

Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign to Replant Trees Lost During Memorial Day 2019 Tornadoes

RETREET, a program of Keep America Beautiful, is partnering with MVRPC on the Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign. The project is a multi-year disaster recovery effort to heal the landscape devastated by the Memorial Day 2019 tornadoes. In addition, RETREET also is spearheading tree debris removal and maintenance efforts for families who need such assistance, especially in anticipation of replanting new trees.

Owners of residential properties in the Miami Valley that were impacted by the tornadoes can visit www.retreet.org/mvvc to complete a simple online form to request that free, native trees be planted for them. Representatives of RETREET and its partners will work with those who submit requests to determine the best planting locations at each home site. The trees will be planted by volunteers during events held throughout the next two years.

These trees, which will serve as powerful symbols of hope, also will reestablish the environmental identity of the Miami Valley, providing shade, energy savings, and a myriad of other environmental and economic benefits for residents, as well as habitat for wildlife. The Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign will be a major environmental and infrastructural investment that will leave a legacy for generations to come.

The projected investment necessary to plant 1,000 or more large native trees in targeted neighborhoods in the Miami Valley over the next 2 years is projected to be at least \$300,000. The Dayton Foundation established the Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign Fund to accept contributions for the campaign, as well as awarded a leadership gift of \$50,000. AES Ohio joins in support of the Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign, pledging a matching grant for all contributions of \$500 or more to the campaign fund at The Dayton Foundation, up to \$50,000.

For more information or to request tree debris removal or replanting, or to donate to the Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign to support tree plantings, please visit www.retreet.org/mvvc.

For more information regarding the RETREET Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign and MVRPC's Disaster Recovery efforts, please contact Elizabeth Baxter at ebaxter@mvrpc.org.



Volunteers planting trees in October 2021