



**CITY OF CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND
2019 NEIGHBORHOOD TREE PLANTING PROGRAM
PROJECT INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. What is purpose of this project?

The project purpose is to plant shade trees on private property where they have the greatest chance for survival and long-term contribution to the community. The project requires that all trees must be planted within 25 feet of the public right-of-way (i.e. behind street or sidewalk, etc.,).

2. Who will furnish and plant the tree?

The City of Cranston will purchase and plant the tree at no cost to the property owner. The actual planting will be done by a contractor (i.e. RI Tree Council) hired by the City of Cranston. Trees will be distributed on a first come first serve basis while the supply lasts to property owners who meet program eligibility requirements.

3. What are the program eligibility requirements?

Any City of Cranston citizen meeting the following program requirements is eligible to receive a planted tree. They are:

- proof of property ownership
- complete a Consent and Waiver Liability Form and Tree Selection Form
- will care and water the tree for one year following planting

4. What is the Consent and Waiver Liability Form?

This form is a standard legal document between the property owner and the City of Cranston. By signing this document, the property owner gives the City permission to access the property in order to plant the tree. The signed waiver also holds harmless city officials, their employees or contractors from any and all damage claims that arise from or are related to the project.

5. Describe the tree types available under the program.

Tree selection TBA. The trees will be between 1- 1 ½ caliper inches and about 10 feet tall at the time of installation. For more information on these shade trees see the Tree Selection Fact Sheet included with this package.

6. Will I have a say in where the tree is planted on my property?

Yes. The contractor (RITree) will give you a wooden stake to place in the spot where the tree should be planted. Choose a location that is within 25 feet of the public right of way (i.e. front or side yard). Also, pick a site free of any overhead (i.e utility wires, buildings, etc.) or underground obstructions (i.e. gas, water, sewer pipes, etc.,). The City of Cranston will have the underground utilities marked by DIG SAFE to help you select the planting location. Lastly, the City's contractor is prepared to assist you with this decision should you want his/her advice.

7. How and when will the tree be planted?

The tree will be planted by a contractor (RITree) hired by the City. The contractor will be responsible for planting and mulching the tree according to proper planting protocols established by the American National

Standards Institute (ANSI A300 “Transplanting & Care”). The planting will start in the spring of 2018 (April 1-May 30). Homeowners need not be present in order for the actual planting to take place.

8. What are the property owner’s tree care responsibilities?

Under program requirements the property owner has agreed to water and care for the tree for up to 1 year following installation. Watering is critical for tree establishment. Homeowners should apply 10 gallons of water per week from the time of planting until early November. They should resume this watering schedule the following spring when the daily temperature increases (late April) and continue it during summer and fall. Care should consist of preventing weeds and grass from growing inside the mulch zone and replacing the mulch as it decomposes. For more tree care instructions, visit the RI Tree Council website at www.RITree.org.

9. What happens in the event the tree dies after it is planted?

Should the tree die from natural causes within the first year following planting, it will be replaced by the contractor at no cost to the property owner. Premature tree mortality due to an extreme weather event such as a tropical storm, hurricane or blizzard, or from insect and/or disease attacks, vandalism, improper care, or mechanical injury (i.e., lawn-mower, line trimmers, snow removal, new construction, etc.,) shall not be honored under this tree replacement policy.

10. Who owns the tree?

Once it is planted, the tree will become the property of the homeowner. The homeowner will assume full responsibility for the plant’s future maintenance, including watering, pruning, and removal.

11. How is this tree planting project funded?

Funding for the project is provided by the City of Cranston. The funds will be used to purchase the trees and to contract with the RI Tree Council (aka., RITree) to administer the project.

12. How do I get the application forms and where do I send them?

To obtain all the necessary information and forms you will need to apply for the 2019 Cranston Neighborhood Tree Planting Program, contact the RI Tree Council at 401-764-5885 or by email at RITree@RITree.org. The complete application package with instructions will be sent to you by either e-mail, FAX or by snail mail. We prefer communicating electronically by email or FAX since it is quicker more efficient than regular mail. **All completed forms must be sent to RITree by April 15, 2019.** Remember there are ONLY 30 trees available, so the sooner you apply the better are your chances of receiving one of them.