Partners in Progress with

The City of Porterville is one of 17 organizations statewide selected to receive funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act administered by California ReLeaf. The City's Parks and Leisure Services is responsible for managing the Porterville Heritage Center Trailway which provides an alternative transportation and pedestrian link from an economically disadvantaged neighborhood to the commercial core of the city.

The $100,000 grant for Porterville's Heritage Center Trailway Project and Urban Tree Planting and Youth Tree Care Program allowed this Tulare County-based local agency to design, install, irrigate and maintain about 170 trees along the trailway, providing shade in the summer heat and a pleasant environment for trailway users.

The grant also allowed the City of Porterville to prune about 350 existing public urban forest trees, removing mistletoe and shaping the trees.

Formerly a railroad right-of-way, the city has spent about 10 years and $4 million in block grants, economic stimulus funds and other grants renovating the site, which now includes parking and picnic areas, a community center and an elementary school.

The extension has provided an alternative transportation and pedestrian linkage from an economically disadvantaged residential neighborhood into the commercial core of the City. Additionally, adjacent to the extension, is the construction for the new South County Justice Center. The City is looking forward to the new courthouse, and the Heritage Center Trailway Extension provides an excellent amenity for the public draw the courthouse will bring.

Fast Facts for the City of Porterville ARRA Grant

Jobs Maintained: 2

Trees Planted: 168 **Trees Maintained: 358**

Job Hours Contributed to California Work Force: 916

Lasting legacy: this project completed a decade-long vision held by the City that a well-shaded and environmentally healthy trailway enhances recreational opportunities while also creating a healthier, cleaner, and more livable environment for Porterville residents and visitors.

"The Heritage Center Trailway is a tremendous resource for Porterville residents. This project is a much-needed compliment to the City's 13,000-tree urban forest." -- Milt Stowe, Director of Parks and Leisure Services, City of Porterville.