



CITY OF KETTERING  
**TREE PROGRAMS**





Did you know Kettering has earned the title “Tree City USA” from the Arbor Day Foundation? This means we are serious about our urban canopy because we know the people of Kettering appreciate the importance and beauty of trees. Our Parks Division even has an online tracking system to ensure we care for our trees and plant a variety of new trees whenever possible. It’s like having online medical records for our tree “patients” to give them the best care possible.

To foster this mission of having an expansive collection of trees, the City of Kettering has two programs where citizens can purchase and have the Parks Division plant a tree in their front yard or in a park or other public space such as a school or place of worship along with a memorial plaque for a loved one.

Trees add oxygen to our air, while removing pollution and providing shade and beauty to our great city. Consider purchasing a tree, and enjoy all the benefits trees can bring!

If you have any questions or would like the advice of our certified arborist on staff, please call 937-296-2486.

The Living Tree Program is designed for those persons or organizations desiring to commemorate a particular event by the planting of a tree. The event might be an anniversary, birthday, wedding, birth, reunion, graduation, retirement or death of a loved one. The person or group chooses a tree from the designated list. The prices listed are the City’s expected cost for that tree. The tree will be planted by the Parks Division.

## Registration

Interested persons or groups must order and pay for a tree in the Parks Maintenance Center located at 3170 Valleywood Drive, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday or by calling the Parks office at 937-296-2486. Those purchasing a tree will need to meet on site with a parks manager to pick the exact planting location and variety.

## Planting

The tree will be planted in Kettering on public land including areas such as parks, medians, churches, hospitals or public buildings. The tree may not be planted on residential property, businesses or other areas private in nature. The trees will be ordered and planted in the spring or fall by the Parks Division. Existing trees may also be purchased and adopted. Price on existing trees depends on type. All trees are maintained by Parks personnel.

## Plaques

Bronze 8” x 10” plaques are installed by Parks personnel next to the Living Tree. Cost for plaque is \$365. In order to provide consistent quality and aesthetics, only plaques purchased through the City will be allowed. Plaques may have as many words as the donor wishes, size permitting.

# Living Tree Program

## Tree List

The frequently chosen tree varieties and sizes for the Living Tree Program are listed below.

### Autumn Blaze Maple

**Price: \$280**

Hybrid between the red & silver maples combining the best features of each parent. Small red spring flowers with brilliant orange-red fall leaves.



### Hawthorne Crusader

**Price: \$265**

Excellent small ornamental with glossy green foliage. White flowers in the spring with orange fall colors. A thornless specimen, which produces abundant fruit.



### HONEYLOCUST SKYLINE

**Price: \$265**

A fast-growing tree with fragrant flowers. Its delicate, open silhouette lets grass grow underneath. Tiny leaflets turn yellow or yellow-green in fall. Pollution, salt and drought tolerant. Adapts to a wide range of soils. Prefers full sun. Grows up to 30-70 feet, with a 50 foot spread.



### Crabapple Coral Burst

**Price: \$260**

Slow growing maintaining a dense rounded head. Double rose flowers with a 1/2" bronze fruit. It's leaves are small and narrow, giving it a unique appearance.



### White Oak

**Price: \$325**

A majestic, long-lived versatile tree. Slow growing with a broad rounded outline and spreading branches. Foliage is retained late into the season, often turning a wine-red color.



# CITIZEN TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

To encourage the planting of quality street trees throughout Kettering, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department will make available a limited number of trees to Kettering residents. These trees are offered on a first-come, first-served, shared-cost basis. The trees are available to Kettering residents, businesses, churches and others but will be limited to one tree per person and/or address per year. The trees are planted by the Parks Division with all further maintenance being the responsibility of the owner. Tree varieties offered may change seasonally.

## REGISTRATION

Interested Kettering residents or property owners can sign up for a tree in person at the Parks Maintenance Center, 3170 Valleywood Drive from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday or by calling 937-296-2486. Payment will be made at the time of registration.

## COST AND TYPES OF TREES

These trees have been chosen for their high quality, growing habits and appearance throughout the year. They are balled and burlapped.

## PLANTING

The planting site will be determined by the property owner and Park personnel in an area immediately behind the walk or front yard. Back and side yard plantings are not allowed. Such obstacles as underground utilities, existing buildings and trees and overhead wires should be taken into consideration. The Parks Division will have the final choice in the location of the planting site. The trees will be planted in the spring or fall depending upon delivery and weather.

