

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 listed below.

Grants are available in \$100 increments. The funds must be used by grant recipient(s) to purchase tree(s) for their pre-approved project. Applicant must submit written certification of project approval with the application. The approving official may be the property owner, project manager or other approving party. VBMG Tree Stewards are not involved in your project planning or pre-approval process. The applicant is responsible for site selection, site preparation and proper tree installation. Tree installation date must 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.

There are no reporting requirements. Your only obligation to VBMG Tree Stewards is to provide pictures of tree planting and / or planted tree for our website to encourage and show others of our program success. 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.

The application deadline is October 1. Applications will be reviewed and approved by the VBMG Tree Steward volunteers. Application status will be communicated no later than October 31. Upon approval, a Tree Steward volunteer will notify grant recipient(s) and funds will be disbursed in November.

Tree Stewards reserve the right to reject any application not meeting program requirements and criteria. Upon receipt of an application, VBMG Tree Stewards may visit the planting site as needed to assist in their review process, to ensure "Right Tree / Right Place" or provide feedback to the applicant.

Grant Criteria:

- 1.) Program is for the benefit of a non-profit organization (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, etc. This program is not open to the general public, homeowners, commercial businesses, or Virginia Beach Master Gardeners.
- 2.) Application must include evidence of project approval and completion of all official pre-approval requirements permitting tree installation.
- 3.) Application must demonstrate type and size of tree selected is appropriate for site location.
- 4.) Application must demonstrate tree installation date while tree is in dormancy (November 30 – March 1).
- 5.) Application must be received from person in charge of the project and include contact information.
- 6.) Applicant is responsible for additional resources for successful installation and post-planting tree care.
- 7.) Applicant may apply for multiple grants but must complete a separate application for each \$100.

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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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\$100 GRANT APPLICATION

Date of Request _____ Name of Organization _____
Project Manager Contact Name _____ PM Phone Number _____
Project Location / Address _____ Project Official Pre-approval (required) _____
Expected planting date _____ (during tree's dormancy).

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