



## Philadelphia Tree Planting Policies & Priorities

Revised March 14, 2019

### Street Trees

- **Property owners may receive up to 3 free trees (and sidewalk cuts) per planting season.** Exceptions may be granted for requests at public (non-city) properties like schools, churches, and non-profits, as well as for properties in [PHS mapped high-priority areas for tree planting](#) (areas with low canopy, low household income, high crime and high population density).
  - *Property owners may pay for additional trees at \$125 per tree, or \$300 per tree + sidewalk cut.*
- **Priority for street trees is for residential and non-city, publicly accessible properties;** Investor-owned/for-profit owners generally will have lower priority, although exceptions may be made in [PHS mapped high-priority areas](#) for tree planting.
- **Additional priority for street tree planting may be given to properties and blocks with wider streets/sidewalks and no utilities, where there are planting sites that are suitable for medium to large maturing trees.** We need to plant more shade trees to maximize environmental benefits provided by urban tree canopy.
- **Sites with stump/dead tree** – stump and dead tree removal is the generally the responsibility of the property owner, especially if it requires heavy equipment. If the site is permitted for planting by the city, the owner will need to have the stump out at least 1 month before the planting to be considered for inclusion that season (subject to funding and nursery availability). Stumps, which can be hidden below the soil, need to be ground down 2 feet deep. See here for a listing of local [stump removal services](#) compiled by Philly Tree People (PHS does not endorse any particular company). Please note that *contractors must obtain a tree work permit from the PPR Street Tree Management office.*

### Yard Trees

- **PHS cannot offer yard trees for residential/private properties.** Private yard trees can be requested through [TreePhilly](#) by hosting a community yard tree giveaway in your own neighborhood, or finding a scheduled event.
- However, **tree requests will be considered for private yard space directly abutting the sidewalk/street,** where the tree will be located within 10 feet of the sidewalk/street, and function like a “street tree.” The application should clearly note it’s a “**Yard**” tree to be located near the street/sidewalk. The request does not need to be permitted by PPR.
- **Yard trees for School District or other non-city, publicly accessible spaces may be granted,** especially within [PHS mapped high-priority areas](#). See below for School District projects.

### City Property (e.g. parks, rec centers, libraries)

#### Street trees:

- If PPR property, contact Erica Smith Fichman to see if this property is already on the list for a PPR or PWD planting. If not, [submit request for trees online](#).

- If non-PPR property, work directly with on-site staff to coordinate interest and decide on appropriate point person for signing permission form, then submit request for trees online.

**Yard/interior trees:**

- For PPR property, contact Erica Smith Fichman to see if this property is already on the list for a PPR or PWD planting. If not, Erica can work with TT group to coordinate planting and stewardship if funding permits.
- If non-PPR property, work directly with on-site staff to coordinate interest and decide on appropriate point person for planting and stewardship. Once TT group has interest and point person from the appropriate city agency is identified, Erica can work with TT group to coordinate planting and stewardship if funding permits.

***PPR Contact:***

Erica Smith Fichman  
(215) 683 0217  
[erica.smith@phila.gov](mailto:erica.smith@phila.gov)

**School District Property**

Requests for street and interior trees can be submitted to PHS, along with other tree requests. The principal needs to sign the application. Street tree requests need to be permitted by PPR Street Tree office.

The School District's Maintenance/Operation Division (Alfred Howard) must also approve all planting projects for street or interior trees on School District of Philadelphia property. They will request to see the planting plan (species and locations). We advise you loop them in prior to submitting the application to PHS/PPR.

**Contact:**

Alfred E. Howard - Maintenance Manager  
Maintenance/Operation Division  
The School District of Philadelphia  
Phone: 215-400-6390 or 9339  
[ahoward@philasd.org](mailto:ahoward@philasd.org)