



Friends of Schuylkill River Park

Tree Tenders

Planting Trees in Center City West
www.fsrp.org/treetenders

Dear Resident,

We are the Friends of Schuylkill River Park *Tree Tenders*, a group that works with several non-profit organizations to improve the tree canopy in and around Philadelphia by **planting trees in street tree pits and parks at no cost to the landowners**. Our particular group covers the area in Zip Codes 19103 and 19146 from South Street to Walnut Street between the Schuylkill River and Broad Street.

You are receiving this letter because we noticed an empty tree pit in front of your residence / business, an optimal location for planting a tree on your property, or because you requested further information from us. If you are interested in obtaining a tree on property within our bounds, please follow the below simple steps:

- Complete the enclosed application. This may also be downloaded from our website (<http://www.fsrp.org/treetenders>). Note that you must be the property owner to obtain a tree. Funds permitting, our group will arrange for existing stumps to be removed at no cost.
- Fax the completed application to 215-525-4428, email the online application to fsrptreetenders@phillyparks.org, or send it to us at the below listed PO Box.
- We and Fairmount Park will inspect your location.
- If approved, a tree will be planted at the next Tree Tenders planting date on which trees are available. Trees are planted on one day each Spring and on one day each Fall by trained volunteers from our group. While an appropriate tree will be chosen for your location, you are not able to choose the specific species.
- Trees are not guaranteed. We will of course notify you if your site is not approved and the reason why.

There are other options available for planting a tree on your property, which are outlined on the enclosed "Tree Planting Alternatives" sheet. We are here to help facilitate tree plantings through any mechanism you choose and would be pleased to discuss any options with you.

Beyond their environmental benefits and beauty, a recent Wharton Study demonstrated that trees have positive economic impacts on neighborhoods including increasing property values (e.g., [Wachter, 2004](#)) and on individual households by decreasing heating and cooling costs (e.g., EPA 2009). We certainly hope you will choose to plant one.

Sincerely,
Friends of Schuylkill River Park *Tree Tenders*

Tree Planting Alternatives How to Obtain a Street Tree in Center City West

There are three general options outlined below for obtaining street trees in Center City West. You must be the property owner to exercise any of these options and the appropriate permission must be obtained from the Fairmount Park Commission, which has jurisdiction over all street trees in the City of Philadelphia.

The options: 1) First, buy a tree yourself and/or arrange with a contractor of your choosing. We suggest Awbury Arboretum / Landscaping as a contractor (phone: 215.849.2855). You or your contractor must obtain a permit from the Fairmount Park Commission prior to planting. 2) The second option applies if you are a CCRA Member. CCRA will pay approximately half the cost of any new street tree for Resident Members (those residing between JFK and South, Schuylkill River to Broad) and has a relationship with Awbury Arboretum / Landscaping who will plant this tree and obtain permits for you. This amounts to about a \$200 membership benefit. 3) The third option applies to anyone and is administered by the Friends of Schuylkill River Park *Tree Tenders* (serves the geographic area Schuylkill River to Broad between South and Walnut). Trees are provided free of charge, permits are automatically obtained, the appropriate species for your site is chosen by arborists (but you do not have a choice of species), and trees are planted on two city-wide plantings days per year by volunteers.

	CCRA Matching	Tree Tenders / TreeVitalize
Membership	Current CCRA Membership Required	No Membership Requirement
Cost	\$450 - \$500 (CCRA Pays \$200 of this)	No Cost
Location	Anywhere in CCRA Residency Bounds	Schuylkill to Broad bet. South and Walnut
Timeline	Your Choice	2 Days Per Year, 1 Spring & 1 Fall
Tree Species	Your Choice (as appropriate to site)	Chosen by Fairmount Park / PHS
Your Involvement	Meet with Arborist to Review Site Arrange Cement Cutting as Needed Meet with Arborist During Planting Water Tree as Needed	Sign Paperwork Water Tree as Needed
Planted By	Awbury Gardens & Landscaping	Volunteers
Contact Info	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Contact</u> Call CCRA First 215.546.6719</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Then Contact Steve at Awbury 215.849.2855</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Contact</u> Friends of Schuylkill River Park Tree Tenders fsrptreetenders (@phillyparks.org) 215.546.6719 (phone) 215.525.4428 (fax) www.fsrp.org/treetenders</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(download application from website and fax, email or mail back)</p>



PROPERTY OWNER REQUEST TO PLANT A STREET TREE IN PHILADELPHIA

Please return completed and signed form to your community group (not directly to PHS):

