



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.

These 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, with final approval from City Forestry.
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, the homeowner is responsible for communicating this with the coordinator and purchasing the desired mulch.
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. The Park and Recreation Forestry department is responsible for all maintenance and removal after the trees are planted. (507-328-2515). Keep in mind some tree types take several years to establish and begin to grow.
6. Please communicate with homeowners to leave the flags (posted by the utility companies) in the ground of their boulevards. If the flags are removed prior to the planting NO TREE will be planted at that location.

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 RNeighborWoods planning team for a site visit.
- 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.

2-3 Weeks Before 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.
 - If you'd like, RNeighbors can provide flyers (they have a template) that includes: planting date, time and potential location.
- Some neighbors could get more than one tree if space is available (35' between trees, 10' from driveways, 20' from light poles and 12' from utilities such as fire hydrants, utility boxes, etc.)

- Determine 1 or 2 neighbors to be responsible for refreshments for the planters. Ideas include a cooler of water, donuts, granola bars, cookies, etc.
- Identify 30 boulevard locations where trees are desired and will be cared for with the understanding that only 25 trees will be planted. Fill out the provided RNeighborWoods Tree Grant planting spreadsheet with this information. Communicate this with the Forestry Department representative 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 Nathan Runke (NRunke@rochestermn.gov) 10 days prior to planting date 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 Rochester neighbors.