



Successful Volunteer Tree Planting Projects

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Two Approaches to Planting Day

	ReTree Schenectady	Watertown Rotary
Site identification	ReTree volunteer	City arborist
Site assessment	ReTree volunteer	City arborist
Tree species selection	ReTree volunteer	City arborist
Tree order	ReTree volunteer	City arborist
Utility check	ReTree volunteer	City arborist
Tree and mulch delivery	City	City
Digging holes	Volunteers	City
Tree planting	Volunteers	Volunteers

Where to Find Volunteers

- Rotary Club
- YouthBuild
- Local businesses (may have community service days)
- Local colleges (often have a volunteer coordinator)
- High schools (e.g., Junior ROTC, community service hours, clubs)
- Neighborhood associations
- Word of mouth





Tips for a Successful Volunteer Experience

- Clear communication of expectations (e.g., schedule, level of effort)
- Appropriate tools and instruction
- Positive encouragement
- 2-3 hours maximum
- Refreshments
- Follow up with thank you and public recognition (e.g., press coverage)
- Good weather





How Volunteers Support the Urban Forest

- Labor for focused planting projects
- Tree council or tree advisory board
- Public education regarding the value of trees and the urban forest
- Advocates for trees and arborists in the municipal budget

Volunteers can supplement but not substitute for a municipal tree program

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