

Are there tree needs in your neighborhood? Not sure what resources are available?

If you want to plant a tree...

- Every spring and fall, the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP) provides free trees for sidewalks and community gathering spaces, particularly those in Tree Equity Focus Areas. Reach out to PNPP to organize a planting with your neighbors for next season!
- To plant a sidewalk tree in an empty pit, you can apply for a free permit with the City Forestry Division to do it yourself! Limited match cost support is available.
- To plant a tree on private property, there unfortunately aren't currently any programs in Providence to provide support... but you can check out PNPP's how-to-plant-a-tree guide to learn how to do it yourself!
- Depending on the neighborhood, there might be funds available to support planting projects through partners like Groundwork RI or the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council.

If a tree needs maintenance...

For example: tree or stump removal, fallen branch pick-up, branch pruning, or risk assessment

- If the tree is on public property (including sidewalks), call 311. A trained tree keeper or Forestry Crew will address the problem. Don't try to do it yourself—this can't be done without a permit!
- If the tree is on private property, there unfortunately aren't currently any programs in Providence to provide support. Visit the PVD Tree Plan resources page for a list of suggested tree companies for hire! NOTE: removing a tree bigger than 32 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet off the ground requires the permission of the City Forester!
- If you're a business or institution looking for help with young tree stewardship or maintenance (including structural pruning or watering), consider hiring Garden Time's Canopy Crew!

It takes time, energy, and money to grow a healthy urban forest, and these resources aren't equally available to everyone. That's why we're working on creating new programs to support Providence residents in caring for trees. For now, the availability of support resources depends on a few things:

Private vs. public property: The City plants and maintains trees on public property, which includes sidewalks, parks, and public schools. Unfortunately, fewer resources exist for private property.

Tree Equity Focus Areas: The PVD Tree Plan has established "Tree Equity Focus Areas," where tree canopy is currently low, for focused investment. More resources may be available to support planting and maintenance here (see pvdtreeplan.org/tree-equity-focus-areas).

Our tree neighbors take care of us—they give us shade, clean the air we breathe, protect us from flooding, offer places to gather and relax. And just as our urban forest is an interconnected network, it takes an interconnected network of many, many people to care for it, so that everyone in Providence can enjoy the benefits of trees where they live, work, and play!

GET INVOLVED:



Volunteer at a tree planting



Join the Providence Urban Forest Community Advisory Board



Become a PNPP Tree Leader



Become a Providence Community Tree Keeper



Become a neighborhood Tree Ambassador



Endorse the PVD Tree Plan



**Interested in job training or education?
Look inside for more info!**



**JOIN US, and together we'll
make our city healthier,
greener, more resilient
and more just!**

www.pvdtreeplan.org

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CARING FOR OUR URBAN FOREST

**Did you know there are more than
415,000 trees in Providence?**

Our **URBAN FOREST** is the interconnected network of all these trees, as well as all the living things that rely on them, including US!

Want to help? Keep reading!

PROVIDENCE'S URBAN FOREST NETWORK

City Forestry Division



Providence's City Forestry Division, led by the City Forester, is housed within the Parks Department. The Forestry Division is responsible for managing all of the trees on public lands in the city—on sidewalks, in parks, and on city-owned properties like public schools—for the benefit of the city.

Pruning of mature public trees takes place through the Forestry Division's **Block Pruning program**. The program runs on a 10-year cycle, pruning 10% of trees in each of the 15 City Council Districts each year.

Through **Providence 311**, residents can contact the Forestry Division to request a tree or stump removal, fallen branch pick-up, risk assessment, or other tree services for public trees.

Community Urban Forestry Practitioners



The **Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP)** has partnered with residents and the Forestry Division to plant and steward street trees throughout the city since 1989. PNPP organizes **Neighborhood Street Tree Plantings** across the city every spring and fall.

Other community organizations, including Groundwork RI, Garden Time, and the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, also perform essential tree planting and maintenance activities across the city!

The **PVD Tree Plan** is a coalition of community organizations and individuals who developed—and are now working to implement—a collective vision and road map for achieving tree equity in Providence.

Education and Training Groups

Many organizations across Providence (and statewide!) offer both free and paid opportunities for community members to learn about urban forestry or build tree care skills. For example:



- Providence Neighborhood Planting Program: Providence Community Tree Keepers
- Groundwork RI: Youth Green Team, Adult Jobs Training, GroundCorp, Storm Crew
- Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council: River Rangers and Nuevas Voces
- Building Futures RI: Building Green Futures
- RI Tree Council: Tree Steward course
- RINLA / Growing Futures RI: Career Catalyst Pre-Apprenticeship Training
- Garden Time: Green Reentry program
- 15 Minute Field Trips: Be a Tree
- Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership

Visit the PVD Tree Plan website to learn more about each program!

Utility Companies

Utility companies like Rhode Island Energy, Verizon, and Comcast have a protected right to prune or remove trees within a certain distance of utility infrastructure, including overhead electrical and cable wires. This applies to both public and private trees.

Municipal Departments

In addition to the Forestry Division and Parks Department, other arms of the City also play a role in keeping our urban forest healthy! **Planning** and **Inspections & Standards** help protect existing tree canopy through city ordinances. **Public Works** helps design and maintain infrastructure—like sidewalks and stormwater systems—that coexist in harmony with trees, and **Sustainability** helps advocate for green infrastructure and environmental justice. **City Councilors** can also help fund tree planting and maintenance in their wards!

Environmental Groups

The urban forest affects—and is affected by—many parts of our environment, and by many groups working across the city and state to promote sustainability and environmental justice! This includes The Nature Conservancy RI, the Partnership for Providence Parks and parks conservancies and friends groups, the Racial & Environmental Justice Committee, and the Southside Community Land Trust.

Private Tree Care Companies

Private tree care companies are contracted by the city, utility companies, and private (residential, commercial, and institutional) landowners to perform tree services throughout the city, including planting, pruning, treatment, and removal.

Connected Movements

Tree equity intersects with many issues that affect the wellbeing of our communities: public health, energy burden & utility justice, climate mitigation & adaptation, air & water quality, anti-displacement & housing security, economic opportunity & community wealth building, cultural expression & creative placemaking, green & safe transit systems, food sovereignty & security...the list goes on. A healthy urban forest relies on people and organizations advocating for change—and recognizing the value of trees—across all of these movements. Groups like Health Equity Zones and neighborhood associations might not have “trees” in their titles, but they’re essential parts of our urban forest network!

...and You!

It's up to all of us to love and care for our tree neighbors, so that we can thrive together! Whether you're a homeowner or renter, policy maker or business owner, student or elder, you can play a role in growing a greener city.

The thousands of trees that live in Providence depend on a broad network of organizations and individuals to help them survive and thrive. These are just a few of the key players in that network, and the roles they play in caring for our urban forest.