



Guidelines for Neighborhood Plantings

Tree-mendous Benefits!

Planting trees in your neighborhood helps the entire community. Trees help homeowners save energy, keep your neighborhood cooler in the summer, make the area more inviting to walk or bike, and improve the air quality.

These recommendations will help your volunteer-led residential tree planting be successful and are taken from some of the best Trees Forever past projects through programs such as *Branching Out* and *Power of Trees*.

Our goal is to help you plant new trees in places that maximize benefits. This includes choosing appropriate species for each site and planting a variety of species because diversity protects the community forest from catastrophic loss due to pests and diseases. Trees Forever can offer help training volunteers and resources.



Identifying planting locations prior to the planting day helps to increase the efficiency and quality of the planting day. Trained volunteers placed with new volunteers will also increase the quality of the tree planting.

Identify Locations Ahead of Time

While it is easier to purchase trees and hand them out to whomever shows up, that takes out the element of careful site planning that the committee can assist with and do ahead of time when locations are identified. An experienced local tree group can help select sites that will maximize energy savings and species appropriate for the sites. By using a residential adopt-a-tree form, the committee can work with residents to select good sites and appropriate species. The forms can also be used to develop a spreadsheet to track locations and follow up with homeowners.

Choose a Variety of Species that Maximize Benefits

The committee can be a strong voice for diversity by selecting species that will help diversify the community, while limiting species that often are overplanted such as maples. Encourage the planting of large shade trees on the east and west sides of homes, and evergreens on the north and west to maximize energy savings. To maximize the many benefits trees provide, limit the planting of ornamental trees to locations under power lines or where space is limited.

Provide a Planting Demonstration

A hands-on planting demonstration is a critical part of a successful neighborhood project. In addition to that, provide handouts on planting, watch the Tree Planting Video on the Trees Forever website (www.treesforever.com/videos), and discuss good maintenance practices with residents to appeal to multiple learning styles.



Offering a tree-planting demonstration before a planting can help ensure that all trees in a project are planted correctly and consistently.

Residential Tree Project Recommendations

Offer Planting Assistance

Some homeowners might not be physically able to plant a tree or might not be comfortable doing so. We recommend offering a service. These residents could have the option to pay a small fee to have the tree planted for them. This service would be a great role for a youth group.

Help Residents Understand and Commit to Good Tree Care

Make it clear who is responsible for maintenance of the tree. Go over good care and maintenance practices (watering, mulching, pruning, staking, etc.) and ensure that homeowners can complete the desired practices. Have residents sign an agreement and commit to following through; this can be part of a residential adopt-a-tree form. Be sure that homeowners receive contact information for the local tree group, so they can easily contact someone if they have questions. A short *Tree Care Guide* (www.treesforever.org/Guides) is available for download from Trees Forever to share with homeowners. Another good, more in-depth publication is the U.S. Forest Service's *Tree Owner's Manual*.



Proper maintenance is essential for the long-term success of trees in the neighborhoods.

Work with Local Media to Publicize your Efforts

Positive news in your local newspaper and/or radio can be a big asset for your residential tree planting project by building awareness and support. Send a short media alert ahead of time to let local newspaper and radio staff know when and where your project will take place. Invite them to attend. Send photos and a recap of the project to local media after the planting.



Invite local media to your planting events. They can help you make your projects known in your community and increase your volunteer numbers.

How Can Trees Forever Help You?

- Contact the Trees Forever office to be connected to a field staff person who can assist you in your neighborhood planting
- Use our resources. Start with checking out www.treesforever.org/Guides
- Help build and facilitate a tree committee

Call (800) 369-1269 to find out how Trees Forever can help your community.

Join Trees Forever on its mission to plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community and promoting stewardship.

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(319) 373-0650 • (800) 369-1269
www.treesforever.org
770 7th Avenue • Marion, IA 52302