



THE FRUIT TREE
PLANTING
FOUNDATION

WWW.
FTPF.ORG

INFO@
FTPF.ORG

FTPF Orchard Donation: What To Expect

Congratulations on being chosen as the recipient of a Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) orchard donation, and thank you for being part of this groundbreaking effort! The following document and checklist provides a description of the program and what to expect so you'll be ready when our team arrives at your site for your planting event.

FTPF orchards are meant to provide your facility and community with environmental and nutritional benefits for decades; combat climate change through the known benefits trees have for the air, soil, and water; restore ecosystems and animal habitat; and empower volunteers to take positive action for the environment.

An average orchard can be planted in a half day with sufficient volunteers. Our projects are completed under the direction of FTFP's arborist, who is also available to provide a fruit tree care workshop upon request. At the planting, there will be plenty of smiles as volunteers, including families and children, find great joy and learning from the experience. Local media often attends our events to report on the effort.

Our orchard donation provides high-quality trees, shrubs (if applicable), organic soil amendments (if needed), and equipment. Our team travels to your site to provide orchard design expertise, aftercare training and workshops, and to oversee the planting. Our team will consult with your designated point person to determine desired quantities, types, and cultivars, and then we'll take care of the logistics from there.

We do ask that you help recruit volunteers to join us for the planting to build community buy-in, which is essential for all successful projects, with a minimum of at least half as many volunteers as we have trees to plant, and hopefully more. Some recipients also arrange for fun elements such as music, food, or dignitaries to attend to make the event festive. This is optional, but would always be welcomed, the more the merrier, rain or shine! The following summarizes a typical event schedule:

00:00 – 00:05	Representative from your organization introduces your mission and work
00:05 – 00:10	FTPF introduces itself & leads ceremonial tree planting w/key players (photo op)
00:10 – 00:30	FTPF's arborist provides volunteers with a planting demonstration
00:30 – 03:00	Volunteers break into groups to plant the orchard under FTFP's oversight
03:00 – 04:00	[Optional] FTFP provides an in-depth workshop on fruit tree aftercare

Our 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 us at info@ftpf.org. We look forward to donating a beautiful, thriving fruit tree orchard for your community to enjoy for decades!

For schools only: Our Fruit Tree 101 program creates outdoor edible orchard classrooms at schools of all levels to provide generations of students with environmental education opportunities and a source of improved school lunch nutrition. The planting is completed in one afternoon if students are of an age that they can help with the digging and planting (generally middle school and up). For schools serving younger students, we typically break up the planting into two parts. The first part is held at a time when adult volunteers are available to prep the site and dig holes. We rely on the school to coordinate volunteers for this (again, we ask that the school arranges for at least half as many adult volunteers as there are trees). The second part, held when school is in session, invites students to join FTFP's instructors for a fun lesson—culminating in a group tree planting exercise where the prepped holes are planted with trees. All ages welcome and a minimum class size of 30 students is encouraged.

FTPF Project Preparation Checklist

- Confirmation:* Confirm all project dates, times, and details. Once we are confirmed, we make extensive (and often expensive) 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. Events are rain or shine!
- Introduction:* Conference with FTPF'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. Our arborist working on this project will be in touch with you directly to start the discussion.
- Volunteers:* Confirm that, at a minimum, at least half as many volunteers as there are trees to plant will join us for the orchard planting, and preferably more. 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 delivery arrives and water them thoroughly when they are dry, 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 planting day. Our general formula is that one cubic yard can supply 8 trees with ample mulch. Our preferred mulching material is aged wood chips, however, fresh wood chips, straw, or compost will also work.
- Equipment:* Encourage volunteers to bring spade shovels, and let us know exactly how many shovels, pick-axes, wheelbarrows, and hoses 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 functional 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 FTPF team at the planting site prior to the event 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.