

Tree Planting Program

FACT SHEET: About the Program

Trees Support Our Mission

Trees play an integral role in fulfilling the elements of the District's mission. To that end, the District takes several approaches to trees in its right-of-way:

- **We Plant:** The District plants trees to fulfill mitigation requirements, to enhance capital improvement projects, and as part of a routine maintenance program.
- **We Preserve:** When possible, the District looks for ways to preserve significant trees on its right-of-way or to rescue moveable trees in advance of construction projects.
- **We Partner:** The District works with individuals and organizations to plant trees in appropriate places on District right-of-way.

District's Purpose for Planting

Areas with healthy, mature tree canopies frequently have little or no undesirable underbrush or groundcover. By planting trees, the District plans to create mature tree canopies that shade out and prevent the growth of conveyance-hindering underbrush. The areas where there is little or no groundcover do not require frequent mowing or maintenance, conserving District resources. Tree planting in non-conveyance areas such as detention basins, along natural channels, and upper ends of channels will allow the District to reduce the amount of acreage mowed by hundreds of acres. Of special importance are channel segments with limited, difficult, or dangerous access; reducing maintenance requirements on these segments is particularly valuable.

Benefits of Trees

Reforestation is a cost-effective means of reducing maintenance while providing a host of other benefits. Other documented benefits include:

- Trees reduce the conveyance of silt into waterways, reducing the number of silt-removal operations that the District must undertake.
- Trees slow and reduce stormwater runoff; they improve and protect the quality of our water.
- Trees clean our air by reducing and filtering pollutants.
- Trees beautify our community and improve quality of life.
- Trees provide habitat for wildlife.

Facts About the District's Tree Planting Program

The District's tree planting program is extensive. Here are some facts:

- The South Service Center tree farm is currently nurturing over 22,000 trees.
- Over 14,500 trees have been planted on District right-of-way in the past four years.
- Within the next ten years, over 100,000 trees will have been grown and planted on District right-of-way.

Top 10 Trees

Recommended species for planting on District right-of-way

American Elm, *Ulmus americana*
River Birch, *Betula nigra*
Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*
Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*
Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*
Pecan, *Carya illinoensis*

White Oak, *Quercus alba*
(or other oaks within the white oak family, ex. post, bur, and overcup oak)
Shumard Oak, *Quercus shumardii*
(or other oaks within the red oak family, ex. willow, water and Nuttall oaks)
Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*
Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*



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