

New Front Yard Tree Planting Option to Promote Healthier Urban Forest

To foster the health and sustainability of large trees in Salt Lake City, Mayor Anderson and City Urban Forester Bill Rutherford are making trees available for planting in front yards. Upon request of a property owner, and with a signed agreement between the City and the owner, the City will plant a tree on private property within ten feet of the property line. The tree will be designated a “City tree,” eligible for all services afforded to trees located on public property.

The intent of this initiative is to improve the quality of life of Salt Lake City residents and to further foster a forest of large and long-lived trees. The initiative will place trees in more favorable locations, where they will be less prone to injury and have access to additional sources of water (e.g., roof-top rain and snowfall). Residents will also benefit from the added shelter, shade, energy savings, and aesthetic enjoyment that trees provide.

This initiative will be a collaborative and voluntary process between a property owner and the City Forestry Division. The Division, which maintains over 91,000 trees citywide and plants 400-700 new trees annually, will continue to plant trees on public property and park strips.

“Inspired by an interest to conserve water, reduce energy usage and advance the health and longevity of the urban forest, a new and voluntary collaboration between homeowners and Salt Lake City has begun,” said Bill Rutherford, the Salt Lake City Urban Forester. “In addition to our existing tree planting services in properties within the City’s right-of-way, front yards are now also eligible for planting.”

For questions, please contact Bill Rutherford, Salt Lake City Urban Forester (801) 972-7818