

VCE Virginia Beach Master Gardener Tree Stewards Legacy Tree Planting Grant Program

The Virginia Beach Master Gardener (VBMG) Tree Stewards are volunteer partners with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service dedicated to encouraging and promoting environmentally sound and sustainable horticulture practices through education and funding. Our Tree Stewards' grant program is designed to help our community partners in their efforts toward increasing Virginia Beach's urban canopy 'one tree at a time'. Funds are available from the Virginia Beach Master Gardener Association (VBMGA). This program aims to provide grant money to non-profit organizations for the purpose of acquiring and planting a tree in the City of Virginia Beach. Applications are accepted between July 1 and October 1.

Grant Program Description:

The program is for the benefit of a non-profit organization located in VA Beach (i.e., garden club, society, HRAREC, etc.) or City of Virginia Beach affiliated / municipal locations such as historic houses, city owned municipal and neighborhood parks, schools, etc. The general public, homeowners, commercial entities and Virginia Beach Master Gardeners are not eligible to apply. To qualify, applicants must meet all Grant Criteria provided below.

Depending on the number of applications received and total funds available, the administrator may adjust awards. Applicants may request an amount for multiple trees, one single tree or actual tree cost. As a general guideline, grants are awarded in \$50 or \$100 increments. In the event more applications are received than grant funds available, applications may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and in consideration of previous grant recipients.

Funds must be used to purchase tree(s) for a pre-approved project. Applicant may be the property owner, project manager or other approving official. Applicant is responsible for site selection, site preparation and proper tree installation. Tree installation should be scheduled while tree is in dormancy (November 30 – March 1). A "Right Tree / Right Place" brochure can be downloaded from our website on VBMG.org to assist with planning.

The grant administrator is not involved in the project planning or pre-approval process. There are no reporting requirements however, we ask grant recipients to share pictures of legacy tree planting for our website to encourage and educate others about the program. We also ask grant recipients to be responsible stewards of the newly planted tree with post-planting care to encourage the long-term health of the tree.

Application deadline is October 1. Applications will be reviewed and approved by the grant administrator. Application status will be communicated no later than October 31. Funds are disbursed by November 30.

Administrator reserves the right to reject incomplete applications or applications that do not meet grant criteria. Upon receipt of an application, VBMG volunteer may visit the planting site as part of review process, to ensure "Right Tree / Right Place" or provide feedback to the applicant as needed.

Grant Criteria:

- 1.) Program is for non-profit organizations (i.e., garden club, horticulture society, beautification society, HRAREC, etc.) or City of Virginia Beach affiliated / municipal locations such as historic houses, city owned municipal and neighborhood parks, schools, churches, etc. This program is not open to the general public, homeowners, commercial businesses, or Virginia Beach Master Gardeners.
- 2.) Application must be for a pre-approved project that permits tree installation. (i.e., Miss Utility, etc.)
- 3.) Application must include appropriate tree selection for site (mature size and variety, etc.)
- 4.) Application must include planned installation date while tree is dormant (Nov. 30 – March 1).
- 5.) Application must be received from approving party or project manager and include contact information.
- 6.) Applicant is responsible for additional resources for successful installation and post-planting tree care.
- 7.) Please include check payee name and address with your completed application.

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SITE ASSESSMENT AND SPECIES SELECTION WORKSHEET

Complete the following worksheet to help identify the 'Right Tree for the Right Place (Southampton Roads Hardiness Zone = 8a).

Purpose:

Screening Specimen Energy Saving

Location:

Street Lawn Wooded Landscape

Light:

Sun Shade

Site Limitations:

Parking Walkway Driveway Roadway

Utilities:

Overhead Power Lines Underground Utilities

Growing Conditions:

Salt Spray Road Salt Dry Site Wet Site pH Poor Drainage

Desired Tree:

Size: Small (<30') Medium (30'-50') Large (>50')

Type: Evergreen Deciduous

Form: Columnar Round Pyramid Vase

Other: Low Maintenance Pest Free Disease Resistant

Features: Wildlife Native Seasonal Color

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Grant Amount Requested \$_____

Application Date

Expected Planting Date

Check Payee / Mail Check Address

Name of Organization / Representative Information

Approving Project Manager Contact Information

Project Location / Address

Describe location where tree will be situated. *Tip: Take into consideration site suitability, permitting requirements, Miss Utility, public safety and long-term goal for location selected.*

Have you already purchased your tree? If so, provide tree information and describe how your tree is suited for your location and objectives. *Tip: If you have not yet selected a tree, please refer to our 'Right Tree, Right Place' Brochure, and read special notes on tree selection below. You may also find the Site Assessment and Species Selection Worksheet helpful.*

Describe planting site preparation. *Tip: Your plans should include a soil test.*

Describe who is planting your tree (landscape professionals, trained individuals, etc.) and who is overseeing installation to ensure the tree is properly planted.

Describe your post-planting tree care plan for watering, protecting from root compaction, weed whips, mulching and pruning.

Special notes on tree selection:

Some trees are non-native to our area or may be considered invasive. While many non-native trees are readily available in the retail marketplace, we encourage you to become good stewards by selecting a tree that protects our environment from invasive species and helps support our native pollinators and wildlife. Some trees to avoid are Bradford Callery Pear, Princess Tree, Red mulberry, Chinaberry, Ginkgo (female), Leyland cypress, Mimosa, Tree of Heaven, and Norway maple. Visit the following website to search for invasive plants for the Coastal Plain region dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/ip

Disclosure:

Grant recipient(s) assume all responsibility, liability and risk for public safety and longevity of the tree planted. Many growers may provide some warranty for trees purchased from them. After planting, if you need consultation, please contact a certified arborist. You may also contact the VCE Help Desk with questions at (757) 385-8156 or email the Help Desk at VBMGHelp@vbgov.com