

PLANET DOS 2014 spurs 90 project completions

Type #PLANETDOS into your Facebook or Twitter search bar and you'll see evidence the Green Industry was busy on Earth Day, April 22.

Off screen, the evidence was in the form of around 90 projects completed in 24 states at an estimated value of \$400,000 as part of the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Day of Service (DOS) 2014.

An initiative that encourages landscape professionals to plan, organize and do volunteer projects that benefit their communities on Earth Day, DOS 2014 drew 2,200 volunteers in its fifth year.

A couple of highlights include the following projects.

For the children

GrowinGreen, based in Kernersville, N.C., provided landscape maintenance support to Victory Junction Gang Camp, a free camp for children with serious illnesses.

HighGrove Partners of Austell, Ga., completed a landscaping project at the Special Needs Schools of Gwinnett.

LawnAmerica, based in Tulsa, Okla., along with G&G Lawn & Landscape installed new landscaping at Will Rogers High School, of which LawnAmerica Owner Brad Johnson is an alumnus.

"The old school recently enjoyed some renovations," Johnson wrote in a blog post on the project. "We wanted to do our part in renovating a somewhat bare landscape in front of the building."

A helping hand to nonprofits

New Milford, Conn.-based YardApes tackled multiple projects, including repairing walkways and a patio for H.O.R.S.E. of Connecticut, a nonprofit facility for abused and neglected horses. It also did spring cleanups for three homeowners and touched up the grounds at Northville Bap-



tist Church and the New Milford Bulls football and cheerleading field.

Landscape Management got its hands dirty, too, pairing up with Schill Grounds Management to work on McGregor, a nonprofit assisted living and retirement facility in Cleveland. (Visit buff.ly/1n2LkNX for more on the project.)

The National Hispanic Landscape Alliance (NHLA) and member companies provided a landscaping makeover to Good Shepherd Housing Foundation, a nonprofit housing facility for those who struggle with mental illness.

"The NHLA is proud our members are taking this opportunity to help an organization that cares for the often marginalized and underserved of our society by donating the manpower, equipment and plant material for this much-needed project," said Raul Berrios, NHLA president.

Giving back to those who gave

Sposato Landscape Co. of Milton, Del., did landscaping for the Home of the Brave, a vacation facility for families of combat veterans. Additionally, it worked in the garden at Just Soup Ministry.



Photos of DOS projects, volunteers from Inside Out Design (left), Environmental Enhancements (center) and YardApes (right).



Also helping the armed forces was Professional Grounds, located in Lorton, Va. The company spruced up the property of a wounded veteran who served in Afghanistan in 2011 and was diagnosed with cancer.

Turf Appeal, based in Oklahoma City, joined forces with Balfour Beatty Communities, Full Circle Tree Service and John Deere Landscapes to work on Fort Sill National Memorial Cemetery. The group relandscaped the visitor's center and repaired trees and plants damaged by ice storms.

"We appreciate this opportunity to give back to those who have fallen for our freedom," Matt Doerr, president of Turf Appeal, wrote in the project description. He added it's the firm's fourth year to revamp the cemetery as part of DOS. "After year six, we will have completely refurbished one of our most sacred grounds in Oklahoma."

For a full listing of DOS projects, visit PLANETDayofService.org.