

Street Tree Planting Program



Get Involved

A great way to care for Syracuse's urban forest is to become a tree steward. The CommuniTree Stewards Program is a CCE of Onondaga County program started in 2002. Since the beginning of the program, Tree Stewards have planted and maintained thousands of trees in Syracuse and across Onondaga County.

CommuniTree Stewards



Participants are formally trained in tree biology, pruning techniques, planting techniques, tree maintenance, and tree identification. In exchange for their training, Stewards volunteer for 5 projects caring for public trees.

For more information:
www.extendonondaga.org/forestry/communitree-stewards/



Is Your Property Eligible for a Free Tree?

The best way to find out is to call or email us at Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, 315-424-9485 ext. 230, onondaga@cornell.edu. All of the eligible locations have been inventoried and are waiting for you to call in and say yes!

Trees improve the community by making people feel calmer and give them a stronger sense of belonging to the neighborhood.

Help us Grow the Urban Forest!

There are many ways to involve yourself in the Street Tree Planting Program beyond giving approval to plant a tree. Just talking about trees with your neighbors can support the program. When one tree is planted the entire neighborhood benefits.

- Participate in tree-planting events
- Join us for our walking tours and workshops
- Organize an outreach group in your neighborhood
- Become a CommuniTree Steward
- Talk to your neighbors about the benefits of trees
- Help care for street trees



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Onondaga County



Joanne M. Mahoney
County Executive

Save the Rain
www.savetherain.us



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8,500 Trees by 2018

The **Save the Rain** Tree Planting Program has developed a robust street tree planting strategy for neighborhoods throughout the City of Syracuse. This collaborative initiative will support the planting of 8,500 trees over the life of the program.

Save the Rain is partnering with Cornell University Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse Parks Department to identify planting sites and coordinate tree planting and care. After the tree is planted, the City of Syracuse will oversee watering and pruning of trees.

Save the Rain will offer residents tree planting workshops provided by CCE of Onondaga County. These workshops and volunteer planting events will give residents the opportunity to learn how to properly plant and maintain trees



Volunteers participating in a tree planting event

How the Program Works

Trees will only be planted with approval from the property owner. Trees are planted at no cost to the property owner.

All trees will be planted within the City of Syracuse's right-of-way to allow trees to grow over our sidewalks and roadways, preventing storm water from entering the local sewer system. Once planted, the tree will be the City of Syracuse's responsibility to remove if it dies or becomes hazardous.

Tree plantings will occur in the spring and fall of each year. While the majority of the trees will be contractor planted, each year the project will have trees planted by volunteers and community organizations. **To participate in tree planting events contact CCE of Onondaga County, 315-424-9485, onondaga@cornell.edu.**

Right Tree in the Right Place

Trees will be sited as far as possible from existing infrastructure to reduce instances of utility and sidewalk conflicts. If there are no overhead utility wires, a tall growing tree will be chosen for the location. If wires are present, a lower growing tree will be chosen. The trees will be about 8-10 feet tall when planted.

Environmental conditions such as soil compaction, road salt exposure and drainage will be assessed for each potential tree planting site. Species will then be selected according to the conditions of each site.

On average, one street tree can keep more than 1000 gallons of water from entering the sewer system each year.

Benefits of Trees

Trees are an important aspect of the **Save the Rain** program. Trees naturally soak up storm water and use the precipitation to feed their root systems. A tree canopy slows the rainwater with it's leaves allowing the soil to become fully saturated with water. The tree is then able to absorb more rain water and reduce run-off entering the sewer system. For more information on the **Save The Rain** urban forestry program visit: <http://savetherain.us/green-programs/urban-forestry-program/>

Trees Also:

- Lower city temperatures in the summer
- Increase air quality by removing pollutants
- Provide an urban habitat for birds and pollinators
- Increase property value and appeal



Clinton Street, near downtown Syracuse