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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Thomas Menino and Boston Natural Areas Network Announce 2011 Grow Boston Greener Grants

BOSTON, MA – November 14, 2011 The **Grow Boston Greener(GBG)** program has recently awarded 8 grants totaling \$18,500 to plant over 50 trees in neighborhoods across Boston. The fall grant cycle awarded grants of up to \$2,500 to the following recipients: Affordable Housing & Services Collaborative, Inc., Charles River Watershed Association, Friends of Young Achievers, Greening Rozzie, Mishawum Park Tenants Association, Presentation School Foundation, Inc., Southie Trees & South Boston Neighborhood Development Corp., and West Broadway Neighborhood Association. These organizations are now busy planting trees throughout the city. The funding is part of a mini-grant program administered by Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN) in partnership with the City of Boston. Funding for the GBG program is provided by the City of Boston's Fund for Parks and Recreation.

"I am so pleased with the progress we are making to plant trees throughout the neighborhoods of Boston. With leadership from the Boston Natural Areas Network we are beautifying our city one tree at a time. The program is a wonderful example of how much can be accomplished when the public and non-profit sectors work together to engage citizens in projects which benefit everyone," said Mayor Menino.

BNAN President, Valerie Burns was grateful for the hard work of local volunteers and support from the city, "Congratulations to all the recipients for working to make their neighborhoods greener, healthier and more beautiful with the new trees. And our thanks to Mayor Menino and his team for making the resources available for resident tree lovers."

The Grow Boston Greener program was launched on Arbor Day, April 30, 2007. An inventory of the City's trees showed 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. At the same time, the initiative will make Boston a safer, stronger city by providing beautiful spaces for visitors, families and neighbors to gather. GBG, along with the newly formed Boston Urban Forest Council focuses not only on the promotion and planting of trees, but also on the community-based stewardship activities necessary to ensure the trees' survival. This effort is a collaboration between Boston Natural Areas Network, the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the U.S. Forest Service.

Visit www.growbostongreener.org to learn more about planting trees in Boston and to find upcoming information on the spring 2012 grant round.

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 more 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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