



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Patrice Sheehan  
Tree Program Manager  
(302) 658-6262, ext. 112  
[psheehan@dehort.org](mailto:psheehan@dehort.org)

**Contact:**  
Wendy Scott  
Communications Manager  
(302) 658-6262, ext. 104  
[wscott@dehort.org](mailto:wscott@dehort.org)

## Major tree planting effort in Wilmington on Saturday, March 21

*More than 100 volunteers will plant 60 trees  
in Riverview Cemetery and Canby Park*

**WILMINGTON, DE** – The Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) is coordinating the planting of 60 bare root trees in two public spaces in Wilmington on Saturday, March 21. More than 100 volunteers will plant 40 trees at Riverview Cemetery (30<sup>th</sup> & Market Streets) and an additional 20 trees at Canby Park (the green triangle where Lincoln and Union Streets become Kirkwood Highway).

The Riverview planting project is made possible by an Urban and Community Forestry Grant administered by the Delaware Forest Service. Wilmington Rotary Club is sponsoring the bare-root trees for Canby Park as part of “Growing Neighborhoods,” the club’s 2009 service project collaboration with DCH.

DCH is working to build community support for increasing the number of trees in Delaware. In Wilmington, major bare root tree plantings are scheduled twice a year. Bare root trees are lightweight and easy to plant. This spring marks the fifth such planting day. “Volunteers of all ages and skills come back to work at each planting because they enjoy it so much.” said Patrice Sheehan, Tree Program Manager and ISA-certified arborist for DCH. “This is a way to improve the environment, beautify Wilmington and have fun meeting great people.”

*Tree planting activities on March 21 will take place as follows:*

- 9:00 to 11:00 AM – Wilmington Rotary Club members and local residents of the Union Park Gardens neighborhood will plant 20 trees at Canby Park
- 10:00 to 12 noon –Volunteers will plant 40 trees on the East side of Riverview Cemetery.

Located in the heart of northeast Wilmington, Riverview is one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in Delaware. Its sprawling 87 acres hold more than 36,000 graves. Some date back to

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the Civil War and some are as new as last week. The people buried in this public cemetery represent a broad cross section of our region's history, including elected officials and generations of prominent families. A group known as Friends of Historic Riverview Cemetery has been working to rehabilitate the space and recently took ownership of the cemetery.

“We are very pleased to have this opportunity to plant new trees at the Cemetery,” said Board President, Lee Anderson. “Many of the old trees were removed last year by volunteer arborists, and although we still have more dead trees to be removed, it is important for the environment and for the beauty of the area that we replant with good quality trees.”

In addition to community volunteers, Plummer Center inmates will be assisting with the Riverview planting and are scheduled to provide grass cutting throughout the growing season. Kerns Brothers Tree Service is also donating time to water the trees also during the first year.

*Ways that people can help plant more trees in Delaware:*

- Volunteer for future tree plantings – contact Marcia Stephenson, Special Events Coordinator, 302-658-6262, ext. 105 or [mstephenson@dehort.org](mailto:mstephenson@dehort.org).
- Buy your own bare root trees during DCH's next tree sale in September.

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The **Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH)** cultivates greener communities by inspiring appreciation and improvement of the environment through horticulture, education and conservation. Founded in 1977, the Center's site in Wilmington, Delaware includes a 1.5 acre educational demonstration garden, a 3,000 volume lending library, an art gallery, a lecture hall and a greenhouse. DCH supports 15 active community gardens throughout the city of Wilmington; beautifies Delaware's roadsides with native vegetation; maintains the landscaping of many urban gateways and streets; leads regional conservation projects to enhance Delaware's urban forest; and provides educational programs for children, teens, and adults. For more information, visit [dehort.org](http://dehort.org)