



Did you know that the City of Fort Worth Park & Recreation Department gives away free trees?

The **Neighborhood Tree Planting Program**, operated by the **Forestry Section**, helps to reduce summer temperatures and storm water runoff, improve air quality, beautify neighborhoods and increase property values. The program provides **free 5-gallon trees** to be planted within the parkway or 20' of the edge of the roadway, whichever is greater, when neighborhood groups sign up 25-75 residents. All participants need to do is plant the trees, or arrange for volunteers to help, and water the newly planted street trees until established.

For more information, visit:

www.fortworthtexas.gov/forestry



Or contact:

Hannah Johnson
817-392-7452

hannah.johnson@fortworthtexas.gov



Neighborhood Tree Planting Program



An Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Neighborhood Tree Planting Program. Trees are an important resource in a growing community like ours. Trees perform important vital functions such as filtering pollution from our air and in turn, producing oxygen while storing carbon. They also help prevent and mitigate flooding and erosion. Many trees provide harvestable products such as oils, fruits, nuts, wood, paper and other useful items. Wildlife of all kinds including mammals, birds, insects and micro-organisms use trees for food and shelter.

Many economic and social benefits may be derived from trees as well. Their presence can increase property value, stimulate economic development, reduce incidents of crime, reduce stress and create a sense of place. We enjoy their shade and cooling effects and trees even help us save energy! Trees also soften the harsh lines of buildings, provide privacy and help buffer noise and wind.

Now that you know some of the many benefits of trees, we hope you'll consider helping to coordinate a tree planting event for your neighborhood. The following pages contain more information about the program. In addition, you may be interested in some of the contacts and resources below.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 817-392-7452 or hannah.johnson@fortworthtexas.gov

Sincerely,

Hannah Johnson, Natural Scientist Supervisor









Useful Contacts

Fort Worth Park & Recreation Department.....	817-392-5700
https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/parks	
Forestry Section (to report dead, damaged, or trees needing work on public property).....	817-392-5738
https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/parks/services/forestry	
Neighborhood Tree Planting Program.....	817-392-7452
Tree Grant Program (large container/ B&B trees).....	817-392-7452
Fort Worth Botanic Garden.....	817-463-4160
Texas A&M Forest Service, Regional Urban Forester.....	817-531-3119
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (Tarrant County).....	817-884-1944
https://tarrant-tx.tamu.edu/	
Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council / Citizen Foresters Program	
http://www.ctufc.org	

Neighborhood Tree Planting Program



Here's how the program works:

	<p>Trees are provided free of charge. They can be planted up to 20' from the edge of the street. In most cases, this means they can be planted in your front yard! Trees for the program are native or adapted species in 3 or 5 gallon pots. They average 4'-6' tall once planted.</p>
	<p>Identify a coordinator for your neighborhood. This person serves as the link between Forestry and participating residents. Block captains may be helpful for the coordinator if your group is especially large.</p>
	<p>Spread the word about the program to the rest of the neighborhood. Going door-to-door, using social media, HOA newsletters and group meetings are all great ways to promote the planting project. Ask the Forester if you need help with articles, flyers or a presentation.</p>
	<p>Request a copy of the current sign-up sheet. It will contain a section for residents to rank their preferred species. The number of trees provided is based on available space and will be determined by Forestry. Links for online sign-ups can be requested from the Forester—they make signing up effortless.</p>
	<p>Turn in your sign-up sheets to the Forester and schedule a delivery date. There may be a waiting list so the earlier the better. Fall is the best time to plant and usually has the shortest waiting period. Forestry will deliver the trees to one designated site in the neighborhood (often the Coordinator's backyard) for distribution by the Coordinator.</p>
	<p>Delivery day! Forestry will deliver all the trees and ensure that they are grouped and labeled by species. Planting instructions and paper copies of the distribution list will be provided to the coordinator at delivery and are also available electronically.</p>
	<p>Time to plant! Many groups use the day after delivery as a chance to distribute trees and mingle with neighbors. Recruit volunteers to assist those who are unable to plant the trees themselves. Gather marking flags and empty containers for reuse by the City. Call 811 before digging to locate any buried lines.</p>
	<p>Once properly planted, ensure that everyone's hard work pays off. Keep your trees well-watered for the first 2 years, maintain an adequate mulch layer, limit any pruning to an absolute minimum and keep weed-eaters away from tender trunks.</p>

**Contact: Hannah Johnson, Natural Scientist Supervisor
817-392-7452 or hannah.johnson@fortworthtexas.gov**

FAQs — Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are we using City resources to plant trees?

