

Fall 2021 Street Tree Planting a Success

November 2021

Earlier this month 65 local residents contributed 356 hours of their time to help plant 86 new street trees in three city neighborhoods. The event took place over four days, and culminated several months of planning by a committee of volunteer “Tree Tenders” assisting the City Forester. The value of volunteer time contributed to the tree planting effort is worth over \$12,000, according to www.independentsector.org.

Tree Tenders training is offered through the state TreeVitalize Program and Penn State Extension, and teaches volunteers about the benefits of trees, tree biology, tree ID, tree planting and pruning, and how to organize a community planting. The course was offered this past May to Harrisburg residents at no cost, through a grant from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and included free street trees for the city. In August Tree Tenders canvassed three neighborhoods, going door to door to offer property owners a new street tree suited to the available growing space.

The City Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department has been working to eliminate dead and dying street trees, and to increase the number of young trees that are planted each year. For logistical reasons, planting entire street segments is far more efficient than planting individual trees scattered all over the city. Residents interested in having new street trees are encouraged to reach out to neighbors, and to contact the Department at (717) 255-3003 if 10 or more properties within a two-block stretch wish to have new trees.



