Abstract
Since 2006 a grassroots movement called ReTree Western New York, with whom the UB Undergraduate Academy for Civic Engagement has previously partnered, has planted some 26,358 new trees of its original 30,000 tree goal. The time is right for strategic neighborhood efforts to further enhance its efforts. The University Heights Collaborative, organizing various University Heights block clubs and enabled by the University Heights Tool Library, has already planted over 100 trees in the Heights since 2012. Now they are recruiting partners for a district-wide “ReTree the District” project which aims, in its first phase, to plant 250 additional new trees in November, 2014.

A mature tree canopy contributes major benefits to a neighborhood such as noise abatement, improved air quality, storm-water runoff mitigation, reductions in crime, increased property values, and sheer beauty. In these ways Buffalo’s renewed reputation as a “City of Trees” will enhance its reputation as the “City of Good Neighbors.”

Problem statement
The city of Buffalo has experienced significant urban tree loss due to Dutch Elm disease in the 1970 and the ‘October Surprise’ storm in 2006. Western New York has actively responded to these losses with the activities of Retree WNY, community associations, and neighborhood groups.

The University District in the City of Buffalo is an area of WNY that has suffered extensive tree loss without replacement. A district-wide reforestation project would provide important opportunities for community building in the neighborhood that often suffers the negative effects of neighborhood anonymity, media stereotypes and concentrated poverty.