next generation of urban foresters

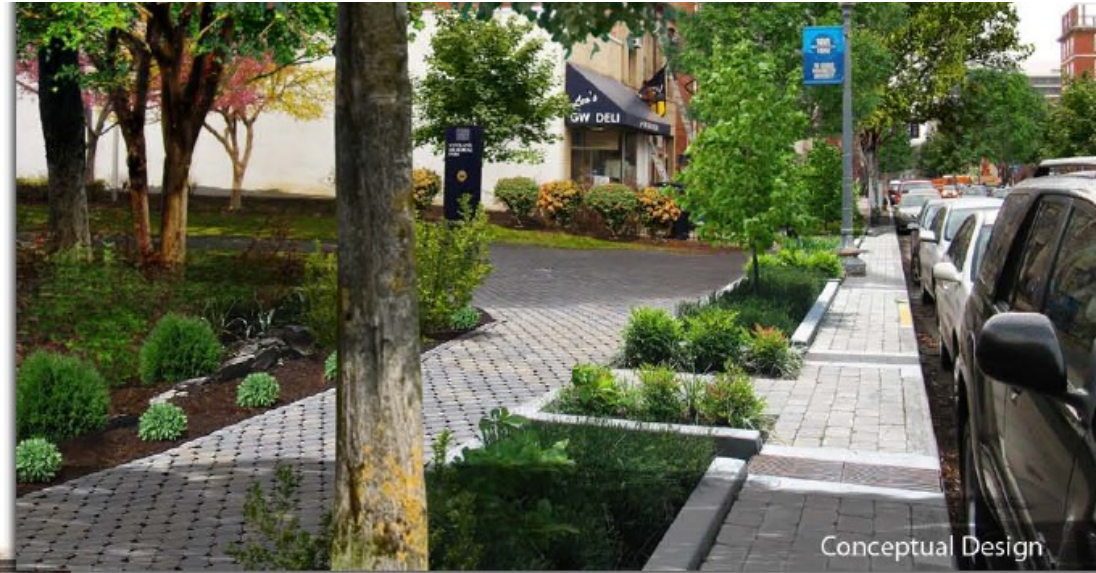
Tapping the Power of Youth in Urban Greening
Presentation to the New Partners for Smart Growth conference
January 29, 2015

Newark has 5 x less tree canopy than Essex County and is about 70 percent impervious



Street trees combat urban heat island effect, improving air quality and stormwater management

Street trees also...



- Enhance quality of life
- Bring neighbors together
- Train and employ work crews
- Support youth engagement

Newark Greenstreets: Planting trees, revitalizing neighborhoods, engaging youth

From 2012 – 2014:

- Over 1,000 street trees planted
- Over 100 youth hired through six community organizations on summer crews
- Over 6,000 street trees mapped with i-Tree streets
- All the cherry trees of Branch Brook Park geocoded and catalogued
- Over 60 Tree Keepers recruited and trained
- Four short documentary films produced and two original songs recorded



This project builds on partnerships with: the New Jersey Tree Foundation; Greater Newark Conservancy; Student Conservation Association; Ironbound Community Corporation; Unified Vailsburg Services Organization; La Casa de Don Pedro; International Youth Organization; Urban League of Essex County; East Side High School Environmental Club; Branch Brook Park Alliance; Weequahic Park Alliance; and more

Newark Greenstreets Youth Crews

Newark Sustainability Office & Project Allies

- Plan and coordinate program, including training for crew leaders
- Check in weekly with all crews
- Reimburse community organizations for expenses
- Sponsor trips and special events

Community Organizations

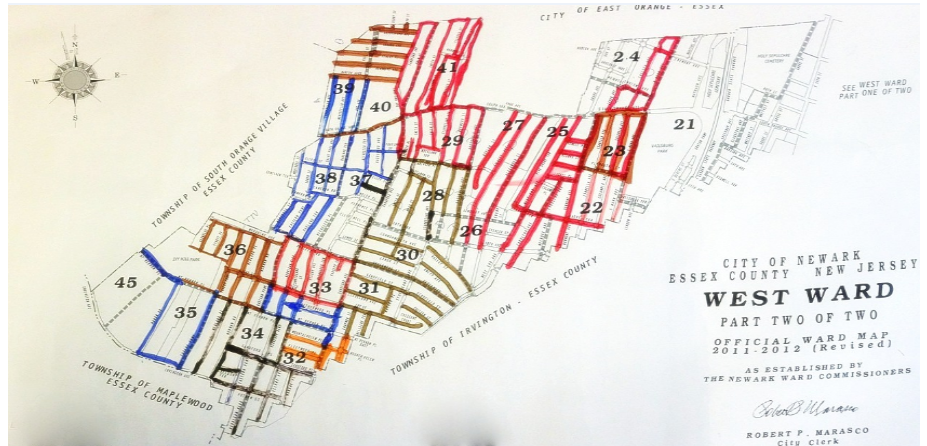
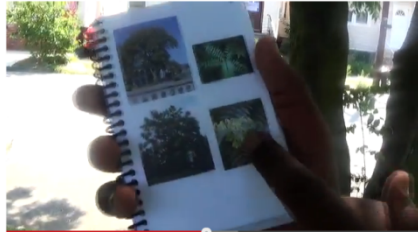
- Hire team of youth (14-19)
- Hire and supervise crew leader
- Introduce team to neighborhood issues
- Support community presentations


Youth Crews

- Conduct urban forestry project (iTree Streets survey, GPS mapping of park trees)
- Engage residents on importance of tree canopy, recruit Tree Keepers
- Document experiences with film, photo, and art
- Attend lectures, field trips, and career talks







 Urban League
Green Streets Initiative 2013

CITY OF NEWARK
ESSEX COUNTY NEW JERSEY
WEST WARD
PART TWO OF TWO
OFFICIAL WARD MAP
2011-2012 (Revised)
AS ESTABLISHED BY
THE NEWARK WARD COMMISSIONERS
Robert P. Marasco
ROBERT P. MARASCO
City Clerk

Newark Green Ladders: Cultivating new urban foresters

With support from the US Forest Service, Newark youth explored career options in urban forestry



Greenstreets Youth Crews Pushed Expectations Higher...



Training & Data Analysis: Roots of Success, GPS mapping technology

Hands-on Projects: Geo-locating and recording status of all cherry trees in historic Branch Brook Park

Career talks: arborists, utility company vegetation manager, urban planner, Newark urban forester, researchers

Field trips: City parks, Watershed, NJ Forest Service, Rutgers

Documentation: Videos, photos, and songs to share with other students!



“How many people in this car have asthma or know someone with asthma? Just about everyone in here.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VhCDMIb7X8>

“Trees are people’s best friends. Not dogs.” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JdZhvxBXAw>

“It makes me feel like I’m important. It makes me feel like I have a say-so in what goes on in my neighborhood.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFcaCa6YOrY>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OUBkeUazCw>

“Pause a moment to consider what would happen if we don’t move past a linear understanding of the life cycle”

- from UVSO Street Team “Extraction Song” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1hKqKekwg0>