



Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I get a tree?

You can visit www.openlands.org or contact the email the address below to fill out a tree adoption form. Once completed please email the form to oakparkoaks@gmail.com. You will receive a letter with information on Oak Park Community events where the trees will be available for pickup. Payment will be due at the time of pickup in the form of Cash or Check made payable to Openlands.

Why is there a fee?

The \$25.00 fee helps to continue the HOPP project for future years. The funds will be used to pay for the materials provided in the tree kit you receive with your tree. This includes: Tree information, a professionally made tree identification tag, and tree protection. These funds also support the future of the HOPP program allowing the West Suburban TreeKeepers to rent green house space, soil, and containers needed for propagation and growing of more trees.

Why Oaks?

Oaks are significant aesthetically, environmentally and ecologically. Please visit the Morton Arboretum Website at: www.mortonarb.org to learn about the benefits of trees. Studies have proven that large deciduous trees including oaks provide the largest amount of environmental benefits. These trees sequester carbon, remove particulate pollution, reduce the urban heat island effect, and reduce stormwater flow, and can reduce electricity use and utility bills. Ecologically oaks support hundreds of species of birds, mammals, insects, and invertebrates. Aesthetically oaks are most commonly recognized trees. They are often references in literature, history and used as iconic symbols. There are 65 tree related city names in the state, 10 are oak specific

How do I support the HOPP project?

The best way to support the HOPP project is to spread the word let your neighbors and friends know about this project. If you would like to do more you can donate your time to help distribute the trees and community events. You can also promote the project in your local business or place of work by posting a flyer about the HOPP Project. Become a TreeKeeper! The best way to help take care of the urban forest and oaks is to know more about trees.

FAQ's

Can I plant my tree in the Parkway?

The current seedlings are not large enough. We do not advise planting these small trees in the right of way without permission from the City. Trees planted on Oak Park public right of way need to have a trunk diameter of at least 1-1/2". To plant a tree in the parkway in Oak Park you must contact the City of Oak Park Forester, Jim Semelka. Please call the Public Works Department at 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

How far does the tree need to be from the House?

We suggest planting you seedling at least 15-20' from your home. Oak trees can grow quite large but this growth happens over many, *MANY* years. The large white or bur oak trees that these seedlings are descendants of are 100-300 years old. Maximum mature size for a White Oak is 50-80'tall by 100'wide. Maximum mature size for a Bur Oak is 70-80'tall by 100'wide. Over time however, the crown of the tree can grow up and over your home.

Many factors including soil compaction, soil quality, climate zone, shade, and other variables will impact your trees growth. Oaks grow at a moderate rate, putting on average 10 -24 inches of growth annually. For perspective a twenty year old tree will be approximately 25-40 'tall and 25-35'wide.

How much space do I need?

In the forest trees grow within inches of each other, as well as under each other's canopies supporting a healthy multi aged forest. Full sun is the best growing for trees; but in some situations planting under another tree may also be an option. The West Suburban Tree Keepers along with other local horticulturalists or arborists can help you select an appropriate site for a new tree.