



Replant Stone County

Replant Stone County is a grassroots response to a regional initiative whose goal it is to replace 300,000 trees lost in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. We invite everyone in Stone County and the City of Wiggins to join in and help replant Stone County.

Hurricane Katrina destroyed many of the centuries-old oak trees and other coastal heritage trees in our county. Many of us know that restoring our natural heritage is a critical component of rebuilding our communities. Replanting trees is a sign of hope and a symbol of our resiliency.

There are many benefits of urban forests: cooling temperatures, reducing storm water runoff, absorbing carbon dioxide, reducing soil erosion and providing a healthier, more pleasant atmosphere in which to live and work. Trees can reduce wind by 80% and can significantly cut noise and light pollution. In a single year, 1 acre of trees can absorb as much carbon dioxide as is produced by a car driven up to 26,000 miles ("Benefits of Urban Trees," USDA Forest Service 1997). Trees also make urban life healthier by removing gaseous pollutants from the air and by trapping dust, ash, pollen and smoke which can damage our lungs (Ibid.).

How can you participate in Replant Stone County? The Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain has partnered with the Sun Herald, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Other Partners and local communities to create a unique partnership whose purpose is to restore the urban forest of south Mississippi. Specifically, the goal is to plant 300,000 fast-growing, native trees during the next three years. We invite you to become involved in this regional initiative. Take a look at your neighborhood and note areas that need heritage trees along the viewshed. Join us in planning, planting and caring for these new trees made available by Replant South Mississippi partners.

You may pick up an application at City Hall, Stone County Court House, O'Neal-Bond Eng., Inc. or print the form off the Stone County/EDP website. Applications can be returned to any of the above listed places. We will call applicants and let them know when the trees are ready to pick up, which should be on national Arbor Day.

Call Jon Bond at 601-928-7390.