



Black Hills Energy Power of Trees Program FAQ

Does Trees Forever sell trees or provide trees for tree planting projects?

No, Trees Forever does not sell or grow trees. We have led and participated in tree distributions from time to time, most recently to help recovery efforts from the Derecho of 2020. We primarily work by empowering local groups to plant trees. We facilitate the planting, consult and provide technical services to complete the tree planting project. Communities should source trees from local providers.

The application says “no balled and burlaped trees” however, we have a source of balled and burlaped trees that are actually cheaper than container grown trees, can we plant less expensive balled and burlaped trees?

No, balled and burlaped trees are not prohibited because of cost, although they can often be more expensive than container growing trees. B&B trees as they are called, are not allowed because volunteers struggle to move them, plant them, and handle them. Remember, volunteerism is important, the simple act of planting a tree can have prolonged benefits beyond the act itself. Since projects must include a volunteer component, it is important that volunteers be able to handle the trees and have meaningful engagement in the planting.

Our town does not have an existing volunteer group that could help to plant the trees. Can our city apply for grant funds for trees and then simply have city employees or contractors plant them?

No, this program is just as much about volunteering and caring for trees as it is about getting them in the ground and growing. Volunteerism can happen in many ways, from selecting the tree species or planting locations, to actually planting the trees and organizing the planting day, to follow up maintenance, paperwork, and mapping; there is something for everyone if they are included.

Our project scope and some of the specifics have changed since we applied and were approved for our tree planting project. What do we do now?

It is imperative that you contact your Trees Forever Field Coordinator to discuss any changes to the original project scope and talk through any issues that might impact the project. We are willing to work with all projects to make them a success within the rules of the program.

Where can trees be planted with this tree grant program?

Trees can be planted on both public property and private property but must have an energy efficiency component. If planting on public property, permission from the city must be obtained if the project is led by an entity other than the city.

Can we use this program for tree distributions?

Some communities have used this program in the past to purchase trees for tree distributions to residents. This is no longer allowed and is being phased out. Projects must know where the trees are going to be planted and have permission from the owner of the property where the trees are being planted. The Black Hills Energy Power of Trees program is only available to customers of Black Hills Energy.