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# News

Macomb County Executive  
Mark A. Hackel



## Planning & Economic Development

### *For Immediate Release*

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## **Macomb's Urban Forest partnership takes root in Warren**

A crowd of volunteers gathered today on the north and south sides of 12 Mile Road adjacent to Macomb Community College and Wayne State University's Advanced Technology Education Center in Warren to install new landscaping as part of Macomb County's Green Macomb Initiative and the newly created Urban Forest Partnership.

Welcomed by Macomb Community College President Jim Jacobs, County Executive Mark A. Hackel and SMART Community Ombudsperson Fred Barbret, the group installed 246 plants, shrubs and trees adjacent to bus stops near both campuses.

"This is the beginning of an effort to increase trees in communities along and south of the Clinton River," said Executive Hackel. "These plants are not only aesthetically pleasing, but they also help make these bus stops more user friendly."

Employee volunteers throughout Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' Motor Citizens program were joined by others from Six Rivers Land Conservancy and ReLeaf Michigan to install the plants and trees. Each tree was selected for its ability to tolerate road salt as well as to offer protection from wind and snow effects for those waiting for a bus on the busy corridor. They include a variety of native grasses and wildflowers, fragrant sumac, Eastern redbud and littleleaf lindens.

The project was funded by a grant through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program, and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, State and Private Forestry Program. Matching funds to purchase materials were provided by ITC Holdings. In-kind donations will provide ongoing care for the plants.

The demonstration planting reinforces the message that the "right tree in the right place with the right purpose" can improve much more than the aesthetics of a community. Indeed, trees can help to improve air and water quality, reduce energy costs, elevate feelings of contentment and increase property values.

The Green Macomb initiative was created by the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development to support green infrastructure efforts that strengthen the economic vitality, quality of life and environmental well-being of the region. For more information, visit <http://green.macombgov.org/Green-Home>.

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