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## A greenway revival

### Volunteers replace trees downed by tornado

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Though she's not from Murfreesboro, Nell Pisano wanted to join the tree-planting volunteers to replace what the Good Friday tornado destroyed along the city's Stones River Greenway.

"I love to walk up and down the greenway," said Pisano, a Smyrna resident who was part of the Friday morning tree planting volunteers. "The devastation down here was awful. I didn't get to help with the clean up before, but at least this I can do."

Pisano was among the 75 volunteers to drop by the greenway's Thompson Lane Trailhead. About 200 volunteers are expected to be part of the 9 a.m. to noon shift today and 100 more will be there from 1 to 4 p.m., said Angela Jackson, the greenways and wetlands program coordinator for the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department.

"We're looking to help erosion control and river quality as well as the aesthetic look of the greenway — the natural look," Jackson said.

The volunteers are planting 5,000 to 6,000 younger native trees, 75 larger trees and 50 native shrubs.

The Tennessee Environmental Council donated \$1,000 worth of trees, Jackson said. Funds from the city's Water and Sewer Department's storm water fees, as well as from Urban and Environmental tree fund is also paying for the project.

The labor, of course, comes from volunteers, such Andrew Owusu, an associate professor for MTSU's Health and Human Performance Department.

"We use the greenway," Owusu said while digging a hole for a tree. "I think it makes sense to come support the greenway."

MTSU student Levon Emmons agreed.

"I enjoy physical labor and being in the great outdoors," said Emmons, a junior plant science major.

Murfreesboro City Councilman Doug Young also volunteered on Friday.

"I'm a tree hugger," Young quipped. "All of the city departments have helped. It's been a group effort by the city."

In addition to the tree planters, the event included free food and beverage serving volunteers organized by Rhonda Foley, Sissy Follis and Virginia Huddleston.

They reside in the Riverview Drive neighborhood on the other side of the river and lost hundreds of trees to the tornado on their own properties, Follis said.

"Some of the trees were 150 years old," said Follis, noting how she couldn't see the greenway or Thompson Lane from her home until the April 10 tornado.

"Many of the volunteers walk the greenway, and we were all affected by this," Follis said. "It's certainly a wonderful thing for us and wonderful of the volunteers of the community to plant these new trees. We decided to show our appreciation. That was the least we could do."

Much of the food was donated.

"Neighbors baked muffins and made hot cider," Follis said.

Murfreesboro Pure Milk provided many of the beverages. Others donating included: McDonald's, coffee; Bojangles, sausage biscuits; Kroger, \$25 gift certificate for the paper products; and Dooley's, the donuts.

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