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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Funds Available to Plant Community Trees in Boston

BOSTON, MA, September 15, 2011 – The **Grow Boston Greener (GBG)** program is announcing a competitive mini-grant opportunity, that provides \$500 - \$2,500 of funding for tree plantings in neighborhoods throughout Boston. Trees must be planted in the City of Boston, with volunteers, on public property or privately held publicly accessible areas such as schools, parks, greenways, gardens, grounds of health and social service agencies, and in projects of community development corporations.

The application deadline for the grant program is **October 3, 2011**. There will be a GBG briefing session on September 22 from 6pm–7pm to help applicants plan their projects and answer questions. The meeting will be held at the office of Boston Natural Areas Network, 62 Summer St, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02110. Please RSVP at 617-542-7696, ext 20.

The **Grow Boston Greener** program was launched on Arbor Day, April 30, 2007. An inventory of the City's trees shows that Boston had an overall tree canopy cover of 29%. The GBG vision is to plant an additional 100,000 trees by 2020 to increase the urban tree canopy to 35% and make Boston a cooler, cleaner, healthier city. The goals of GBG are to increase tree canopy, mitigate heat island effect, reduce energy consumption, improve air quality and improve storm water management. GBG focuses not only on planting trees, but also on the community-based stewardship activities necessary to ensure the trees' survival. Boston Natural Areas Network manages the GBG program in partnership with the City of Boston. Funding for the GBG program is provided by the support of corporate and philanthropic donors through the Fund for Parks and Recreation in Boston.

Applicants must be non-profit organizations with 501(c)3 status and their partners, such as community gardeners, friends of parks, schools and library groups, civic and neighborhood associations. Organizations without tax-exempt status can apply with a 501(c)3 organization serving as the fiscal agent. To apply, complete and submit a GBG application form, a property owner consent form and a signed watering agreement **by October 3, 2011**. Site visits for all applications will be conducted from October 4- 14. Applicants will be notified of decisions on October 17, 2011. Trees need to be planted by December 15, 2011. For more information visit the GBG web site at www.growbostongreener.org or call BNAN's Boston Urban Forestry **Program** Coordinator at 617-542-7686 ext 20

Boston Natural Areas Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together local residents, partner organizations, public officials and foundations to preserve, expand and enhance urban open space, including community gardens, greenways and urban wilds. For further information about the organization, becoming a member or the calendar of events, visit www.bostonnatural.org, or call 617-542-7696.

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