



THE FRUIT TREE
PLANTING
FOUNDATION

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Fruit Tree Planting Event: What To Expect

Congratulations on being chosen as a recipient of a fruit tree orchard donation from the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF)! The following document and checklist provides a summary of the program and what to expect so you'll be ready when we arrive at your site to donate and plant your new orchard.

FTPF orchards are meant to provide your facility and community with environmental and nutritional benefits for decades; combat global warming 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.

All our projects are completed under the direction of FTPF's expert staff, which is also available to provide a fruit tree care workshop upon request. Schools are also often offered additional educational opportunities, such as our Fruit Tree 101 standards-based curriculum (when resources allow). At every planting, there will be plenty of smiles as volunteers, including families and children, experience great joy and learning from the experience. An average orchard can be planted in a half day with sufficient volunteers and local media often attends our events to report on the effort.

Our orchard donation provides high-quality trees, typically in a 5-gallon container from local sources or bare-root during the appropriate season, (size and type vary depending on nursery availability and other factors for each project), shrubs (if applicable), and help with securing equipment (including tools, irrigation, and fencing, when appropriate). Our team then travels to your site before and on event day to provide orchard design expertise, training and workshops, and to oversee the planting. Our staff will consult with your designated point person to determine desired tree quantities, types and cultivars, and we will coordinate their procurement from there.

We ask that you help recruit volunteers to join us, rain or shine, for the planting to build community buy-in. This is essential for all successful projects, and we ask for a minimum of half as many volunteers as there are trees being planted (and hopefully more). Some recipients also arrange for fun elements such as music, food, or dignitaries to attend to make the event extra festive. This is optional, but would always be welcomed – the more the merrier! The following summarizes a typical event agenda:

00:00 – 00:05	Representative from your organization introduces your mission and work
00:05 – 00:10	FTPF introduction & ceremonial tree planting with key participants (photo op)
00:10 – 00:30	FTPF's arborist leads volunteers through a planting demonstration
00:30 – 03:00	Volunteers break into groups to plant the orchard under FTPF's oversight
03:00 – 03:30	FTPF provides workshop on fruit tree aftercare

Please review the checklist on the next page to prepare for event day. An FTPF staff member will be in touch with you as well 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!

FTPF Project Preparation Checklist

- Confirm dates/times:* Confirm all project dates, times, and details internally and with the FTPF team. Once confirmed, FTPF makes extensive (and often expensive) arrangements – including travel, tree, and equipment purchases as well as press release distribution, so once we agree to a planting date, cancellations are not allowed as we will have incurred nonrefundable costs. Events are rain or shine!
- Meet with arborist:* Conference with FTPF's arborist over the phone to discuss tree quantities, types, and sizes as well as equipment needs and deliveries. Please let us know if you have existing contacts with local nurseries and/or equipment suppliers where we can obtain quality trees and any available discounts.
- Tree quantities:* Confirm that the number of trees requested will fit in your planting space by measuring tree placements at 15 foot intervals for most fruit trees (roughly equivalent to 5 large adult steps). Please note that the trees do not have to all be in the same area, they can be scattered about the site as long as they are near a water source.
- 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. If you have arranged for an auger or other machinery, please confirm those details with the FTPF team. Let us know immediately of any obstacles.
- Soil testing:* If testing is to be done, be sure to have results in hand prior to tree purchases.
- Drainage:* Confirm that drainage is adequate 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.
- Mulch:* If applicable and depending on the arrangement discussed with the FTPF team, 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 10 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, bow rakes, 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. Alternatively, if we are installing drip irrigation on planting day, details for equipment and installation will be discussed with the arborist.
- Volunteers:* Confirm that a minimum of at least one volunteer for every two trees being planted from the community 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 those in charge of caring for the trees will attend the planting to receive training, as needed.
- Bathrooms:* Confirm that bathrooms will be available for volunteers during the planting.
- 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.
- Site visit:* After all pre-arrangements have been made, prepare to meet the FTPF team at the planting site prior to the planting event to continue 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. Our team will be in touch to arrange this meeting.