

Trees and Climate Change

Trees help to combat climate change while cooling neighborhoods and connecting us to nature. It is hard to overstate the value of trees. Planting a tree on your property or requesting that your city or village plants a tree on your parkway benefits everyone. Studies show that disinvested neighborhoods also have the less tree coverage than wealthier neighborhoods. If you live in the City of Chicago or the suburbs, there are resources for acquiring trees at no financial cost:

- 1) Metropolitan Water Reclamation District gives away oak saplings. Here is a link explaining the program and where to obtain a sapling:
<https://mwrdd.org/treesrestore-canopy>
- 2) Request a parkway tree from the City of Chicago:
https://311.chicago.gov/s/?language=en_US Scroll down to Service Request Categories and click on Parks, Tree, and Environment. Next click on the Trees subcategory, followed by Tree Planting Request. Trees are available after April 1 or October 1. Picking a tree native to Illinois would be the best choice.
- 3) Other towns or villages have their own parkway programs. Please contact your municipality.
- 4) If your church would like to apply and coordinate a grant to plant trees in your community, please look at the information in Open Lands:
<https://openlands.org/what-we-do/trees/treeplanters-grants/>

So many aspects of addressing Climate Change seem to be outside of our individual control, but planting a tree is something that we can do to honor God's creation.

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