

Planting Trees on Arbor Day

Choose the Right Location, Choose the Right Tree

Tree Pittsburgh is more than happy to help you select, acquire, and plant a tree on school property for Arbor Day. We work with the facilities department at Pittsburgh Public Schools and the head custodian at your school to determine a location that will work best for both the tree and the school. Then, once we have the location, our ISA Certified Arborist determines what species will do best there. If there are power lines or other overhead utilities, a smaller, low growing tree will be planted. If there is plenty of space over head, a larger shade tree will be planted. Unfortunately we can't always plant someone's favorite tree—other trees of that type nearby may not be doing well, and we want your new tree to be healthy and live a long life!

Proper Tree Planting Technique

Tree Pittsburgh can help to plant your tree, and we can teach you how to plant and care for it too. The most important things to do are: remove the burlap and wire cage from around the trees' root ball before planting and make sure the root flare is exposed and that the tree is not planted too deep! Dig the hole wider than the root ball and only just as deep as the root flare.

Want to learn more about tree planting and care? Become a tree tender: www.treepittsburgh.org/treetendercourse

Proper After Care

Tree Pittsburgh would like you and the school team to be responsible for seeing your tree thrive! A classroom or group that adopts the tree in a young grade can be responsible for it through the end of their time at the school and have

a beautiful legacy left when they graduate. Here is how to help your tree be the healthiest:

Water the tree 40 gallons per week! Young trees need lots of water to stay healthy and establish! Use a hose turned on to a slow flow and give the tree a good, long drink.. Make sure the hose is turned on to just a little more than a trickle!

Mulch the tree in a wide donut-shaped circle with the tree in the middle. Mulch makes for strong healthy root systems, which trees need to do well. Keep grass, weeds, and lawnmowers away from the trunk with a nice mulch donut! But don't volcano mulch! Make sure the mulch does not touch the tree trunk or get piled up against the bark. This can kill the tree.

In the summer, the tree will continue to need water. Work with the maintenance people in your school building and neighbors to water and ensure the tree's survival during summer months.

Become a Tree Tender! Teachers who become Tree Tenders with Tree Pittsburgh will have a deeper understanding of tree biology, planting and care, and can earn act 48 credits. To see a list of courses, go to www.treepittsburgh.org/treetendercourse.

Fundraising for a Tree Planting

Generally speaking, a large healthy tree planted by volunteers costs about \$250 dollars. It is easiest to coordinate a larger tree planting in the area, because this cost includes delivery of trees from the nursery. There are lots of ways to raise money for a tree planting, and for its aftercare.

Involve your school's parent group.

Parents are often the ones who want trees the most! A donation of \$5 from each person can set a solid funding foundation for trees that will last decades.

Have a seedling sale! Students can grow flowers, vegetables, and even trees from seed to raise money for a large tree to be planted on school grounds

Be creative. Involve neighbors, host a bake sale, put the names of tree donors on display, write to the local newspapers, and tell Tree Pittsburgh what you are doing. We can help you get the word out and work with you to create a plan to plant trees at or near your school.

