TD Green Streets enabled the Urban Resources Initiative (URI) to work with volunteers to replant a public park on Cherry Ann Street with 25 native tree species. The work at the park was completed as part of URI’s Greenspace Program with the help of high school interns from URI’s GreenSkills program, a paid green job training program which trains groups of at-risk high school students and formerly incarcerated adults in tree planting.

“There was no safe place for children to play in the Cherry Ann neighborhood, and the vacant 5-acre parcel had become a dumping ground and safety hazard. Children were forced to play in the streets, which was unsafe due to traffic and extremely hot summers. TD Green Streets funding allowed the community to become highly invested in the creation of this park. The kids love the park and no longer have to play in the street. They always turn out for our volunteer work days and don’t hesitate to comment on how to improve the space even more. Residents have learned about how to plant and care for trees, and the neighborhood has become more connected to New Haven organizations and nearby schools. The park has created a common space for community members to connect and work together.”

—Connie Vereen
Resident of Cherry Ann Street