PHS Tree Tenders

Get 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 ON PLANTING DAY

- **Plan to be there, and available.**
- **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!
- **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.
- **Name and enjoy your new tree!**

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