

PNPP NEIGHBORHOOD STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM: Info & FAQs

IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT ORGANIZING & APPLYING FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD PLANTING:



- Neighborhood Planting Applications should contain at least five separate properties, which each need at least one tree. Requests for more than 25 trees are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- The goal is for a planting to be in a fairly condensed area, either stretching up and down one or two streets or clustered around a block or two, and if there is room and interest from the resident, planting at each consecutive address. (It's better to focus your application on fewer, more concentrated tree sites and save outliers for future applications!)
- Trees can go in existing tree pits, in new pits in the sidewalk (if space allows), in grass curb-strips, or in front yards (if they are close to the street and visible from the public right-of-way).
- Whenever possible, identify sites that have no overhead wires—this allows trees to grow tall and live longer, providing the maximum tree canopy and benefits!
- When you are out looking at possible tree sites, keep an eye out for underground utilities—we cannot plant a tree too close to gas, water, sewer or electric lines—whose location are often marked on the street with spray paint (blue=water, yellow=gas, red/orange=electric).
- High-traffic streets: there are a few streets in the city which are tricky when it comes to tree planting due to density/speed of traffic, width of lanes/sidewalks, sight-lines/visibility, and power-lines/utilities. (A few of these include *Smith St, Manton Ave, Chalkstone Ave, Douglas Ave*—though there are stretches of other main streets that fall into this category.) If you are considering a planting application that you think might include one of these streets, let us know and we will review options and sites with you.
- Tenants/neighbors/relatives may sign up to be the one who will plant/water the trees, but the Property Owner or Manager, or their designated representative, must sign to authorize planting. (If you have tried but cannot reach an out-of-state/absentee property owner, please let us know and we will assist you.)
- Each address in your application will need a completed [Tree Contract](#). (You can either leave a blank [Tree Contract](#) along with the “[Want a Free Tree?](#)” brochure at each site where a tree could go, or give them only to the people who express interest in getting a tree to fill out.)
- Each site will need to have the signatures of both the person acting as the *Tree Steward* and the *Property Owner*. (Sometimes these will be the same person, sometimes it will be two different people. If two different people, they *don't* both have to sign the *same* copy of the [Tree Contract](#).)
- Yard Trees: Trees may be planted on private property in front yards as long as they are within clear sight of the public right-of-way, and have no fencing over 3 ft tall, structures, or other obstructions between them and the sidewalk.
- We are always happy to ‘pre-survey’ a potential application with you—get in touch with any questions!

PLANTING FAQs

CAN TREES BE PLANTED IN FRONT OF BUSINESSES AS WELL AS HOMES?

Yes! Trees can be planted along any public city street: in front of homes, businesses, churches, community spaces--as long as there is someone committed to watering/stewarding the tree.

IF THERE IS NO OPENING IN MY SIDEWALK FOR A TREE, CAN I STILL APPLY FOR A TREE?

Yes! When you receive trees through the Neighborhood Street Tree Award, we will cover the cost of sidewalk preparation which includes marking the underground utilities, determining the best spot for a tree, cutting the concrete or asphalt, removing the existing soil, and replacing it with fresh soil.

The minimum size for tree wells is 24 square feet to maximize the new trees' ability to thrive in our urban conditions. Even if you have a tree pit in your sidewalk already, we may increase its size to meet this requirement. We are also required by the ADA to leave 3 feet of sidewalk for wheelchair access.)

HOW MUCH DO TREES FROM PNPP COST?

The cost of planting these street trees (factoring in the price of the trees, sidewalk preparation, soil replacement, & tree-delivery) averages between \$250-\$350. If you and your neighbors are granted trees through a Neighborhood Street Tree Planting Award however, all of the above costs are covered, and the trees are provided free of charge!

A NEIGHBOR WOULD LIKE a TREE IN FRONT OF THEIR HOME OR BUSINESS, BUT WE CAN'T REACH THE PROPERTY OWNER TO GET THEIR APPROVAL (they're out-of-state or otherwise absent). DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN'T PLANT A TREE HERE?!

Not necessarily. If this is the case for a potential site in your planting application, reach out to us and we may be able to find a solution.

CAN MY NEIGHBORS AND I CHOOSE WHAT KIND OF TREE WE WILL GET?

We do our best to take preferences into consideration when selecting trees for the approved sites. However, we can't guarantee that preferences will be honored, as our priority is ensuring we select the best tree for each site!

The City Forester orders trees each season that stand up to tough street conditions, in a diversity of species and sizes, to match different sites. Careful consideration goes into selecting a tree for each site, out of what is available that season. Sometimes we can meet a resident's preference for tree species, but very often, this is not possible.

If you wish to select your own tree species, you are welcome to apply to plant your own tree through Providence's Individual Street Tree Planting Program--either a Full-Cost or Match-Cost tree.

Some useful sites for additional tree information:

- International Society of Arborists: <https://www.treesaregood.org/>
- Arbor Day Foundation: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/>
- The Nature Conservancy - Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/cities/hthc>

