



COMMUNITY TREE PROGRAM

2020 Pilot

How does the Community Tree Program work?

- Milwaukee County Parks accepts donations to support tree replanting efforts in our Parks, especially in response to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and other tree removals.
- Donations must be completed by August 1st each year to support fall plantings (October/November). Please reach out to parkspartnerships@milwaukeecountywi.gov to get started – the earlier the better! We will evaluate replanting feasibility based on your park location, and we will coordinate a site visit if your site is appropriate for planting (see FAQ on back for more info).
- Typical donation range: \$2,000 - \$6,000+ depending on the site and number of trees (minimum 8 trees).
- Parks staff coordinate with nursery partners to select tree species and location. Professional nursery staff plant high-quality, mature trees in the fall. We prioritize native and climate-tolerant tree species through this program.



Other Tree Planting Options

- 1) If you are interested in a memorial tree, or planting only a few trees, please reach out to [The Park People's Tree Donation Program](#).
- 2) Each fall, Parks Natural Areas team recruits volunteers to help with planting 1,000+ trees to help with reforestation efforts. [Contact us](#) for more information.
- 3) If you have a very specific tree planting project (such as a designed tree boulevard, ornamental species, or other project) you must submit a full project plan through our [Park Improvement Process](#).

COMMUNITY TREE PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why have so many trees in my park been cut down?

Over the past decade, thousands of trees in Milwaukee County Parks – and millions across the Midwest – have been infected/killed by Emerald Ash Borer. Dead trees cause many safety concerns. Parks Forestry staff are committed to tree removal as a safety priority. Often times, it is most effective to remove all infected trees in a park at once, rather than coming back and only removing a few at a time. As such, a Park may have 50+ trees removed in a very short time.

What is Emerald Ash Borer?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive wood beetle that can kill ash trees within 2-4 years after infection.

When will parks replace the removed trees?

It could be several years before removed trees are replaced, and there are several reasons for this. First, after tree removal, the ground is often unsuitable for immediate replanting. In some park locations, additional tree removals are still required, so we are unable to plant new trees as they could be damaged by the removal of nearby trees. Further, to align with best practices, forestry professionals recommend staggering tree plantings such that a park would achieve a range of tree species and ages. This may mean only some trees are replanted with additional plantings in the future. Some parks were also “over-planted”, meaning that tree density in some locations was more than recommended (note that open park spaces are different than natural park spaces). Lastly, budget and staff limitations do not allow us to replant trees at the same rate of removal. In time, we will eventually replant many trees, but that may be 5, 10 years or more down the line in some cases.

Why does the community need to support tree replanting?

Our forestry operations are dedicated to removing hazardous trees. For the recent past and foreseeable future, tree removal has been the priority. As such, support from the community to help us replant trees by contracting with nursery professionals allows us to leverage internal resources and get more done in our Parks. We certainly appreciate the support.

Do I get to choose the types of trees and tree location?

Through the Community Tree Program, forestry staff determine the best quantity, species, and locations for tree replanting. If you are interested in directing project specifics, please submit your projects to [the Park Improvement Project](#) process.

Are there other ways my group can help?

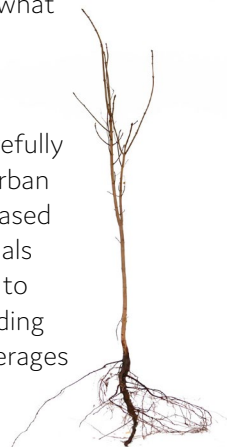
In addition to the options listed on the front page, we also appreciate help in watering and monitoring trees in their first year. Contact us to be involved.

Why can't we plant trees in the spring through this program?

There are many benefits to fall tree planting including better root establishment making for healthier trees. Less watering is also required as the tree does not have to deal with harsh summer conditions immediately.

How much do trees cost individually? Why are the trees so expensive? I could get trees for free.

Most partners who donate free trees to the community are donating what we refer to as “whips.” These very young, fragile trees have extremely low survival rates in urban park settings (but they can be great for your yard!). Through this program, we purchase mature nursery stock (see right for comparison). These trees are more expensive because they have been carefully raised in a nursery for several years, and are better suited for planting in urban parks. As for cost, each year we determine unit cost using a sliding scale based on nursery rates. Tree costs include delivery, labor, installation, and materials such as mulch. We are also able to access bulk rates, and we reduce costs to you as a donor by supplementing this program with internal staff and funding sources. By working together, we are able to make sure your donation leverages higher quality trees than if you were to purchase the trees on your own.



Comparison of a tree whip (left) vs. container tree.
Photo credit: Johnson's Nursery.



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT
[CONTACT US FOR DETAILS](#)