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Beauty Continues to Blossom in Broward County *Commission Awards \$40,000 in Broward Beautiful Grants*

Broward County Commissioners have approved a number of beautification projects that will be funded with Broward Beautiful grants. These grants further Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs' goal of beautifying Broward County during 2005, the "Year of the Environment." Broward Beautiful Community Grants provide financial assistance to qualified public entities, neighborhoods, schools and other not-for-profit organizations to improve and enhance landscaping throughout Broward County.

"It's programs like these that allow us to make big progress in improving Broward County's environment," said Mayor Jacobs. "The Broward Beautiful grants help fund programs that are designed to improve and enhance small areas and entire neighborhoods. More and more applications are coming in for these grants, and as a result, more projects are being funded."

The School Board of Broward County received a grant in the amount of \$500 for a butterfly garden at the Somerset Academy Charter School (20801 Johnson Street, Pembroke Pines). These funds were awarded under the Broward Beautiful Butterfly Garden program, which is designed to encourage the planting of native and butterfly gardens throughout Broward County.

The Ocean Watch Foundation, Inc. was awarded a Special Project grant for \$10,000 for the 17th Annual Broward Beautiful Reef Sweep & Beach Clean-up. The Special Projects program provides funding for beautification, litter control, educational, and ecological projects, events and programs. The Broward Beautiful Reef Sweep & Beach Clean-up will deliver a significant community service by engaging hundreds of volunteers to remove debris from our reefs and beaches.

The final grant awarded was given jointly by the Broward Beautiful Committee and the Tree Preservation Trust Fund to the Kids Ecology Corps/Partners in Action, Inc. for the "Kids Care about Our Trees" project. This grant, for \$29,160, is to be used for both under-story and canopy trees. The "Kids Care about Our Trees" project will engage students in planning, planting and caring for demonstration forest eco-systems at two school campuses, Cypress Bay High School in Weston (18600 Vista Park Blvd.) and the Broward Community College North Campus in Coconut Creek (1000 Coconut Creek Blvd.). In addition, the project will add canopy trees to the county and provide hands-on urban forestry education to the students.

For more information on upcoming grant opportunities, please contact Lorraine Bertone at 954-519-0326, or go online to www.broward.org/dpep and click on "Broward Beautiful."

On Wednesday, May 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Broward Beautiful Program will host its Ninth Annual Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon at Volunteer Park (12050 W. Sunrise Blvd., Plantation). Mayor Jacobs will present awards recognizing commercial establishments, office buildings, public buildings, parks and historic properties for their outstanding landscape designs and maintenance programs. This important event is held each year to honor businesses that have made great strides in contributing to the beautification of Broward County and not-for-profit organizations that have successfully completed Community Grant projects that add to the natural beauty of Broward County.

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