## GUARANTEE

Trees will be guaranteed to grow during the growing season immediately following their planting. Spring planted trees will grow that summer and fall planted trees will grow the following summer. The originally purchased tree will only be replaced once. Tree experiencing partial dieback will be handled on an individual basis.

# TREE TYPES

## BUR OAK

**Price: \$260**

The Bur Oak is the most picturesque of the Oaks of the Midwest, especially in winter. Its fiddle-shaped leathery leaves, huge fringed acorns, thick and sometimes corky twigs, and deeply ridged bark add to its bold texture. It may reach 90 feet tall by 80 feet wide at maturity. It thrives in full sun to partial sun.



## HONEYLOCUST SKYLINE

**Price: \$265**

A fast-growing tree with fragrant flowers. Its delicate, open silhouette lets grass grow underneath. Tiny leaflets turn yellow or yellow-green in fall. Pollution, salt and drought tolerant. Adapts to a wide range of soils. Prefers full sun. Grows up to 30-70 feet, with a 50 foot spread.



## PRAIRIE FIRE CRABAPPLE

**Price: \$260**

This red-leaved crabapple has excellent disease resistance and long lasting blooms. The flowers are pinkish red with dark red fruit. Fall color is yellow. This tree grows to 20 feet high and 20 feet wide.



# Want to Plant Your Own Tree?

## PLANTING TIPS:

Whether you utilize a City of Kettering tree program or not, we hope you consider planting a tree on your property to enjoy its benefits. With some planning, it can be an easy project.

The best time to plant a tree is during cool temperatures. People often assume a new tree won't survive a winter, but since trees go dormant during that time, they typically do well and "rest" before the growing season in spring.

After you purchase a tree, find a location in your yard that will accommodate the tree not just now but several years from now when it's fully grown. Do some research on how tall your tree could grow and how big its canopy might be when determining where to plant it.

Homeowners must contact the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) by calling 8-1-1 within 2 to 10 working days before beginning any digging. Your utilities, lines, pipes and cables will be located to ensure you can dig safely.



## THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION GUIDELINES FOR PLANTING TREES:



First, dig a hole 3 to 4 times wider than the container or root ball. Dig sloping slides to the hole to allow room for proper root growth.



Next, carefully remove the tree from the container if it is in one. If its roots are wrapped in a burlap ball, there's no need to cut off the wrapping yet. Set the tree in the center of the hole. The root collar—where the roots meet the trunk—should be slightly above ground level. If it is buried, add some soil to the hole to lift the tree up.



Once the tree is in position, if its roots are wrapped, remove all the rope and twine from the ball as well as the burlap. Make sure your tree is straight and then firmly pack the original soil around the roots or root ball, making sure there aren't any air pockets. Continue until the soil is just below the root collar.

# Tree Care Tips and Techniques

With a little time, attention, and patience caring for a newly planted tree is very easy. Don't expect your tree to start growing the first season it's planted. Newly planted trees take about three seasons to regain their strength from the transplant and create strong roots before we see visible growth above the ground. The Arbor Day Foundation reminds tree owners of these important tips to care for trees:

## Mulching

Think of mulching as nature's blanket for a tree. It insulates the soil, and provides a buffer from heat and cold. It retains water to help the roots stay moist and helps keep weeds out. Natural mulch such as wood chips or bark pieces should be 2-4 inches deep within a circle around the tree. Mulch should never touch the trunk of the tree nor be piled up around it in a mound.

## Watering

Remember, a newly planted tree is working hard to establish strong roots. During the summer, your tree will be exerting energy dealing with heat and drought, so watering it will give it the extra help it needs to thrive. Water a tree often enough so the soil is moist—not saturated. Over-watering is a common tree-care mistake. A damp soil that dries for a short period will allow adequate oxygen to permeate the soil. To check soil moisture, insert a garden trowel into the ground 2" deep to create a trench. Use your finger to touch the soil, and if it's moist to the touch, the tree has enough water. If the soil is soggy, cut back on watering, but do check it often.

## Pruning

Pruning during the winter is the most common practice that promotes new growth in the spring the best. It's best to wait until the coldest part of winter has passed. Pruning can be done in summer or spring as well to promote flowering or to control the growth of a tree. Pruning, however, should never be done in the fall, as this gives the tree a cut that is difficult for it to heal during the winter months and causes the tree to expend extra energy that is a risk to its overall health.

