**Neighborhood Roots - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**General**

**Why are you doing this?**

Summers in Corvallis are getting hotter, and shade trees can help cool things off. Some neighborhoods in Corvallis have a lot of shade trees, and it makes those areas more livable for the people who live there. We think everyone deserves to live in places that are more comfortable and healthier, since heat can also threaten people’s health.

**What organization do you represent?**

We’re volunteers with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. It’s a local nonprofit that includes a network of more than 350 partner organizations and 12 action teams. We’re all committed to creating a more livable community. This tree-planting project is called Neighborhood Roots, and it’s a joint project of the Community Inclusion Action Team and the Natural Areas Action Team.

**What neighborhoods are you offering trees to?**

We’re including SE Ryan Street and some of the streets off of Ryan, including Dorothy, Viewmont, Richland, Marion, Powell, and Denman.

**Tree Types**

**Why are you only offering native trees?**

Trees that are native to our area are best adapted to our wet and dry seasons. Also, they help support birds and other wildlife that are native to our area.

**How did you decide which trees to offer?**

We chose two large trees and two small trees. We wanted to give options because different yards have different amounts of space available. Also, we know that some people would like to shade their property as much as possible with a large tree, but others would prefer smaller trees that won’t compete with the other plants in their yard.

**Pre-planting**

**Who will decide where the tree goes?**

The Coalition will provide advice, but the property owner will decide, after the locations of the underground utility lines have been identified.

**What would we need to do before the tree is planted?**

Once you order the tree and we confirm that we have a tree available for you, then we’ll give you a simple agreement form to sign so that it’s clear what each of our roles and responsibilities are. Then we’ll contact the utility company to come out and mark where the utility lines are on the property so we can avoid those lines. After that, we can help you decide where the tree should go, and we can begin to prepare the soil so the tree has a good start.

**Tree Care**

**Would I be responsible for watering the tree?**

This is a partnership between residents and our team. So we can work this out together, since the tree will need to be watered during the dry season (summer) for the first 2 -3 years. Also, one of your neighbors, Aaron Lesan, lives on Dorothy Street, and he has green water bags that he’s offering to loan to neighbors who are having trees planted in their yards as part of this project.

**Who is responsible for maintaining the tree (pruning, etc.)?**

We have an agreement form that we’re going to ask property owners to sign, so that it’s clear what our responsibilities are and what the property owner’s responsibilities are. While the Coalition will provide advice, ongoing maintenance like trimming or pruning will be the responsibility of the property owner.

**Tree Planting**

**Who is going to plant the tree?**

We’re planning to have a Neighborhood Planting Party this fall, probably a weekend in November or December. So the trees will be planted by members of our team, people from the neighborhood, and residents of the properties receiving trees – all working together. We hope you’ll be part of it!

**When will the Planting Party be?**

This fall, probably a weekend in November or December. As soon as we set a date, we’ll be dropping off flyers in the neighborhood to let people know about it.