

New Trees for Neighborhood Parks

November 2019

During the first week of November volunteers planted nearly 60 new trees in eight Harrisburg parks throughout the City. These included Italian Lake, 3rd & Penn, Lottsville, Gorgas, Shipoke, Vernon, Pleasantview, and the Capital Area Greenbelt. The trees are eight to ten foot tall saplings well on their way to providing beauty and shade to the community. In an effort to diversify the makeup of the City's urban forest, fourteen different species of trees were selected. The majority of volunteers were from various offices of the state Department of Corrections. Some were from Market Square Presbyterian Church, and still others were from the City Licensing and Taxation Office. Volunteers worked under the direction of the City Arborist and other Parks Maintenance staff.

Planting and caring for trees is among the most cost-effective practices available to enhance the quality of life in a city. Trees produce life giving oxygen, while intercepting air pollutants and purifying the air. They take up and release to the atmosphere, tremendous quantities of water, cooling the air in summer and reducing stormwater runoff. They take up carbon dioxide from the air and incorporate it into wood, reducing greenhouse gases. They beautify our homes and increase property values. And, unlike most infrastructure, trees actually increase in value over time as they grow.

Harrisburg's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities is committed to increasing tree canopy cover, while also working hard to better address tree hazards throughout the City. Volunteers interested in future tree plantings and early tree care events are encouraged to contact the City Arborist at earoane@harrisburgpa.gov.



Planting at Lottsville Park



Planting at Gorgas Playground



Department of Corrections staff volunteer tree planters