



MONTFORD NEIGHBORHOOD TREE GRANT

Visitors to the Montford neighborhood are easily impressed with its robust tree canopy. Broad leafy branches of majestic oaks and maples still grace many of our historic properties. But each year more of these treasured trees are compromised by age, disease, encroaching construction, and other threats to the urban forest. It is up to us to ensure our neighborhood tree canopy is protected, nurtured and replaced at a pace that exceeds its decline.

Trees are a life force. They absorb CO₂ from the air and release oxygen back. In one year, an acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people. Trees help clean the air by absorbing other gases, pollutants and particulates in their leaves and bark. They help conserve energy by shading our homes and businesses. They slow runoff, hold soil in place and help with storm water control. Trees host beneficial insects and are critical for pollination. They provide food and shelter for wildlife and humans. They buffer unsightly views and unwelcome noises and they increase property values.

We cannot live without our trees, and it is up to us to ensure the health of our urban forest. With the recent upsurge in development, the City of Asheville has recognized the need to become more proactive in maintaining a healthy urban forest. While new construction in Montford may not seem as rampant as in other neighborhoods, trees are being removed at an alarming pace. The Montford Neighborhood Association would like to be a part of the solution by helping with tree selection, location and incentive funding for new and replacement tree planting. Our goal is for tree planting to always be a primary consideration and not an afterthought. *

About the Grant: As an incentive to plant trees for restoration and maintenance of the urban forest, the MNA may provide 50% matching grants for up to \$150/tree with a \$300 maximum per applicant. Any Montford property owner (or renter with the owner's permission) or approved local organization may apply. Grant applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, and award of grants is at the discretion and funding availability of the MNA.

- Completed application is required.
- Trees must be planted on owner's property (residential or commercial) within the Montford Neighborhood. (Montford boundaries: I-240 to the south, Route 19/23 to the west, Broadway to the east, Riverside Drive to the north)
- Selection of tree species and location for planting must be approved by the MNA. *Native large canopy and understory trees are encouraged.* A recommended tree list is included the Montford Historic District Guidelines: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h2HHKm198Mzs2Q0XCuPkn4azTTDOEqd0/view>
- Planting may be performed by owner or contractor. The cost of contract labor may be included in the \$150 maximum/ tree.
- It is the responsibility of property owner to locate any underground utilities by calling 1-800-632-4949 3-12 days prior to digging.
- Grant reimbursements will be made within 3 weeks following confirmation that tree has been planted.
- It will be the applicant's responsibility to properly care for and maintain the trees.
- The MNA shall be held harmless in all matters related to the tree, including, but not limited to, the selection, planting and maintenance of the tree.

* Trees larger than 6 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) may not be removed within the Historic District without a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the City of Asheville Historic Resources Commission, and replanting may be required when trees are removed. For more information on historic district requirements please see the Montford District Guidelines:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h2HHKm198Mzs2Q0XCuPkn4azTTDOEqd0/view>

APPLICATION FORM

Date of Application: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address where tree/s are to be planted if different from above: _____

TREE TYPE	SIZE	QUANTITY	TREE COST	CONTRACT LABOR COST (OPTIONAL)

Total cost of trees and planting: _____

Owner contribution (minimum 50% of total): _____

Total grant requested (not to exceed \$150/tree, \$300 total) _____

Tree Planting Diagram - In the area below, sketch a simple diagram of where your proposed tree(s) will be planted. Include any buildings and overhead utility lines.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date _____

If not property owner, Owner's Signature: _____ Date _____

Return completed application to: Lynn Raker ▪ 266 Pearson Dr ▪ lynn.raker@gmail.com