



CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE SETBACK TREE PLANTING PROGRAM SPRING 2023 PROGRAM INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. What is the goal of this program?

The goal of this program is to plant shade trees on private property where they have more room to grow and the greatest chance for survival, while providing public benefits by increasing tree canopy. The project requires that all trees must be planted within 20 feet of the public right-of-way (i.e. behind street or sidewalk, etc.).

2. Who will furnish and plant the tree?

The City of East Providence will purchase and install the tree at no cost to the property owner. Trees will be distributed on a first come first serve basis to property owners who meet program eligibility requirements.

3. What are the program eligibility requirements?

Any City of East Providence property owner meeting the following program requirements is eligible to receive a planted tree. Requirements include:

- proof of property ownership
- complete a Consent and Waiver Liability Form and Tree Placement Form
- will water the tree for one year following planting and continue maintenance during its lifetime

4. What is the Consent and Waiver Liability Form?

This form is a standard legal document between the property owner and the City of East Providence. By signing this document, the property owner gives the City permission to access the property in order to plant the tree. The signed waiver also holds harmless city officials, their employees or contractors from any and all damage claims that arise from or are related to the project.

5. Can I pick the type of tree that will be planted?

Tree species will be selected by City staff based on site conditions (i.e. amount of growing space, presence of overhead wires, proximity to buildings, etc.) and current availability of tree specimens at the nursery. We cannot take special requests for particular tree species. The trees will be between 1- 1 ½ caliper inches and about 10 feet tall at the time of installation.

6. Will I have a say in where the tree is planted on my property?

Yes. The City will give you a wooden stake to place in the spot where the tree should be planted. Choose a location that is within 20 feet of the public right of way (i.e. front or side yard). Also, pick a site free of any overhead (i.e utility wires, buildings, etc.) or underground obstructions (i.e. gas, water, sewer pipes, etc.). The City will have the underground utilities marked by DIG SAFE to help you select the planting location. If needed, city staff can assist you in identifying the best location.

7. How and when will the tree be planted?

The tree will be planted by employees of the City of East Providence Parks Division. The City will be responsible for planting and mulching the tree according to proper planting protocols established by the American National

Standards Institute (ANSI A300 “Transplanting & Care”). The planting will occur this spring (2023). Homeowners need not be present in order for the actual planting to take place. If you do not receive a tree this spring, your name will remain on the waitlist and we will resume planting in fall 2023.

8. What are the property owner’s tree care responsibilities?

Under program requirements the property owner agrees to water and care for the tree for up to 1 year following installation. Watering is critical for tree establishment. Homeowners should apply 10 gallons of water per week from the time of planting until early November. They should resume this watering schedule the following spring when the daily temperature increases (late April) and continue through summer and fall. Care should consist of preventing weeds and grass from growing inside the mulch zone and replacing the mulch as it decomposes. For more tree care instructions, visit <https://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner>

9. What happens in the event the tree dies after it is planted?

Should the tree die from natural causes within the first year following planting, it will be replaced by the City at no cost to the property owner. Premature tree mortality due to an extreme weather event such as a tropical storm, hurricane or blizzard, or from insect and/or disease attacks, vandalism, improper care, or mechanical injury (i.e., lawn-mower, line trimmers, snow removal, new construction, etc.) shall not be honored under this tree replacement policy.

10. Who owns the tree?

Once it is planted, the tree will become the property of the homeowner. The homeowner will assume full responsibility for the tree’s future maintenance, including watering, pruning, and removal.

11. How is this tree planting project funded?

Funding for the project is provided by the City of East Providence Capital Improvement Program.

12. How do I apply?

If you are interested in participating in the program, please fill out an application form available [here](#) and on the website below and submit it by March 1, 2023. Any applications received after the deadline will be waitlisted for the next round of tree planting this fall. Once your application has been reviewed, the Parks Division will schedule a site assessment and send you the other required forms (liability waiver and tree placement form).

For more information:

<https://eastprovidenceri.gov/departments/parks/city-trees>

City of East Providence
Parks Division
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