

The Reclamation Project

Urban Reforestation



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The Reclamation Project is a participatory eco-art project aimed at rebuilding our native tree canopy one yard at a time. Xavier Cortada developed this urban reforestation effort to engage local residents in helping restore native habitats for plants and animals.

The Reclamation Project encourages residents to plant a native tree and green flag in their front yard and then encourage their neighbors to do the same. The project website allows participants to upload pictures and learn more about conservation.



Rebuilding our native tree canopy...
one neighbor at a time

How the Reclamation Project Works

1) Plant this native tree in your front lawn alongside the green project flag and state:

"I hereby reclaim this land for nature."

2) Take a photo of the tree and flag and upload it to our website **www.reclamationproject.net**

3) Ask your neighbor to do the same.

As the tree grows, their interest in protecting the environment should also grow.



Reclamation Project Contract

Name of Participant: _____

(School: _____ Grade: _____)

Home address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Thank you for collaborating in this participatory eco-art project. By participating in the project, you promise to plant the native tree and the green flag in your front yard, take a picture and upload it to www.reclamationproject.net. You also agree to release all rights to Xavier Cortada, thereby allowing the artist to use the images, information provided by you in any way he deems fit.

Participant signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent (if student) signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Parent name: _____
(if under 18, must be signed by parent or guardian)

Planting and Caring for your Native Tree

Improper planting and a lack of watering and post-planting maintenance are the primary reasons why newly planted trees perish. Pay attention to the following tips (especially watering during the first few weeks!) and your native tree should provide enjoyment for years to come.

1. Placement: Choose a planting spot that is mostly sunny and large enough for the mature tree. It should be free of overhead wires and branches from other trees and away from septic systems.

2. Planting: Dig a hole to the depth of the root ball. Do not add any soil amendments or fertilizer. While near the hole carefully remove the tree from the pot. Examine the roots, and, if they are wrapped around the root ball, loosen some of the exterior ones. Plant with the top of the root ball level with the surrounding soil. Use the extra soil to make a saucer to help hold water.

3. Mulch: Add 2-3" of organic mulch from the outer edge of the saucer to the edge of the root ball. Do not allow mulch to remain against the trunk as this can cause the bark to rot.

4. Watering: Water into the saucer every day for two weeks, then every other day for two weeks. Thereafter, water twice per week if there is no substantial rainfall. After one year the tree should be well established and require no supplemental watering unless there is a serious drought.

5. Enjoy: Affectionately check the tree once in a while to make sure it is OK and take any needed action e.g. protection, watering, etc. This kind of attention will reward you with many years of shade, beauty, and wildlife viewing.



"I hereby reclaim this land for nature"



Xavier Cortada develops participatory eco-art projects aimed at restoring native habitats for plants and animals in coastal communities. In 2006, he implemented the Reclamation Project to engage residents in the coastal and urban reforestation. Cortada also created art installations in the North Pole (2008) and South Pole (2007) to address environmental issues at every point in between. Cortada has created art for the White House, the World Bank, the Florida Supreme Court, Miami City Hall, Miami-Dade County Hall, the Frost Art Museum, the Miami Art Museum, and the Museum of Florida History.

For more information visit www.cortada.com.

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www.reclamationproject.net