

Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH SECTION | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County's Public Works Department Plants Fruit Tree Gardens with Local Students

The end of Spring Break provided a surprise for some Beaufort County students. Beaufort County's Public Works Department, Solid Waste and Recycling Section, received a grant through Keep Beaufort County Beautiful, and partnered with Beaufort County School District staff to identify three schools to receive a fruit tree garden. Each garden was planted with a mixture of eleven different varieties of apple and pear trees.

Trees were planted at James J. Davis Early Childhood Center, St. Helena Elementary and Whale Branch Elementary to provide fresh snacks and to help promote healthy food choices. The tree gardens will also add to the students' environmental studies.

Thirty trees were purchased by Keep Beaufort County Beautiful with funds provided by a Keep America Beautiful/UPS Foundation tree grant. The tree vendor, Ty Ty Nursery, was so impressed with the project that it donated an additional thirty trees, allowing for a total of sixty trees to be planted - twenty at each school. Trees were shipped at "fruit-bearing" size in an effort to bring quick results for the students. The gardens are expected to yield fruit this fall.

The school district provided site preparation. The County's Public Works staff and a volunteer team from Horticulture Management Services enhanced the soils and planted all the trees. Watering will be provided by the students along with school district staff.