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**For Immediate Release**

**Announcing 2019 DEQ Environmental Beautification Grant Winners**

*Eight Winners located across Oklahoma*

Oklahoma City, Okla. - Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) together with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has announced 2019 Environmental Beautification Grant recipients totaling up to $23,000 to eight KOB affiliates.

"Keep Oklahoma Beautiful is thankful to our sponsoring agency DEQ for making these grants possible to our affiliate network,” Jeanette Nance, Executive Director, KOB said. “We appreciate the good works of our partnering communities and the ability to fund such worthwhile projects is key to keeping Oklahoma a beautiful, healthy, sustainable place to live and thrive."

KOB Environmental Beautification grants are awarded through an application process open to KOB affiliates who propose environmental beatification projects to be completed within six months.

The City of Comanche is looking to clean up the west shoreline at Comanche Lake, a section that is often used for recreation. This adjoins their golf course, hosts two fishing docks, a boat ramp, and a boat dock. This project would be a partnership between The City of Comanche, Stephens County and volunteers.

Up With Trees partnering with HYPE (Hispanic young Professionals and Entrepreneurs) and St. Thomas More Catholic Church to provide a community orchard and Environmental Education in East Tulsa. They are naming this project *East Tulsa Community Orchard Project.*

Tree Bank Foundation will be using their grant funds to complete the next phase in their project to renew the canopy on Keystone Adventure School’s grounds. This phase includes 15 oak trees - 7 burr, 6 chinquapin, and 2 shumard.

Pride in McAlester will be purchasing and planting 15 dogwood trees to plant along streets and public property.

Earth Rebirth set a goal in 2013 to provide a garden for every Norman School. With the help of this grant, they will now be able to provide the final 9 schools with a community garden.

“We did it! With the help of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful’s Environmental Beautification grant, we were able to exceed our goal to finish building gardens for the remaining schools in Norman that do not have one.” Andrew Sartain, president of Earth Rebirth expresses in their newsletter.

Phoenix Circle Foundation plans to build and establish a vegetable garden that will be a hands-on teaching tool for their community to learn how to grow fresh nutritious produce in a small space as well as the importance of nutritious food and exercise for good health and wellness as well as many other valuable tools.

Okeene Historic Preservation Group is expanding their recycling outreach by using their funds to purchase recycle bin.

The Ardmore Beautification Council will be using their funds for multiple projects. The first will be for the purchase of additional litter clean up tools, while the second will provide funding for their annual *Earth First Exposition*.

KOB currently has grants available for any Oklahoma organization interested in participating in the Great American Cleanup thanks to the generous donation from Oklahoma Gas and Electric, and P&K Equipment. For more information or to apply for these grants visit www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com.

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