GROUP NAME: Friends of Schuylkill River Park *Tree Tenders*

For assistance or information, contact:

Friends of Schuylkill River Park *Tree Tenders*

PO Box 30246

Philadelphia, PA 19103

fsrptreetenders@phillyparks.org

215-546-6719 (phone)

215-525-4428 (fax)

www.fsrp.org/treetenders

Property Address: _____ **Zip:** _____

Property Owner must initial all and sign below:

_____ I am the property owner on record at this address.

_____ I have read and understand the terms described in “Agreement to Plant a Street Tree.”

_____ I agree to share in the responsibility to care for the requested tree(s).

_____ By making this request through TreeVitalize, I agree not to make a duplicate request directly to the Fairmount Park Commission.

_____ If my site requires removal of concrete or paving materials in order to plant this tree, I give permission to have this done. I understand that if I cancel the tree installation after submitting this request form and the sidewalk has already been cut, I will be responsible for the cost of replacing the pavement. [Note: Stump removal is the responsibility of property owner.]

_____ I am willing to volunteer to help plant my tree(s). [Note: Though helpful, this is not mandatory.]

Signature of Property Owner _____ **Date** _____

Property Owner Name (please print clearly) _____

Phone # _____ **Email** _____

Property Owner Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip) if different from tree planting property address listed above:

Comments: _____



PHS

PLANTING SEEDS. GROWING LIVES. 100 N. 20th Street - 5th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495 • 215-988-8800 • Fax: 215-988-8810 • PHSonline.org

Total number of trees requested at this address: _____ (_____ Street trees + _____ Yard trees)

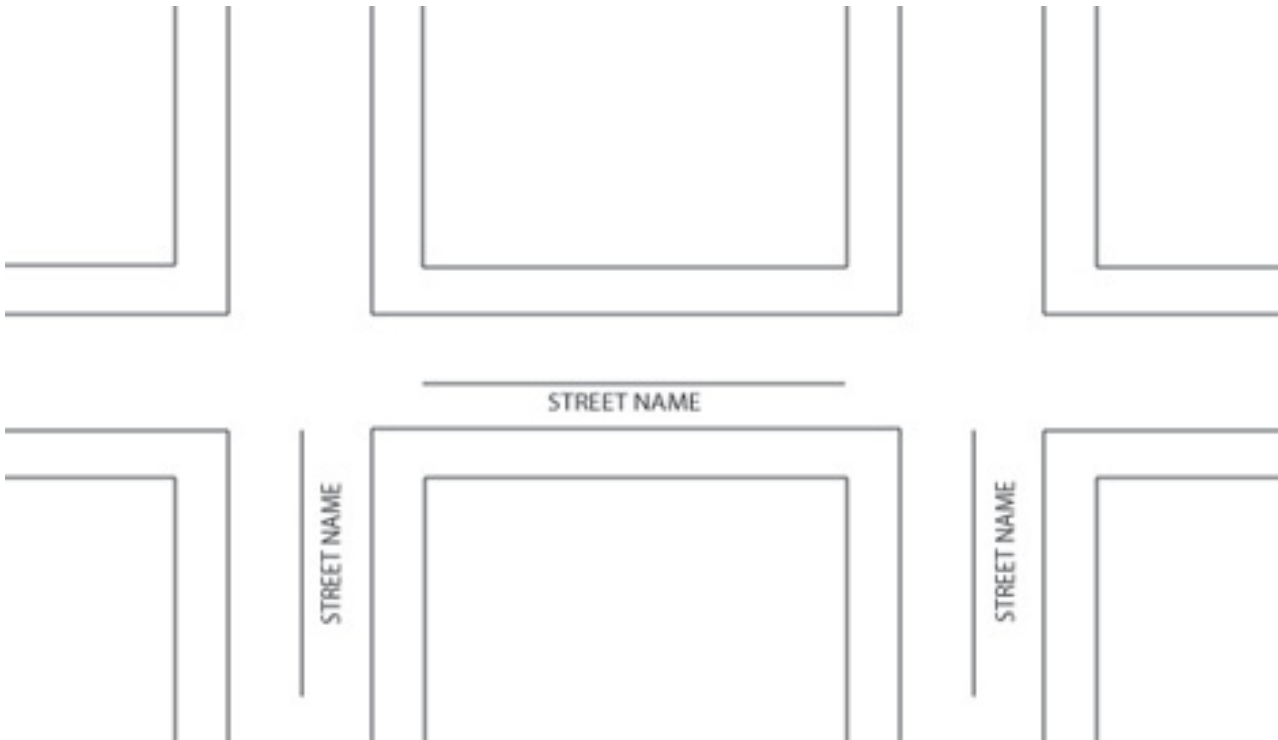
[Note: Yard trees must be located within 10 feet of sidewalk and are sole responsibility of property owner.]

