



## So you want some trees for your neighborhood?

Many neighborhoods may apply, but only one each spring and fall will be awarded this grant.

### Factors considered by RNeighborWoods Grant Committee

1. The need of a neighborhood for trees, either having very few trees currently or a high quantity of ash trees
2. Neighborhood interest and commitment to help with the planting (typically 20 or more people)
3. Neighborhood support gained by emails, flyers, and door knocking

### Below are some simple steps to guide you through the process of greening up your neighborhood with the RNeighborWoods Tree Grant.

- Ask your neighbors if they are interested in helping to plant free trees on their boulevards. Gather a core group dedicated to assisting in the effort.
- Fill out the application online ([www.RNeighbors.org](http://www.RNeighbors.org)) with names and emails of those interested. The RNeighborWoods Tree Grant is offered twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall.
- If you're lucky enough to be the neighborhood chosen as the grant winner, you'll be notified within one week of the grant deadline.
- Now is the time to communicate with your neighbors and get them organized.
- The City Forester will help with the underground utility locations but will need a list of neighbors (and addresses) participating.
- If your neighborhood does not have an email contact list already started, door knocking is your best bet. The best success time is Monday-Friday, between 4:30-6:30 pm. Fridays work particularly well, people are often outside and in a good mood.
  - If you have children bring them along. They make it easier to break the ice and help keep the conversation positive, even when the homeowner may not appreciate trees for some reason.
  - Ask RNeighborWoods for some flyers (they have a template) that include:
    - Planting date, time and potential location.
    - Description of current needs/challenges facing Rochester's urban forest.
    - Average value of a large tree in Rochester
    - Potential species that will be planted
    - Occasionally there are trees that do not live. RNeighborWoods or the City Forester is not responsible for replacement.
  - Be able to point out a few large elm or ash trees and describe the impact that Dutch Elm Disease (DED) had or Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) could have on our community.
  - Some neighbors could get more than one tree if space is available (30' between trees, 10' from driveways)
- Identify 20-30 boulevard locations where trees are desired and will be cared for. Communicate this with the City Forester.
  - Document specifics of planting locations such as:
    - address
    - orientation relative to house
    - note presence of overhead line (if present requires small statured tree)
- Planting day will occur rain or shine. RNeighborWoods will pre-dig holes, place trees next to each one, and provide everything needed for the planting but work gloves and shovels. Ask everyone participating to bring a shovel and be dressed for fun in the dirt. Work is not too tedious. All ages are welcome! Ask a neighbor to be in charge of treats.
- Welcome everyone to the meeting place. Be sure to thank them for their time and participation in improving their neighborhood.
- A demonstration will be given for the large group on the proper way to plant a tree, emphasizing the correct planting depth.
- The volunteers will be broken up into small planting groups. Time to green up your neighborhood with new trees.
- Write up a short summary of your planting for the RNeighbors webpage. We like to highlight positive efforts of neighbors!