



# THE FRUIT TREE PLANTING FOUNDATION

...PLANTING FRUIT TREES FOR A HEALTHY PLANET.

P.O. Box 632, MILL VALLEY, CA 94942 • 831.621.8096 • 831.621.7978 (FAX) • INFO@FTPF.ORG • WWW.FTPF.ORG

## FTPF Orchard Donation: What To Expect

Congratulations on being chosen as a recipient of a Fruit Tree 101 orchard donation from The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) and Stretch Island Fruit Co., makers of all-natural Fruit Strips and FruitaBü Fruit Rolls for kids. The following document and checklist provides a summary of the program and what to expect so you'll be ready when FTPF arrives at your site to donate and plant your new orchard. Stretch Island Fruit Co. will also provide additional support for the planting, including complementary all-natural snacks. We are particularly grateful to the Stretch Island Fruit Co. team for their vision to create and make this program possible for a greener, healthier schoolyard.

Fruit Tree 101 orchards create outdoor edible orchard classrooms at public schools of all levels, to provide generations of students with environmental education opportunities and a source of fruit for improved school lunch nutrition. Many schools are also utilizing the outdoor orchard classrooms to hold math lessons (e.g. calculating the distances between two trees given other angles and distances); art projects (e.g. tree portraits); to demonstrate charitable giving principles by collecting and donating the harvest to local food banks; or to involve parents and the community in school beautification projects.

The "Fruit Tree 101" event is typically completed in two parts. The first (called the "planting"), typically held on a weekend to accommodate adult volunteer schedules, involves planting the orchard under the direction of our certified arborist. An average orchard can be planted in a half day with sufficient volunteers (we rely on the school to coordinate local volunteer attendance). The second part (called the "curriculum"), held when school is in session, invites students to join FTPF's instructors for a fun, hour-long lesson about the importance of trees for the environment and fruit in the diet—culminating in a group tree planting exercise. Local media often attends and reports on the event and all the great things that are happening at your school. We ask that the school arrange for about 15-20 adult volunteers to help with the planting and a class of between 50-100 students of the same grade level to attend our curriculum. For more on "Fruit Tree 101," please visit [www.ftpf.org/fruittree101.htm](http://www.ftpf.org/fruittree101.htm).

Our orchard donation provides high-quality trees (typically in a 5-gallon container size using trees from local sources, but sometimes smaller or larger, depending on the project), shrubs (if applicable), organic soil amendments, equipment, and we travel to your site to provide orchard design expertise, aftercare training, planting labor, and oversee the planting. Our team will consult with your designated point person to determine desired quantities, types, and cultivars, and then we take care of the plant material purchases from there. We also coordinate all logistics, from arranging tree deliveries to offering workshops for volunteers interested in learning more about tree care.

Our certified arborist will be in touch with you soon to discuss scheduling, tree selection, and other details. If you need to reach us sooner, please call 831.621.8096 or email [info@ftpf.org](mailto:info@ftpf.org). We look forward to donating a beautiful, thriving fruit tree orchard for your school to enjoy for decades!

## FTPF Planting Preparation Checklist

- Confirmation:* Confirm all project dates, times, and details. Once we are confirmed, we make extensive (and often expensive) logistical arrangements, including travel, tree and equipment purchases, and press release distribution, so once we agree to a planting date, cancellations are not allowed as we will have incurred nonrefundable projects costs.
- Introduction:* Conference with FTFP's arborist over the phone to discuss and finalize tree quantities, types, and sizes. Please let us know if you have existing contacts with local nurseries and/or equipment suppliers where we can obtain discounted trees and related materials. To put a face to the voice, you can learn more about Rico Montenegro, FTFP's Chief Arborist, in this 60-second television feature: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoCOVOHx78k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoCOVOHx78k). You can contact Rico via email at [rico@ftpf.org](mailto:rico@ftpf.org) or by phone on 530-515-7657, otherwise he will be in touch with you.
- Volunteers:* Confirm that at least 15-20 volunteers from the community will join us for the orchard planting, and more, if possible. The more volunteers we have, the quicker the planting will be completed and the more stewardship there will be for the orchard. Please also make sure that the person(s) in charge of caring for the trees will attend the planting to receive training, as needed.
- Soil digability:* If you haven't already done so, please confirm that an 18-inch deep, 2-foot wide hole can be manually dug with a shovel and/or pick-ax in a reasonable amount of time, around 15 minutes or less, and that there is no extreme compaction or construction materials under the top soil that might be a hindrance. Let us know immediately of any obstacles.
- Tree quantities:* Confirm that the number of trees requested will fit in your planting space by measuring tree placements at 15 feet intervals (roughly equivalent to 5 large adult steps). Please note that the trees do not have all be in the same area, they can be scattered about the site as long as they are near a water source.
- Drainage:* Confirm that drainage is decent at the planting site by filling the hole dug in the previous step with water, allowing it to drain, filling it with water again, and noting how long it takes for this second drainage to complete. Please let us know if the second draining takes longer than 24 hours.
- Delivery & storage:* If the trees and equipment are to be delivered prior to the planting day, ensure that there is a safe storage area to hold them and that someone will be available to receive them when the deliverers arrive and water them thoroughly every other day until the planting.
- Mulch:* If applicable, depending on how you answered this question on our application, make arrangements to have mulching material dropped off at the site prior to the planting day. Our arborist will discuss this with you in more detail to provide guidance.
- Equipment:* Encourage volunteers to bring spade shovels, and let us know exactly how many shovels, pick-axes, wheelbarrows, and feet of hosing will be available so we arrive prepared.
- Underground obstacles:* Prior to the planting, make sure to mark or note any areas where there might be underground obstacles such as water lines.
- Irrigation:* Ensure that the irrigation source, typically a hose bib, that will be used to water the trees is turned on and in close proximity to the planting site. Confirm that you have enough hosing available to reach all the trees. If not, please let us know.
- Bathrooms:* Confirm that bathrooms will be available for volunteers during the planting.
- Meeting:* After all pre-arrangements have been made, prepare to meet the FTFP team at the planting site a day before or early on the day of the planting to design the new orchard. If your team has arboricultural expertise and would like to come up with your own design in advance, we are more than happy to follow your plan and assist as needed

### FTPF Curriculum Preparation Checklist

- Student attendance:* Confirm that a class of approximately 50-100 students of the same grade level will be attending our hour-long curriculum and, in case of any media presence, any students who should not be photographed are kept in a separate group.
- Alternate location:* We prefer to hold our curriculum with students outside in the new orchard, however, sometimes the weather does not cooperate. Please arrange for an alternate site (either an inside classroom or outside under cover) to hold our curriculum in case of inclement weather.
- Portable stereo:* If the participating students are in the K-3 grade range, please provide a boom box that can play a CD or mp3, with decent speakers so that it can be heard in an outdoor setting. We have a fun “fruit dance” to kick off the program.
- PA system:* For student groups of 50 or more, if possible, we prefer a PA system with a microphone to be available.
- Fold-out table:* Please provide a fold-out type waist-high table for us to set up some materials on for the program. Nothing fancy, just something where we can complete our fruit recipe demos and other activities. We arrive between 30-60 minutes prior to the program to set up in the orchard, so it would be great to have the table and the aforementioned boom box (for elementary schools) and PA system (for groups of over 50 students) available when we arrive.