

RGNA Tree Project: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there an integrated or master plan for the reforestation of the West End of the city? (Block by block or street by street?)

A: *Right now there is no master plan. However, the first step of the RGNA Tree Project is to complete an inventory of all the curb trees in the Rose Garden Neighborhood. A group of neighbors have volunteered to be trained on how to conduct a tree inventory. During May and June you may see them out on the streets trying to identify trees and measuring trees and verges. They will note what is there and what is not there, including utilities. All of this will be used to prepare a master plan to revitalize the trees in our neighborhood. This will be a multi-year process that requires neighbors working with the City to help replant trees.*

Q: What are my obligations as a homeowner regarding taking down and replacing trees along city streets?

A: *The City's Shade Tree Commission recommended a policy that was adopted by the city. It requires that when a tree is removed another must be planted. It is the homeowners responsibility to arrange for removal of the old or damaged tree and to replant new trees. (See [Shade Tree Planting Information for Property Owners](#))*

Q: Does the city have a list of approved trees? When was the last time it was updated?

A: *The city does not have a list of approved trees. There is a List of Prohibited Trees (See [Tree Selection Guidelines](#)). When the City contacts a resident about the removal of a tree they also recommend a couple of alternatives to replace the tree. However, residents may approach the city with requests for specific types of trees. The City works with residents to plant the right tree for the spot.*

Q: What are my options for planting curb trees if there are electric power lines along my property?

A: *PPL has prepared a guide to planting trees under or near power lines. It is available at ([SEE PPL's Select the Right Tree](#))*

Q: Why should I consider planting native trees?

A: *Native trees are generally more disease resistant, support our native insects and birds and are better for our environment. Since Allentown is now a "Bird City," planting native trees will contribute to supporting our bird populations. (See [Native Trees for Urban Street Plantings](#))*

Q: Can RGNA Tree Project participants buy trees through the City for other parts of their property?

A: *Work with the City focuses on replanting curb trees. Tree nurseries may extend a discount to RGNA members, however, individuals are responsible for delivery and planting trees on other parts of their property. The City will be focusing on the curb trees. Residents need to take care of the rest of their property.*

Q: How can I identify city approved arborists to help me with my curb trees?

A: *The City provides a list of arborists. (See the [2012 ISA certified Tree Surgeons list provided by the City.](#))*

Q: What coordination is there between the Parks and Recreation Department and other city departments re: I plant a tree and you come along and re-do the street and/or curbs causing damage to the tree I just replaced?

A: *Unfortunately, this has happened and will continue to happen in the future. Normally, work crews take precautions when digging near trees to prevent serious damage to the roots. The holes can also be back filled with special products to give the trees a boost after the roots have been disturbed. When possible, talk to the work crews and ask them what they plan to do to protect your tree.*

Q: Does it make sense to plant trees in verges that are so narrow that most trees will not do well?

A: *Sidewalks be curved or notched to better accommodate trees that are planted in narrow verges. In some instances, residents have chosen to plant trees inside the sidewalk on their property. Residents may discuss these options with the City Arborist and take appropriate action.*

Q: How can Chew Street become an attractive gateway to the city?

A: *It will take a coordinated effort of interested residents working with the city to develop a plan and identify funding to support such an initiative. Neighbors frequently talk about the possibility of placing utilities underground, of getting more attractive street lights and replanting the beautiful old trees along the curbs. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact RGNA and to express your interest in helping with the Chew Street Corridor Project.*

Once, while the sage, Honi, was walking along a road, he saw an old man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him: "How many years will it take for this tree to give forth its fruit?" The man answered that it would require 70 years. Honi asked: "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?" The man answered: "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. So, too, will I plant for my children." (Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit 23a)