

Willimantic tree initiative gets some help

ANTHONY ZEPPERI

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WILLIMANTIC — A tree-planting initiative in the Thread City recently received a fiscal boost, according to a Sustainable CT release issued through Eastern Connecticut State University.

Sustainable CT, which is based out of ECSU, has matched cash for a total of \$57,550 for Connecticut community projects, with Willimantic being one of the communities benefiting, according to the release issued Tuesday.

Willimantic received \$26,000 of that match for planting native trees.

A Windham neighborhood group, “325 Trees and Shrubs,” raised \$13,000 and \$13,000 from the Sustainable CT match to plant multiple native tree and

bush species in public spaces around the town, according to the press release.

The campaign, which is crowd-funded, got 60 donations ranging from \$10,000 to \$3,000.

Its goal is to make public parks and sports fields environmentally friendly while choosing plant species appropriate for each area of the town.

Planting is confirmed to start in September and October this year.

Organizations in seven different state municipalities recently received funding from what is called the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund to help kickstart various local projects.

The Sustainable CT Community Match Fund was able to double the funds for the towns based on a dol-

lar-for-dollar basis.

It was created with help from the Institute for Sustainable Energy at ECSU with the goal of helping communities become much more sustainable, according to the press release.

“Through the Community Match Fund, we aim to put residents at the forefront of creating positive, impactful change,” said Sustainable CT Community Outreach Manager Hilding-Salorio.

Other towns receiving funding include a youth program in New Haven, a way-finding System in Thompson, outdoor classrooms in Bristol schools, new trees in West Hartford, community gardens in New London and a new composting program for Greenwich schools.