

HOW TO PLANT STREET TREES IN FRONT OF YOUR PROPERTY

Street trees can make urban places like Hudson more beautiful. They also make sidewalks safer and more inviting for pedestrians; add value to adjacent real estate; absorb storm water; purify air; reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions; and provide a sense of well-being and connection to nature. By planting a tree in front of your property, you can not only enjoy these benefits yourself but also make a valuable contribution to our community. **This leaflet explains the steps you need to follow to plant a street tree in Hudson.**

A separate **Street Tree Guide**, prepared by the Hudson Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), is available at the CAC page of the Hudson City website, or [here](#), or in print from the Department of Public Works in City Hall. Those guidelines will help you choose the right tree and location, to avoid future problems like sidewalks being heaved and broken by the tree's roots. The guidelines also explain how to plant a tree properly and maintain it so that it can have a long and healthy life.

What is the process for planting a street tree in Hudson?

- Consider the location and its conditions, and choose an appropriate type of tree. Use the information in the Street Tree Guide.
- **Complete and submit the attached street tree permit.** Trees cannot be planted in the public right of way (that is, the sidewalk) without an approved permit.
- Follow the planting and maintenance practices described in the Street Tree Guide, to ensure that your tree grows to healthy maturity.

What kinds of trees should be planted?

- Trees should be appropriate to the particular conditions where they are planted, such as the width of the street and sidewalk, or the presence of overhead utility lines. Types with deep roots are preferable, to minimize the heaving and breaking of sidewalks. Street trees should be pedestrian friendly and not, for example, have a low-branching or weeping form.
- **A list of recommended species that have these characteristics and are known to thrive in urban conditions included in the Street Tree Guide.**

How should street trees be planted and maintained?

- The Street Tree Guide describes how planting holes and soil should be prepared, and how newly planted trees should be stabilized and physically protected.
- In the Street Tree Guide you'll find suggested best practices for watering, pruning, fertilizing and mulching to ensure healthy growth and longevity

Who is responsible for street trees in Hudson?

Similar to the situation with our sidewalks, responsibility for the costs, planting and maintenance of street trees lies with the owner of the adjacent property. The CAC will review your selection of a type of tree, and the Department of Public Works will review your application to ensure that the tree type and location you have selected are appropriate. The DPW will make a sidewalk cut, if one is needed, free of charge. All other costs and liabilities are yours, as the property owner.

City of Hudson, New York
Department of Public Works
Application for Street Tree Planting Permit

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Proposed location for tree [be specific, like: "10 feet east of fire hydrant in front of 456 Elm St.]

Are you the owner of the property in front of which this tree will be planted? YES____NO____

First and second choice of tree species_____

Proposed dimensions of planting hole or sidewalk cut_____

Please be aware of local law regarding street trees in the public right of way, and who is responsible for what: Hudson's City Charter gives the power to regulate the planting of trees in the public right of way (which includes the sidewalk) to the Commissioner of Public Works. The Commissioner may also determine that a street tree has become unsightly, dangerous, or an impediment, and require the adjacent property owner to address such problems at such property owner's expense. See [C22.22 of the Hudson City Charter](#).

You, as owner of the adjacent property (or a third party donor) will be responsible for the purchase and planting of the tree. You, and any subsequent owner of the adjacent property, are also responsible for the tree's care and maintenance.

Signature_____ Date_____

What happens next?

- Submit this application by email to CAC@cityofhudson.org or by mail to: Hudson CAC, City Hall, 520 Warren Street, Hudson, NY 12534.
- The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) will evaluate your choice of tree species. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will evaluate the proposed location. The DPW will call in Underground Utility Locate to make sure there will be no conflict with underground power or water lines (this is required by State law). Your application will also be evaluated for consistency with the recommendations in the Street Tree Guide. The CAC and DPW may suggest alternate species and or locations for your tree.
- Once your application is approved, the Department of Public Works will make a sidewalk cut (if needed) and excavate a planting hole up to three feet deep.
- If any utilities need to be relocated, the DPW will coordinate the project between you and the utility provider, but you will be responsible for all costs incurred in moving utilities.
- You can then plant your tree. [If the location of your tree gets heavy foot traffic, the DPW may require you to install a tree grate, for the safety of pedestrians.]