Optional: If it would help to clarify exactly where you would like the requested tree(s) to be located on your property, please use the attached map template to provide a sketch and any additional notes.

Map of Property and Requested Tree(s)

Property Address: _____ Zip: _____

- 1) Using the map below, please mark the location of your property and label the nearest streets. [Note: If your property does not match the layout shown, you may modify the map below or sketch your own on the back of this piece of paper.]
- 2) Mark with a **T** the specific site of each street tree (between curb and sidewalk) that you are requesting.
- 3) For any trees requested for your front or side yard, mark the sites with a **Y**. [Note: Yard trees must be within 10 feet of public sidewalk.]
- 4) If helpful to indicate where you would like the tree(s) to be located on your property, please sketch a close-up view on the back of this page or add notes here: _____



When selecting a tree location, please follow these guidelines:

- Minimum 3x3-foot tree pit size; larger where possible.
- Not in front of steps, doorways, or alleyways, or between handicapped parking signs.
- Not in front of homes that are posted for sale.
- Allow 30 feet from stop signs, traffic lights, and street corners.
- Allow 15 feet from light poles, utility poles, and fire hydrants.
- Allow 15-30 feet from other trees (depending on mature size and form).
- Allow 5 feet from driveways, man-hole covers, storm drains, and main utility lines.
- Edge of tree pit should be at least 18 inches from utility lines (or soil must be dug by hand).
- Edge of tree pit should be at least 36 inches (3 feet) from steps, stoops, or walls to allow 3 feet of unobstructed sidewalk. (This is mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.)



Property Owner Agreement to Plant a Street Tree in Philadelphia

Please keep this page for your records. For assistance or information, contact your community group leader (name) _____ at (phone) _____ or (email) _____

TreeVitalize, a partnership to restore tree cover in Pennsylvania, invites you to join in the effort by planting a tree on your property. If you would like to participate, please read and sign the attached “Request to Plant a Street Tree in Philadelphia.” Street trees are defined as trees planted between a street curb and sidewalk. TreeVitalize also supports a limited number of trees planted in front yards or other locations where the tree provides a benefit to the public right-of-way.

By signing the Request to Plant a Street Tree in Philadelphia, you, the property owner, agree that:

- ✿ An arborist from the Fairmount Park Commission will inspect your location and determine whether it is an appropriate site for a tree(s) to be planted.
- ✿ Fairmount Park and PHS will determine an appropriate tree species for your location.
- ✿ If the site requires it, you give permission for a tree pit to be cut in your sidewalk or pavement.
- ✿ You will water the tree (15-20 gallons per week, at a cost of less than \$1 per year), from March through December, for two years.
- ✿ You will protect your tree from damage by cars, lawn mowers, etc.
- ✿ You will notify Fairmount Park or PHS if the tree appears to be sick or damaged.
- ✿ If the site requires it, you give permission for a tree pit to be cut in your sidewalk or pavement. (If you cancel the tree installation after submitting the request form and the pavement has been cut, you will be responsible for replacing the pavement at your expense.)

You understand that:

- ✿ Your request for a tree may be denied. (Not all sites are appropriate for tree planting.)
- ✿ Even an approved tree may be denied if found to be too close to underground utilities.
- ✿ You are responsible for the removal of any dead trees or stumps in the desired planting sites.
- ✿ Trees planted in your yard are the sole responsibility of the property owner.
- ✿ Only the Fairmount Park Commission can authorize planting, pruning, or removing street trees.

Some Benefits of Trees

- Increase property values
- Bring beauty and character to neighborhoods
- Save energy, cut heating and air-conditioning costs
- Shade and cool neighborhoods, reducing temperatures on the hottest summer days
- Clean pollutants out of the air and water
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Buffer and reduce noise
- Promote community interaction and renewal
- Provide habitat for birds and other wildlife

TreeVitalize is a public/private partnership launched by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and led by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) in Southeast PA. The partnership is now working to restore tree cover in metropolitan areas throughout the state.

For more information visit www.treevitalize.net or www.PHSONline.org/phlgreen/current-trees.html