

RENEWAL



A POAH CHICAGO NEWSLETTER

Greenwood Park Apartments is “Green Again”

In early October, residents from the Greenwood Park Apartments and the Kenwood community joined volunteers from Openlands, a local conservation organization committed to protecting natural spaces, to plant dozens of new trees which replaced ones decimated by the Emerald Ash Borer.

The tree planting in open spaces at Greenwood Park Apartments where the once healthy Ash trees were removed in 2016 was the finishing touch on the renovation of the 46-year old, low-rise affordable rental apartment complex – the first substantial renovation in the buildings’ history. In addition to enlisting volunteers, [Openlands](#) provided the trees, tools, mulch and training.

POAH acquired the 122-unit Greenwood Park Apartments just blocks from the Obama Residence in 2016 to ensure long-term access to quality affordable housing for working families and individuals in the affluent Kenwood neighborhood. Since then it has invested more than \$12 million for improvements and updates to the apartment complex. The completed renovations include the installation of new kitchens with energy-efficient appliances, new baths and HVAC systems. POAH also replaced all its roofs and windows and undertook major structural repairs across all 15 buildings.

“Everything was well organized, and I was proud to participate in beautifying my community and learn how to plant trees, which I will never forget,” said resident Steve Haire.

“Studies show that residents with nearby trees and natural landscapes reported 56 percent fewer crimes than buildings with low amounts of trees and vegetation,” said POAH Senior Vice President, Bill Eager. An enhanced natural landscape designed to deter and reduce crime in comparable plant-less spaces is an essential component to the renovation and maintenance of all POAH’s properties.

