



## **Noblesville Tree Planting Grant Application Manual**

### **City of Noblesville Tree Board in Partnership with SMC Corporation**

#### **Program Overview**

Tree canopy is important for a range of reasons, from stormwater mitigation to mental health. This program will help to enhance the tree canopy in Noblesville. SMC Corporation has awarded the city funds to put towards the planting of trees in the community and the city matched the amount donated by SMC. The grant is to provide trees that have the greatest chance of surviving and becoming mature. Awarded project(s) for grantees should plan on planting trees on or near Arbor Day, April 26, 2024.

This application manual is meant to be used as a reference while completing the Tree Planting Grant Application Form. Please upload the Tree Planting Grant Application, a project site map, as well as the Tree Planting Grant Maintenance Agreement and Liability Release before January 31, 2024, to be eligible for the grant.

#### **Grant Awards**

Applicants may apply for a minimum of five (5) trees and maximum of 20 trees. The trees will be 15–18-gallon size which are approximately six to eight feet tall. In addition to the trees, applicants will receive training and guidance from the Noblesville Tree Board which includes two certified arborists. The annual Arbor Day Proclamation may take place at a project site as well to celebrate.

#### **Grant Timeline**

- December 15, 2023 - Applications go live on the City of Noblesville website and can be submitted through January 31, 2024.
- January 31, 2024 - February 29, 2024 - Review committee will evaluate the Applicant's projects.
- March 2024 - Approved Project(s) will be announced and plans will be finalized.
- April 2024 - Weather depending, trees will be delivered at the project site during the last week of April. Planting will occur on Arbor Day, Friday April 26, 2024, at 2pm if the weather is permissible. Back updates are April 27 or 28.



### **General Requirements**

Projects will be awarded based on committee review using criteria to evaluate the following preferences:

1. Planting must be within Noblesville city limits and with an open space for a mature tree on non-public property.
2. Preference will be given to areas lacking quality canopy.
3. Private property with high visibility to the public such as property near high traffic road areas where a broader community will benefit.
4. Locations at Institutional grounds such as faith, education, civic groups, and health institutions where many people will enjoy the increased green space.
5. A project with location(s) with high likelihood of success (i.e. areas with no overhead or underground utility issues, areas not prone to high salt, adequate access to water, parking, enough space, areas not prone to wildlife browsing/damage to trees, etc.).
6. Commitment to have dedicated volunteers for the day of planting. Volunteers should be ready and willing to prepare the site, dig holes, plant trees, and have a watering plan in place. A good estimate is three volunteers for each tree requested.
7. Applicants will be required to have the site prepared and ready to go which includes utilities (call 811) being marked ten (10) days in advance.

### **Tree requirements, selection, and number to request.**

1. Trees must be noninvasive, long-term (lifespan greater than 12 years), rather than ornamental.
2. Select trees from the City of Noblesville [successful tree list](#) that also meet the other criteria.
3. Total number of trees requested by applicants must be a minimum of five (5) but not to exceed twenty (20) trees.
4. Trees should be placed a minimum of 15 feet from homes and 10 feet from sidewalks or driveways.

### **Applicants should have evidence of an organized and adequate planning committee and commitment to care for the trees long term.**

1. Applicants must have a project lead, assistant lead, and an adequate number of dedicated volunteers/participants for day of planting and on-going maintenance.
2. Applicants will provide a site map of the area with an idea of where the trees will be planted including planting plan and rationale for species selection. Include utility information. See example site map of the Noblesville Urban Forestry 2023 Arbor Day planting at the Noblesville Boys and Girls Club included with this packet.
3. Applicants should describe the benefits to trees being planted at their site including the number of residents impacted.
4. Applicants can list community groups, organizations, contractors, or individuals with tree expertise, and their role in the project.
5. Applicants should list the number of participants they will have on the day of planting.

**Short Term and Long-Term Maintenance Requirements**

1. Applicants and Property Owner(s) must be willing to sign a “Tree Planting Grant Maintenance Agreement and Liability Release” before planting. The Maintenance Agreement is a commitment for a minimum of two (2) years with the following:
  - a. Release the City of Noblesville, Noblesville Tree Board, and SMC Corporation of any liability related to the planting of tree(s) on their property.
  - b. A plan in place by property owner(s) and/or volunteers to do caretaking and maintenance including watering, proper mulching, pest and disease prevention, pruning, other care (mowing without causing damage) etc.
  - c. If tree(s) die within two (2) years from planting from events in the property owner’s control, the property owner shall remove and replace the initial tree at the owner's expense.
  - d. For three (3) years and beyond, applicants must continue to maintain and care for the trees.

Example of site map below created by using snipping tool on google maps and Canva.com (free online software).

