

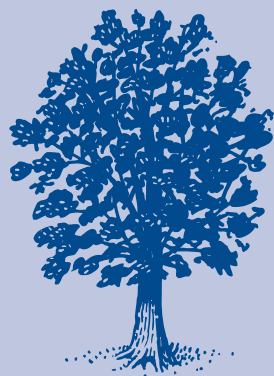
Trees Help Communities Grow

Turn over a New Leaf and Plant a Tree!

It is easy to take trees for granted. They quietly blend into the backdrop of our day-to-day lives. Trees create special places within our communities where we can enjoy nature's beauty, relax and renew our spirits.

Community forestry enhances our unique sense of place and creates green space that bridges the gap between people and nature. Trees are easy to plant and, over time, offer many dividends. Active involvement in tree planting programs can:

- Teach children about responsibility and nurturing;
- Demonstrate how people can work together to achieve safer, healthier communities where families and businesses thrive; and
- Project a visible sign of rebirth and provide the impetus for other forms of community renewal.



“When we plant trees, we are doing what we can to make our planet a more wholesome and happier dwelling place for those who come after us, if not for ourselves.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Prince George’s County Branches Out ReLeaf Grant Program

Prince George’s County has a program to help communities “turn green” with trees. The ReLeaf Grant Program provides landscape funding to community organizations for planting projects in public spaces. All community groups are encouraged to apply. Projects that have received funding in the past include tree plantings within parks and playgrounds, memorial plantings, tree plantings along streets and reforestation projects along streams. The County encourages planting low-maintenance, native-tree species that thrive in Maryland’s climate and are resistant to the effects of drought.

Two options are available for funding. Communities that wish to organize and implement projects using volunteer labor are eligible to receive a reimbursement for 100 percent of the expenses. Groups that choose to hire a contractor for tree planting can receive reimbursement for up to 50 percent of the contract cost. Grant funding is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and must be used only for costs associated with tree and shrub planting. Small community-based projects are eligible to receive up to \$2,500 per project, and municipalities are eligible for up to \$5,000 per project.

Adopt-a-Program

The Prince George’s County Department of Environmental Resources’ (DER) *Adopt-a-Program* encourages residents to take pride in their community by beautifying, caring for and maintaining neighborhoods, parks, roads, streets, streams and rivers. The County offers assistance in event planning and provides supplies.

Benefits Beyond Beauty

Trees provide a multitude of environmental and economical benefits that add to the quality of our lives.

Environmental Contributions of Trees

- Provide cooling shade to neighborhoods
- Furnish birds and wildlife with a place to live
- Diminish noise pollution
- Absorb air pollutants and release oxygen
- Provide heat, rain and wind protection
- Minimize stormwater runoff by catching rainfall in their canopy
- Reduce soil erosion
- Remove water pollutants

Economic Contributions of Trees

- Increase residential and business real estate values
- Attract businesses and enhance economic stability

Energy-Saving Contributions of Trees

- Reduce cooling costs

So, Go on, Turn over a New Leaf

Play a role in motivating people to care for their natural resources in a way that leads to the revitalization of neighborhoods. Enhance our communities and make them more livable by planting a tree!