

Volunteer to spruce up 2 neighborhoods

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Volunteers will plant 300 trees in two Rochester neighborhoods on Saturday.

The event is part of NeighborWoods, a partnership project of several private and public organizations.

Trees will be planted in boulevards in the Kingsbury and Rose Harbor subdivisions. Kingsbury is in northwest Rochester; Rose Harbor is southeast.

Volunteers will report at 8 a.m. and be assigned to teams led by trained citizen-foresters. They'll plant trees including sugar and red maples, honey locusts, hackberrys and elm hybrids that are resistant to Dutch elm disease.

The various species were chosen in accordance with new diversity guidelines, intended to prevent large-scale tree loss, as happened in Rochester in 2004, when nearly 1,000 elm trees were removed after being stricken with Dutch elm.

The trees were purchased using \$6,000 grants from the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund and First Homes. Homeowners who benefit will contribute \$10 per tree.

Other program partners include RNeighbors, the Rochester Park and Recreation Department, Rochester Public Utilities, and Maier Forest and Tree Co.