

Cool Toronto Project:

Tree Planting for Shade



**Do your part to COOL the environment
- and SAVE money too!**

Did you know...

- Planting trees and other vegetation helps **clean the air** allowing City residents to breathe easier?
- Vegetation “cools” local air temperatures when water evaporates from leaves making summers more **comfortable** for residents?
- Planting deciduous shade trees on the west and south sides of buildings can **reduce** your air conditioning **cooling costs** by up to **40%**?
- Planting evergreen trees on the north side of buildings can **reduce** winter **heating costs** by up to **10%**?
- Planting trees and other vegetation expands the urban forest, creates wildlife habitat and improves stormwater management making communities more pleasant to live in?

With so many species, how do I know what type of trees to plant?

Planting trees that are native to Southern Ontario – that is they grew here naturally prior to European settlement – has the greatest benefit of preserving the diversity of our urban forest. Since native species are well adapted to our local climate they require little maintenance and provide essential habitat and food for urban wildlife such as songbirds and butterflies.

Who do I contact for more information on tree planting and native species?

Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) is a non-profit organization that operates a Backyard Tree Planting Program. If you are a Toronto homeowner with enough space in your backyard, you qualify for this program. Employees will assist you in choosing an appropriate tree, and they'll do all of the work for you - including planting and digging! LEAF also offers some assistance to multi-units, coops and schools. Contact them directly for details on these services.

www.leafontario.org or call 416-413-9244

How do I decide the best location to plant a tree?

Since trees need space both above and below ground to maximize growth and produce the greatest benefit, planting location is crucial to a tree's long-term survival. During an on-site consultation, LEAF staff will help you select the most appropriate species and planting location for your yard. In helping you make your choice, they will consider how much space you have, the soil, light and moisture conditions of your yard, and your own personal preferences.

When do they plant?

Spring plantings usually take place during April/May. Fall plantings occur during September/ October. It's best to contact them early, since making arrangements for the site consultation does take some time.

How much will it cost?

The cost of having LEAF plant a tree in your backyard is reasonable. It depends on the type and availability of tree species that you are interested in having. Typical costs range from \$35 to \$75, depending on the size and species of tree you choose. This price includes the site consultation and planting service. A variety of native shrubs are also available from LEAF. You may choose to plant these yourself, or you can have LEAF plant them for an additional charge. Shrub prices (including delivery only) range from \$18 to \$25.

What tree planting programs does the City of Toronto offer?

The City of Toronto offers a variety of tree-planting programs. If you have space on the city-owned portion of land in front of your house, the City will plant a tree there for free! You can select the species you want from an extensive list. Planting usually takes place during spring and fall – submit your request early to ensure you get the tree you want. The City also offers tree maintenance, protection, removal, and composting services to residents. For details on tree planting programs in your area check out the City of Toronto website at:

www.city.toronto.on.ca/parks/recreation_facilities/trees/index.htm

Or contact the City Forestry Section for your district:

- **South District** (former City of Toronto) **416-392-7281**
- **North District** (former North York) **416-395-6137**
- **West District** (former Etobicoke and York) **416-394-8519**
- **East District** (former Scarborough and East York) **416-396-4865**

How can I help to expand the urban forest if I don't own a home?

The City of Toronto has a **Tree Advocacy Program** that enables individuals, community organisations and corporations to help grow Toronto's urban forest. How to make your mark:

Individuals and Community Organisations:

- **Volunteer!** Help plant a tree. Or as a community organization, you can **organize** and volunteer to plant trees on a certain site.
- Fundraise to **sponsor** a Tree Advocacy Program planting location.
- **Tell a friend** and your neighbours about the program.
- Make a **donation** to the City of Toronto Urban Forestry Fund.

Corporations:

- **Organize** staff members to join tree-planting programs.

- **Contribute** plant materials, donate professional services or become a **corporate sponsor** for the Tree Advocacy Program. As a corporate sponsor you can **showcase** your corporations **commitment** to the health and well being of our City!

Plant a tree today to cool the city, improve our health and make Toronto's communities beautiful places to live!

For more information on the Cool Toronto Project, check out our website: www.city.toronto.on.ca/taf/cool_toronto.htm or contact the Clean Air Partnership at 416-392-6672.