

**Getting ready for your new tree(s)!**

  

**What to do before planting day…**

* Clean site of grass, weeds, debris, and rocks prior to planting day. Discard turf if planting in a grass in a 3-foot ring where the tree will be planted.
* If possible, dig your hole a 3-foot diameter but DO NOT DIG DEEPER THAN 6 INCHES. The tree roots are often shallow, and we want to avoid planting it too deep. If planting in a cutout in the sidewalk, dig out the entire area of the opening (out to the corners) to loosen the soil and then backfill. *Tip: use a tarp or large bin to put the soil on for easier cleanup.*
* Make sure that the **soil is filled back up to sidewalk/soil grade so that a tripping hazard is not created**. If the site does not appear safe, please put a trash can or other item in the pit to prevent people from walking into it and potentially tripping.
* If you find any large obstacles in the tree pit when you are digging, let us know as soon as possible.
* Make a watering plan - will you use a hose or a bucket? please have your system ready to go for planting day.

**What to do on planting day…**

1. Plan to be there, and available.
2. Wear a mask, practice social distancing of at least 6ft with people not in your household/work group, and have sanitizer available.
3. Have water available for your tree (and the planters too if possible). Water your tree as soon as it is planted and then twice a week for the first month. 10-15 gallons of slow watering is best. After the first month, water once a week until the ground freezes and then again when the ground thaws or at the first sign of buds opening in the spring!
4. Ask questions about caring for your tree and what to expect…. There is a saying that for a newly planted tree,   
   “the first year it sleeps, the second year it creeps and the third year it leaps!” Check out PHS tree planting and care videos at <https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-programs/for-current-tree-tenders>.
5. Name and enjoy your new tree!