



## **STUART COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY RESIDENTIAL STREET TREE PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

### **PURPOSE:**

The City of Stuart Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is initiating the Residential Street Tree Program to increase the tree canopy, help stabilize the environment, and enhance it's residential and public streets.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Single-family residences within the priority neighborhoods may qualify for the Residential Street Tree Program.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Property Owner may request for street tree on private portion of the front yard (or side yard for corner lots) or within the City's right of way, which is typically the grass area between the street and sidewalk. The homeowner shall choose a tree species from the City's list of Recommended Street Trees, which is included with the application packet.

The City will be responsible for purchasing the trees, planting and watering during the first ninety (90) days to help establish the trees. There is no cost to the resident.

After the first ninety (90) days, the homeowner will provide day-to-day care of the tree, which includes regular watering, pruning, mulching and fertilizing. The City will provide watering guidelines and tree care instructions for proper care of the tree.

The City's Residential Free Street Tree Program is contingent on continued funding by the City.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

If you would like to participate in the Residential Street Tree Program, please complete the Street Tree Program Application and return it by email to: [pgandhi@ci.stuart.fl.us](mailto:pgandhi@ci.stuart.fl.us) or you can drop it off at City Hall Development Department office located at 121 SW Flagler Avenue, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

If you have any questions, please contact Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, at 772-283-2532 or via email at [pgandhi@ci.stuart.fl.us](mailto:pgandhi@ci.stuart.fl.us).

The deadline to submit an application is January 31, 2022 for Spring planting (March 1 – April 30). All application received will be entered, dated and categorized by address/zone for planting.

After you submit your application, you will be contacted by City staff to confirm your interest in our program. The City staff will conduct a site visit to the property to determine the location of tree you requested and email you with the results. Once the tree species/location is approved, the City will hire a contractor to install the tree at the approved location. Please note that the location may shift due to underground utilities.

Hold Harmless form is required as part of the application if the location selected falls within the private property.



**STUART COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
RESIDENTIAL STREET TREE PROGRAM APPLICATION**



**STREET TREE PROGRAM APPLICANT**

|                                                    |      |
|----------------------------------------------------|------|
| Homeowner's Name:                                  | Date |
| Address of Property:                               |      |
| Address of Property Owner if different than above: |      |
| Email Address:                                     |      |
| Phone Number:                                      |      |

**YOUR DESIRED TREE LOCATION MUST BE:**

1. On private part of your front yard (or side yard for corner lots) that is 20 feet or less from the end of the right-of-way; or
2. If there is no sidewalk, installation within 12 feet of the street; or
3. Within the City's right-of-way (grass area between the street and sidewalk)

**TREE CHOICES**

All street trees must be chosen from the City's list of Recommended Street Trees included in the application packet. The City cannot guarantee the availability of a particular tree species. Please select your top three choices.

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |

Are there overhead power lines: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

*\*Note: Specific type of tree species are recommended to be installed under power lines*

*\*Important – Trees will be installed, mulched and watered in by the City's contractor. Once the tree is planted, the property owner and city staff shall provide as much care and water as necessary during the first ninety (90) days. The establishment period is a minimum of ninety (90) days, but can vary depending on weather conditions. The City will provide tree care instruction for proper care of the tree. Trees that die due to neglect or lack of proper watering will not be replaced.*

I/we have read, and fully understand, the City of Stuart Tree Program policies, and agree to provide proper care as detailed in the accompanying materials.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Homeowner Acknowledgement

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





## STUART COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY HOLD HARMLESS FORM

### HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

In consideration of the City of Stuart providing and planting a tree(s) on my private property, the undersigned hereby promises and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Stuart, a municipal corporation, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all liability, claims, all tree maintenance, including removal, damages to private irrigation, lights, etc. not located by homeowner, other damages, demands, expenses, fees, fines, penalties, suits, proceedings, actions and costs of actions, including attorney's fees for trial and on appeal of any kind and nature arising or growing out or in any connected with the provision and planting of the tree(s), whether by act or omission of the City of Stuart, its officers, agents, employees or others, or because of or due to the mere existence of this agreement between the parties. I am the owner of the property located at \_\_\_\_\_, Stuart, Florida and represent that I have authority to enter into this agreement and bind all other owners of the property.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
City of Stuart Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## STUART COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY TREE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

### Caring for Your Tree

To participate in the City of Stuart Street Tree Program, a homeowner must agree to properly care for their tree as outlined in the following section. Please read the following section thoroughly before you sign the tree care agreement on the Street Tree Program Application. By following these instructions, you will be able to give your tree a long, healthy life.

**Please note:** Any trees that die due to lack of care or improper care will not be replaced.

#### Watering

The single most important thing a new tree needs is water. An irrigation system does not supply enough water for a new tree. Water should be administered slowly in order to penetrate the soil deeply. Afterwards, the soil should be allowed to dry somewhat before the next watering. This

The City will provide water as necessary during the first ninety (90) days, then homeowner should follow the schedule below. Only increase frequency during dry periods.

- 3-6 months: 10 gallons of water 3 times per week
- 6-12 months: 10 gallons of water 2 times per week
- 12-18 months: 10 gallons of water once a week

#### Staking

The tree may be staked by the City's contractor if setting occurs, and tree begins to lean. The homeowner is responsible for removing the stakes. The stakes should be removed completely between six months to a year, maximum.

#### Fertilizing

For the most part, fertilizer is not necessary. If you choose to use it, there are many types available at your local garden center or call a tree care professional. When using fertilizer, always follow the directions on the package. Too much fertilizer can cause much more damage than not using any at all.

#### Pruning

City crews are trained in proper pruning methods; however, they prune trees for clearance only. This means they will trim branches that are hanging into the road or over a sidewalk.

Pruning a tree when it is young is called "structural pruning," and homeowners should feel free to do whatever extra trimming they feel is appropriate on their right of way trees. The goal of structural pruning is to establish a strong trunk that has evenly spaced branches. This ensures that your tree will be stronger in future years, and less susceptible to damage during storms. Avoid pruning in the first year that the tree has been planted unless you see broken or diseased branches. These should always be removed right away.

#### Mulching

The tree will be mulched by the city's contractor when it is installed. If you choose to re-mulch later, spread an even layer of mulch underneath the tree's canopy. This layer should be no deeper than 4 inches, and if you like to add fresh mulch every year try not to exceed a 2" layer each year. Piling mulch up against the trunk of the tree, creating a "volcano" effect, is a very common mistake and is detrimental to tree health. Mulch should never touch the trunk of the tree because it can hold moisture against the trunk and cause decay and rot. The larger the mulch ring the better for the tree. The minimum is two to three feet.