



**So you want some trees for your neighborhood?**

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

**Neighbors put in the elbow grease. RNeighborWoods brings the trees.**

**The trees must be planted in a boulevard strip:** grassy area between the street and sidewalk.

#### **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. Neighborhoods that have applied previously and not been awarded a tree grant.

#### **Factors Neighbors Need to Know**

1. Tree locations will be determined by neighbors.
2. Utility locates will leave little flags and spray paint on lawns and sidewalks. Once the planting is complete, the flags can be removed and several rains will wash the paint off the sidewalk.
3. Wood chips will be provided free by RNeighborWoods. This will be used as natural mulch and is literally chopped up trees. If uniform and colored mulch is desired by the homeowner, they need to notify the neighborhood project coordinator.
4. Any and all cleanup of soil on neighbor's lawns and sidewalks is the responsibility of the awarded neighborhood. RNWoods will bring brooms.
5. Occasionally there are trees that do not live. RNeighborWoods or the City Forester is not responsible for replacement. City in charge of removal (507-328-2515). Keep in mind some tree types take several years to grow and take off.

### **Simple steps to guide you through the RNeighborWoods Tree Grant**

#### **Once you are notified you won**

- 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. You will also need to meet with the RWoods planning team at the end of February with the core planning group.
- Assign a project coordinator and request RNeighborWoods Tree Grant planting spreadsheet from RNeighbors. This is yours to personalize as works best for your neighborhood.
- 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.

#### **1-3 Weeks from Tree Grant Planting**

- Now is the time to communicate with your neighbors and get them organized.
  - If your neighborhood does not have an email contact list already started, door knocking is your best bet.
  - If you have children bring them along; they make it easier to break the ice.
  - Ask RNeighborWoods for some flyers (they have a template) that include:
    - Planting date, time and potential location.
  - Some neighbors could get more than one tree if space is available (30' between trees, 10' from driveways)

- Identify 25 boulevard locations where trees are desired and will be cared for. Fill out the provided RNeighborWoods Tree Grant planting spreadsheet with this information. Communicate this with the City Forester and RNeighbors.
  - It is a good idea to have several backup potential tree locations in the case of underground utility conflicts.
- The coordinator will put together a list of participating neighbors and addresses.
- Email list of potential tree locations to Paul Ahlen ([pahlen@rochestermn.gov](mailto:pahlen@rochestermn.gov)) so locates can be done.
- Planting day will occur rain or shine. RNeighborWoods will show up with trees and tools, place trees next to each planting spot, and provide everything needed for the planting but work gloves and neighbors. Ask everyone participating to be dressed for fun in the dirt. The work is not too tedious. All ages are welcome to join in the fun, even if they don't physically want to shovel! Ask a neighbor to be in charge of treats.

### **Day of Tree Grant Planting**

- Welcome everyone to the meeting place. Be sure to thank them for their time and participation in improving their neighborhood.
- RNeighborWoods will demonstrate to the neighbors on the proper way to plant a tree, emphasizing the correct planting depth and appropriate staking and mulching.
- 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 neighbor