

**Subject: News from the Bob Jones Nature Center**



**PRESS RELEASE FROM THE BOB JONES NATURE CENTER**

**For Immediate Release:**

Bob Jones Nature Center receives grant from national nonprofit Alliance for Community Trees to plant trees at three Carroll ISD elementary school gardens in Southlake.

Contact: Emily Galpin - 817.939.1110

**Bob Jones Nature Center Wins Grant to Grow People's Garden**

Southlake, TX - September 10, 2012 - The Bob Jones Nature Center (BJNC) is pleased to announce it has received a \$2,470 grant from the national nonprofit Alliance for Community Trees to benefit three Southlake Carroll ISD schools. Jack D. Johnson, Old Union, and Rockenbaugh elementary schools all have students in grades K-4 who participate in hands-on gardening activities to help them learn about plants' basic needs and environmental factors affecting their growth. Now, these schools will receive trees to add shade components to their gardens, and the sites will be considered local People's Gardens, part of the nationwide network of gardens supported by the USDA People's Garden Initiative.

The Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees) People's Garden Grant Program is a national initiative launched this year to explore and deepen the connection between trees and urban agriculture. With support from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, ACTrees has provided funding to 30 communities in 21 states to plant trees that produce fruit and nuts or provide shelter to community gardens.

"Trees are critical to healthy people and healthy communities," said ACTrees Executive Director Carrie Gallagher. "We are excited to offer this opportunity to the Bob Jones Nature Center and the three schools to demonstrate locally that trees are an integral part of sustainable community agriculture."

The tree planting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, at Old Union and Rockenbaugh elementary schools and Thursday October 25, at Johnson Elementary. It will be carried out by the BJNC with the help of the Citizen Forester program of the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council. The program gives people an opportunity to become skilled at planting, pruning, and maintaining trees in an urban environment. It also allows them to get involved with local, city and county agencies and help their community care for its public trees.

### **ABOUT THE BOB JONES NATURE CENTER**

The Bob Jones Nature Center (BJNC) is a 501c3 non-profit organization working in association with the City of Southlake at the Bob Jones Nature Center & Preserve (BJNCP), a City of Southlake park facility. The organization is dedicated to the preservation of the Cross Timbers ecosystem and natural resources offering programs and classes for all ages. The BJNCP, located at 355 E. Bob Jones Road in Southlake, is open seven days a week from 7:00am to 8:00pm (during daylight savings time) and is the gateway to miles of equestrian and hiking trails on the Walnut Grove National Recreation Trail. For more information, call 817.939.1110 or e-mail [director@bjnc.org](mailto:director@bjnc.org). The phone number for the facility is 817.491.6333.

### **ABOUT THE ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES**



Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and livability of cities by planting and caring for trees. With over 200 member organizations in 44 states and Canada, ACTrees engages volunteers to take action to improve the environment where 93% of people live: in cities, towns and metropolitan areas. Together ACTrees member organizations have planted and cared for over 15 million trees in cities with help from over 5 million volunteers. For more information, please visit [www.ACTrees.org](http://www.ACTrees.org), follow us on Twitter @alliance4trees, and like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/AllianceforCommunityTrees](https://facebook.com/AllianceforCommunityTrees).

### **ABOUT USDA PEOPLE'S GARDENS**



The USDA People's Gardens Initiative is a national program with the vision that the simple act of planting a garden can help unite neighborhoods in a common effort and inspire locally-led solutions to challenges facing our country - from hunger to the environment. Learn more at [www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden](http://www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden)

### **ABOUT CITIZEN FORESTERS**

Citizen Forester volunteers are committed to helping their community take care of its public trees. Trained to plant, prune and properly maintain trees in an urban environment, Citizen Foresters are involved with many projects, including assisting with tree inventories, training and pruning newly established trees, measuring street trees for clearance, mulching trees in public parks, and participating in public tree planting programs and tree give-away events. The Citizen Forester program is sponsored by the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council. For more information call (817)392-5738 or visit the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council's website, [www.ctufc.org](http://www.ctufc.org). The Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council (CTUFC) is a non-profit organization promoting urban forestry programs, education and awareness in a 17-county region. CTUFC is comprised of members from various backgrounds drawn to the organization because of a love of trees and the role they play in our urban environment.

**Emily Galpin, Executive Director -**  
[director@bjnc.org](mailto:director@bjnc.org)

