TreeKeeper Volunteer Activities

Thank you for being a dedicated TreeKeeper and helping to improve the urban forest in the Des Moines metro area! As the eyes, ears, and muscle for our community’s trees, you have helped to ensure that our trees provide numerous benefits such as stormwater retention, cool shade, wildlife habitat, oxygen, and more!

As a TreeKeeper volunteer, you are asked to donate 10 hours of your time per year to help maintain and improve our urban forest. With over 100 volunteers trained, imagine the impact we can have! Trees Forever and the City of Des Moines offer workdays throughout the year with the goal of hosting six workdays at about three hours per day.

Potential projects YOU can organize:
- Water! Water on your own or invite the adjacent property owner to water a thirsty tree.
- Light pruning when season permits. City will pick up debris.
- Weed, remove grass, and mulch around trees. City will provide mulch.
- Remove stakes from trees that have been planted a year or more ago.
- Stake a tree that is leaning.
- Do a neighborhood inventory of trees and the condition the trees are in. Report your findings to your neighborhood association and to the city.
- Organize a tree committee in your neighborhood.
- Recruit other TreeKeepers and helpers.
- Advocate. Let city council, the mayor, and your neighbors know about the importance of trees. Attend tree-related events at City Hall.

Other project ideas:
- Adopt the Trees – Take on the ownership for a particular park, street, cemetery, city blocks, etc. Keep an eye on those trees, report needed maintenance to the city, and take on maintenance tasks yourself.
- “Flash” Volunteer – Keep an eye out for e-mails from Trees Forever or the City of Des Moines for one-time, quick volunteer activities that you can take on yourself or with a helper.
- TreeLC Planting Program – small grants available to help you purchase trees for the public areas in your neighborhood.

The Golden Pruner
Be a TreeKeeper superstar! Attain 25 hours of volunteer service in one year and a new pair of hand pruners are yours!

Ready to get out there? Contact Leslie or David with questions or for more information.

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