A: *The trees provided by the Forestry Section are grown using gas well fund interest, fees from illegal tree removals, grant dollars and donated funds. Trees are a tremendously valuable asset to the City, contributing millions of dollars in benefits relating to: storm water runoff, air and water quality, urban heat island effect and property values. Community Tree Planting is not a part of the “general fund” and thus is not supported by tax dollars.*

Q: Who plants the trees?

A: *Each neighborhood is responsible for planting their own trees, which typically means that each homeowner plants the trees designated for their home. The trees provided are in 5-gallon containers, which is a very manageable size to plant. The size of hole required for a 5-gallon tree is, on average, less than a foot deep and about 2 feet wide. Volunteers may be recruited by the neighborhood group to assist with planting.*

Q: Aren't the trees required to be planted in the parkway (between sidewalk and curb)?

A: *Not anymore! In 2019, the policy was changed to allow for trees to be planted “in the parkway or within 20’ of the edge of street, whichever is greater”. While the trees may be planted within the parkway, in most cases you are now able to actually plant the trees in your front yard.*

Q: How much water does my tree need?

A: *Typically, a 5-gallon tree will require an average of four to five gallons of water per week. The water should be applied slowly and deeply. During the hottest and driest summer months, watering twice a week may be necessary.*

Q: I have a sprinkler system that covers the parkway, too. Won't that be sufficient?

A: *Trees should not be watered as often as the lawn. It is best to hand water or slowly soak the trees which encourages a deeper, stronger root system.*

Q: Should I fertilize my tree?

A: *Trees provided by the Neighborhood Tree Planting Program are native or adapted to our soils and climate and do not need to be fertilized.*

Q: Why do some homes receive only 1 tree while others receive 2 or more?

A: *Many times, objects such as water meter boxes, light poles, mailboxes, drain cleanouts or other plants and trees make it impossible for a new tree to be installed. In some cases, safety and visibility requirements restrict trees in certain locations. Appropriate, plantable space will determine how many trees may be provided.*

Q: How will I know if there are buried utility lines in the parkway?

A: *In most cases, any buried lines are well below the depth that the tree is planted. However, homeowners can dial 811 or visit www.texas811.org for a free utility locating service. Their representatives can come out and mark where any gas or electric lines are buried. Please note that 811 does not mark for water or sprinkler lines.*

Neighborhood Tree Planting Program



How to Plant a Tree

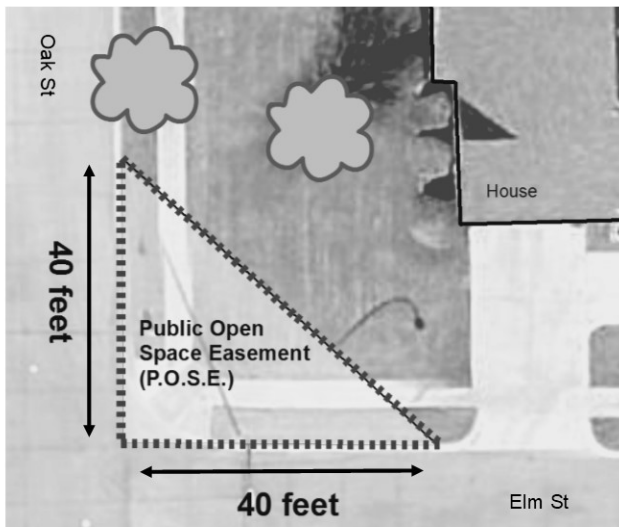
Dig a hole	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make your hole at least twice as wide as the root ball, but no deeper. A little shallow is better than too deep. Proper depth is critical to a healthy tree.• Roughen-up the sides of the hole. Clay soils “glaze” easily; take a few minutes and chop up any smooth walls in the hole to help the roots get established.
Remove the container	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lay the tree over and gently hit the sides of the container to loosen the root ball.• Slip the root ball from the container or roll the container away from the root ball.• Try to avoid yanking the tree out of the pot or using the trunk as a carrying handle.
Loosen the roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roughen-up the sides of the root ball and trim or spread out any circling roots you may find, especially at the bottom of the root ball.• The root ball should be “shaggy”, but you don’t need to try and pull out every root.
Place the tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pick the tree up by the root ball (not the trunk) and place it in the hole. If the root ball is too heavy, try rolling it into the hole.• Check your depth and add soil under the roots as needed to bring the top of the root ball level with or slightly higher (1”-2”) than the undisturbed soil.• Make sure the overall shape of the tree is upright. Check the tree from multiple sides.
Backfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the same soil that you removed from the hole. Adding amendments (compost, sand, etc.) will discourage the roots from spreading into the surrounding soil.• Tamp or firm the soil as you go. The goal is to eliminate air pockets, but not compact the soil. It should be firm, not hard.• Watering as you backfill can help eliminate large air pockets and firm up the soil while ensuring the roots are well watered.• A small amount of soil should be left after backfilling. Use this to create a soil ring or “moat” around the outer edge of the original hole. This will help hold moisture around the root system while the tree is getting established. Resist the urge to spread the soil over the top of the root ball or against the trunk of the tree.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thoroughly soak the roots and surrounding soil. Water slowly and deeply to ensure even moisture. A proper soil ring will hold the water where it needs to be.• Firm up any areas that may appear to be “boiling” (large bubbles at the surface).
Mulch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add a 2”-4” thick layer of mulch to the top of the soil, including your soil ring. Keep the mulch off of the trunk and in an even layer (no mulch volcanoes). Water now if you have not already done so (it also helps hold the mulch in place).
Pruning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove any dead or damaged limbs or co-dominant leaders.• Cut limbs back to the next largest branch (avoid stub cuts).• Avoid pruning lower limbs for the first few years. They help your tree to thicken up.
Staking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stake loosely on 2-3 sides and only if necessary. A tree will be stronger without it.• If staked, remove within a year to prevent damage to the trunk of the tree.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water 1-2 times a week for the first couple of years (until established), applying about 7 gallons per caliper inch (most 5-gallon trees will take 4-5 gallons of water per week).• Remember to water slowly and deeply. A deep, vast root system is the goal.• Maintain a 2”-4” layer of mulch and keep it off the trunk.• Keep weed-eaters and mowers away from the trunk. Don’t let your hard work go to waste.

