

Step-By-Step Instructions for Today's Tree Planting

Supplies Needed Before You Start

Tree plan (see reverse side of this sheet)

Tree (important -- determine which tree species you need to plant by looking at the plan)

Work gloves

2 each gallon jugs of tap water

3 wood stakes

1 fertilizer packet

½ bag of mulch

Shovel

Sledge hammer (or something to pound the wood stakes into the ground)

3 black plastic ties (to tie the tree to each of the stakes to keep tree in place)

Tree Planting Directions

1. Find a fluorescent orange mark designated for a tree to be planted (if you see an orange "X" ignore it).
2. Look on the planting plan (on reverse side of this paper) to determine which tree is to be planted.
3. Take the appropriate species of tree.
4. Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly shallower than the root ball (this puts the aerated backfill soil where the new roots will grow and leaves a base of naturally firm soil for the root ball to rest on, which won't settle when watered).
5. Roughen the sides and bottom of your planting hole with a shovel so that root tips can penetrate the native soil. Smooth walls are like concrete to root tips.
6. Check the root ball of your tree for circling roots. Gently separate the roots, and guide them outward. Make sure the top of the root ball is about 1/2 to 1 inch above the surrounding soil.
7. Sight it upright! Once the tree is in the hole, stand back and make sure it's standing upright. Tilt the root ball until the tree is straight, then backfill firmly under and around it.
8. Sprinkle fertilizer pack around the tree.
9. Fill in the hole with the dirt you just uncovered. Using the handle end of your shovel, press down firmly to collapse any large air pockets in the soil. This will help stabilize the tree in the hole. Don't step on the root ball! You might separate the trunk from the roots. Don't wait until the planting is finished; press down every few shovels of soil.
10. Pour water around the root ball to encourage water penetration with at least two gallons of water. Fill several times to water deeply.
11. Position 2 wood stakes around the tree (make sure you position them so there is enough room for the ties to go around both the tree and the stakes).
12. Pound in wood stakes approximately 2 feet in the ground and place ties around the tree and each stake.
13. Cover the entire planting area, except a small circle at the base of the trunk, to a depth of 3 to 4 inches with mulch.

Congratulations! You have successfully planted a tree! Take a short break and then look for another mark where another tree needs to be planted and follow these directions again!

Have all the trees been planted? Please consider helping us clean up the adjacent stream! Go pick up some plastic bags and get started!

Another fun environmental event sponsored by the Friends of Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway!