Tree Planting: Ideal for the Fall

Trees provide shade, clean the air, increase our overall tree canopy, and beautify our city. And the period from late September through November is the perfect time to plant trees that are native to Winston-Salem.

Over the past 26 years, more than 8,000 trees have been planted in Winston-Salem through the annual Community Roots Day, a tree-planting event supported by the city, private businesses and individuals. This large-scale tree planting event mobilizes hundreds of volunteers on one Saturday every October in a tree-planting blitz in a designated area of the city. Over the years a wide variety of trees have been planted.

But you don’t have to participate in Roots Day to make our city a better place. Planting a tree—or trees—in your front or back yard is easy and positively impacts our environment. For the best results, plant either the fall or the spring, and plant trees that are native to North Carolina.

The city has a Tree Planting Guidelines video posted online that shows how to properly plant a tree. To get to the link go to CityofWS.org and type “tree planting” in the search box.

Erosion Control in our Community

Erosion of the land is a natural and gradual process caused by wind, water and topography. However, stormwater runoff from construction sites, whether a small or large project, can hasten erosion in vulnerable areas. Unchecked runoff and erosion can cause landslides, wash-out roads, wash away trees & plants, erode stream banks through private property, and make for unhappy neighbors downstream.

The city has a dedicated Stormwater and Erosion Control Division that enforces the erosion control plans that are required as part of the process of obtaining a construction permit. The division also enforces regulations on watershed and floodplain requirements by reviewing development plans and issuing grading permits. Also, the division maintains up-to-date floodway district maps to enforce floodway and floodway fringe regulations.

If you suspect a violation of erosion and sedimentation controls, report it to CityLink311; by phone at 311 or 336-727-8000. or by e-mail at citylink@cityofws.org.

Custodians to the Rescue

The city’s custodial services team, a division of Property & Facilities Management, plays an important, behind-the-scenes role in ensuring the health of citizens and employees who use the city’s recreation centers, utility plants, district police stations, and other city buildings.

These men and women often work after hours, cleaning bathrooms and sanitizing surfaces to protect public health. They also ensure that city facilities offer a neat and pleasant environment by vacuuming and sweeping floors, emptying trash and recycling containers, cleaning public spaces and stripping and waxing floors.

Custodians provide extra attention after events, and may be called in for any requested emergency cleaning. The next time you see a custodian, Say “Hi,” and thank them for their service.

Custodial Staff: Robert Austin, Ella Self, Debra Lewis
The Leaf Trucks Are Coming!

Leaf season collection will begin Nov. 4 in the eastern quadrant of the city (quadrant 1), which is the area east of U.S. 52 and Old Walkertown Road.

Leaf collection will proceed clockwise by quadrant and continue until the leaf trucks have made three passes through each neighborhood.

Once collection begins, citizens can go to CityofWS.org/LeafRoutes to track the progress of leaf collection and to enter their address for an estimate of when the leaf trucks will be in their neighborhood.

Leaf Collection Guidelines:
• Rake your leaves to the edge of your yard
• Keep sticks, rocks and other debris out of your leaf piles
• Do not park any vehicles in front of or near your leaves
• Do not put your leaves on a tarp; they won’t be picked up
• You are not allowed to burn leaves within the city limits of Winston-Salem

Greening our Fleet

The city’s Fleet Services Department recently received a Clean Fuel Advanced Technology grant funded by the Department of Transportation and administered by the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center and N.C. State University.

The grant will pay for converting 31 city vehicles to run on propane. Propane, which we use in our gas grills, is a clean-burning fuel that produces far fewer emissions than gasoline. These 31 vehicles will join 21 lower-emission vehicles already in the city fleet, counting 16 hybrid-electric vehicles, two all-electric vehicles and three vehicles that run on natural gas.

By taking advantage of environmental benefits of alternative fuels, fleet services is helping reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions at a time when climate change has gained worldwide attention.

Holiday Season Collection Changes

VETERANS DAY:
City offices closed Monday, Nov. 11
GARBAGE: Normal schedule.
CURBSIDE RECYCLING: Normal schedule.
YARD WASTE CARTS: All collections postponed one day.

THANKSGIVING DAY:
City offices closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29
GARBAGE: Tue., Wed. & Thur. collected one day early; Fri. collected Monday Dec. 2.
CURBSIDE RECYCLING: Mon., Tue. & Wed. normal schedule; Thur. & Fri. postponed one day.
YARD WASTE CARTS: Mon., Tue. & Wed. normal schedule; Thur. on Mon., Dec. 2.
All collections week of Dec. 2 postponed one day.

CHRISTMAS:
City offices closed Wednesday, Dec. 25
GARBAGE: Tue. & Wed. collected one day early; Thur. & Fri. regular schedule
CURBSIDE RECYCLING: Mon. & Tue. normal schedule; Wed., Thur. & Fri. postponed one day.
YARD WASTE CARTS: Mon. & Tue. normal schedule; Wed. & Thur. postponed one day (Thur. & Fri.).

NEW YEAR’S DAY:
City offices closed Wednesday, Jan. 1
GARBAGE: Tue. & Wed. collected one day early; Thur. & Fri. regular schedule.
CURBSIDE RECYCLING: Mon. & Tue. normal schedule; Wed., Thur. & Fri. postponed one day.
YARD WASTE CARTS: Mon. & Tue. normal schedule; Wed. & Thur. postponed one day (Thur. & Fri.).