Neighborhood Tree Planting Program



Guidelines for Landscaping in Parkway (City Code & Guidelines)

Public Open Space Easement (P.O.S.E.)



A 40-foot by 40-foot triangular public open space easement is required on corner lots at the intersection of two streets. A 15-foot by 15-foot triangular public open space of easement is required on corner lots at the intersection of an alley and a street. In addition, at the intersection of a driveway or turnout section and a dedicated alley, a 10-foot by 10-foot triangular open space easement is to be provided on each side at the driveway or turnout at the time the driveway and/or alley is constructed. Measurements are made from the face of curb or equivalent area.

No structure, object, or plant of any type may obstruct vision from a height of 24-inches to a height of 11 feet above the top of the curb, including, but not limited to buildings, fences, walks, signs, trees, shrubs, cars, trucks, etc., in the public open space easement as shown on the illustration.

- A medium or large tree shall be planted a minimum of 2 feet from the face of the curb, sidewalk, or other structure.
- A small tree or shrub shall be planted a minimum of 1.5 feet from the face of the curb, sidewalk, or other structure.
- A minimum planting area of 3 feet must be available between back of curb and sidewalk to plant any small tree or large shrub and a minimum of 4 feet to plant large trees.
- Trees must be placed a minimum of 10' from street lights and storm drains.
- Small trees must be planted a minimum of 5' from underground utility boxes.
- Large trees must be planted a minimum of 10' from underground utility boxes.
- Projects involving 21 or more trees proposed in the parkway must have no more than 30% of the trees from the same subgenus (e.g., red oaks or white oaks).
- Projects involving between 5 and 21 proposed trees in the parkway must have no more than 50% of the trees in the same subgenus (e.g., red oaks or white oaks).
- In residential areas a minimum spacing of twenty-five feet is recommended between shade trees planted on parkways and is required in commercial districts or major arterial streets.
- All landscaping shall be located so that pedestrians can walk parallel to the street within the parkway, whether a paved sidewalk is or is not provided.
- No tree or shrub shall obstruct the view of any traffic signal, sign, or other public sign.
- Trees planted under power lines shall be a species that reaches a height of 25' or less upon maturity.
- Any tree or shrub planted in the parkway is the property of the City and the City reserves the right to prune or remove such tree or shrub if it becomes a traffic hazard or poses risk.
- Planting trees or shrubs on any public property requires a permit from the Park & Recreation Department can be obtained by calling the City Forester at 817-392-5738 or visiting fortworthtexas.gov/forestry.
- The following trees are prohibited on City parkways: ash (*Fraxinus sp.*), callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), hackberry (*Celtis sp.*), mulberry (*Morus sp.*), Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), sycamore (*Platanus sp.*), willow (*Salix sp.*), or any species of tree, shrub, vine or grass listed in the Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests published by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.