



We Are Columbia

Public Works/Forestry & Beautification Division
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Tree Planting Flyer



The Forestry and Beautification Division plants several hundred new trees each year on city and state land in the right-of-way (R/W) alongside streets. Our goal is to place our trees in locations appropriate for the growth of the saplings into mature trees. In addition, we seek to increase our urban tree diversity in order to mitigate the spread of disease associated with a single tree species or genera and to improve wildlife and vegetation resilience during environmental adversity. All of our trees are planted to enhance the benefits of trees to residents and visitors of the City of Columbia.

- 1. Tree canopy provides welcome shade on streets, driveways, homes and yards. Properly placed trees can reduce summertime cooling costs to homes and businesses and concurrently reduce carbon emissions from power plants.**
- 2. Tree leaves capture airborne particulates, gaseous air pollution and carbon dioxide.**
- 3. The canopy of trees intercepts rainfall, which reduces the intensity of storm precipitation. This provides greater time for rain to infiltrate into soil, producing less runoff onto roads and into sewer systems.**
- 4. Tree root systems deposit organic matter in the soil, which loosens compacted soil, increases soil fertility, and creates long term carbon storage.**
- 5. Trees provide nectar to pollinators, fruit and seeds for wildlife, as well as nesting areas for birds and squirrels.**

When Forestry and Beautification plants trees on city or state land in the R/W, we take care of each tree for its entire lifespan. Some of those services include watering the tree for 1 year, pruning and removing the tree as needed, and grinding the stump.

Our planting season occurs November - March of each year. We are actively seeking new addresses to plant trees. For addresses on state streets, a permit to plant a tree will be requested from SCDOT. If you are interested, please email Weston Beck, Reforestation Program Coordinator, at Weston.Beck@columbiasc.gov, and he will come out to determine whether the R/W has soil space and adequate sunshine to support tree growth.