

# HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR YOUR TREE



Here are a few hints to help you plant and care for your tree.

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[mwr.org](http://mwr.org)

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation  
District of Greater Chicago**

*Restore the Canopy*  
**PLANT A TREE**

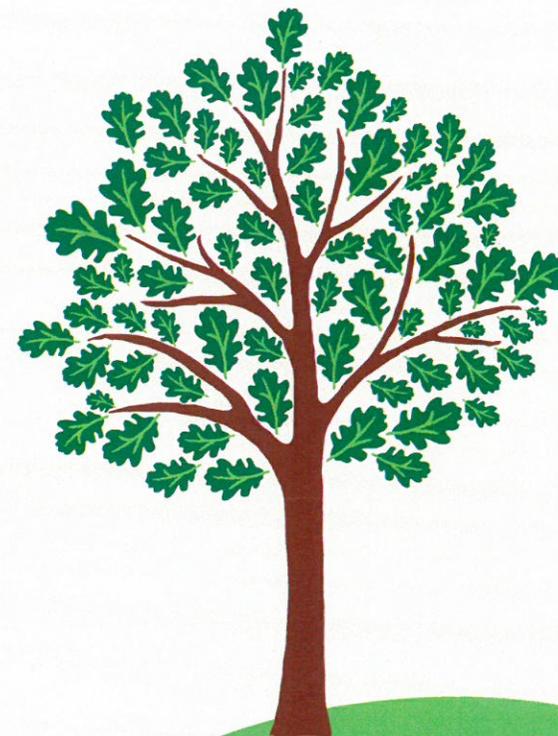
- ✓ Keep your tree in a cool place and do not take it out of its container until you are able to plant it. Restore the Canopy saplings are distributed in MWRD composted biosolids, a sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers produced by co-composting products of the wastewater treatment process with locally available woodchips.
- ✓ If you received a bare-root sapling (not in a container), plant your sapling within two days for best results.
- ✓ Plant your tree where it will receive full to partial sunlight and in a location where it has room to grow; full grown oak trees range from 50 to 80 feet tall. Do not plant under a power line or too close to any structures.
- ✓ Dig a hole wide enough to let the roots spread out completely and deep enough to cover the roots. The topmost roots should be at ground level and visible.
- ✓ Fill the hole with soil, making sure the tree is straight by pressing around the stem. Water the tree after filling the planting hole until water accumulates on the surface.
- ✓ If you use mulch, keep it away from the trunk.
- ✓ Keeping your tree watered is important during its first year. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. In dry weather, you should water every 7-10 days. Avoid watering so much that you see standing water. No need to water once the ground freezes.
- ✓ Remember to use good gardening hygiene.

*Restore the Canopy is made possible  
through a partnership with*

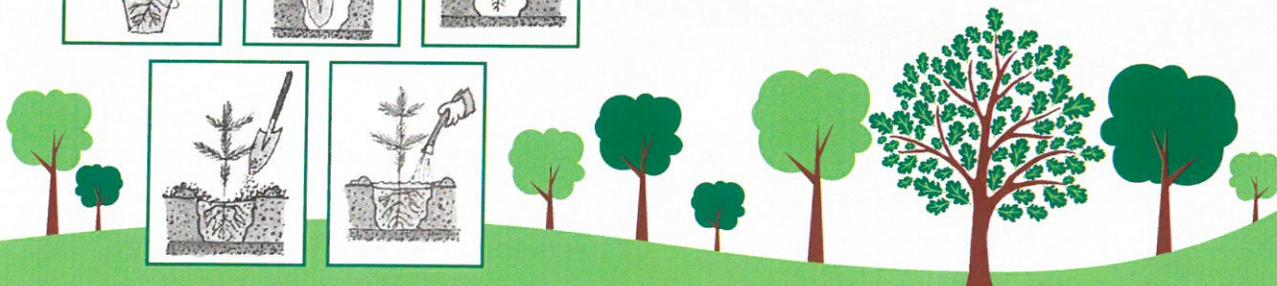
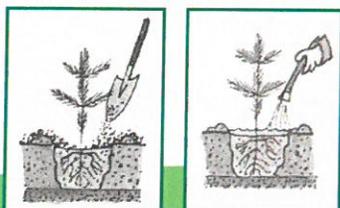
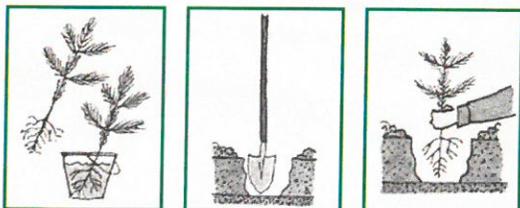


**CHICAGO  
REGION  
TREES  
INITIATIVE**

Our Trees.  
Our Communities.  
Our Future.



**Planting and  
Caring for Your  
Free MWRD Tree**



## THE MWRD CARES ABOUT TREES

Our **Restore the Canopy** initiative empowers the residents of Cook County with an opportunity to restore our region's depleted tree canopy. The tree population has been decimated by emerald ash borer infestations and extreme weather. Not only do trees provide a beautiful green canopy for our communities, they are a powerful and effective form of green infrastructure. A medium-sized oak tree can help prevent flooding by absorbing 2,800 gallons of rainfall per year.

Trees are vital to our environment for many reasons:

- ✓ Reduce flooding
- ✓ Reduce air pollution
- ✓ Improve health and well being
- ✓ Keep neighborhoods cooler
- ✓ Create a sense of community
- ✓ Lower energy bills
- ✓ Increase property value
- ✓ Provide protection from wind
- ✓ Buffer noise
- ✓ Provide shade
- ✓ Increase habitat for wildlife
- ✓ Absorb carbon dioxide
- ✓ Give oxygen

## HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

### INDIVIDUALS

Trees will be handed out to residents at Tree Pickup Days at several locations around the county. Check [mwrld.org](http://mwrld.org), Facebook and Twitter to find out when a Tree Pickup Day will occur near you.

### COMMUNITY GROUPS & SCHOOLS

Partnering with schools and other community groups within Cook County allows residents to enjoy the benefits of planting oak saplings right in their own communities for decades to come.

Groups will receive bare-root saplings in bags of 100 or pre-potted saplings in preparation for planting events within your community. Arrangements can be made for saplings to be picked up at MWRD facilities or delivered to your location.

Planting and care instructions, along with additional information regarding the benefits of trees, will be provided and available at [mwrld.org](http://mwrld.org).

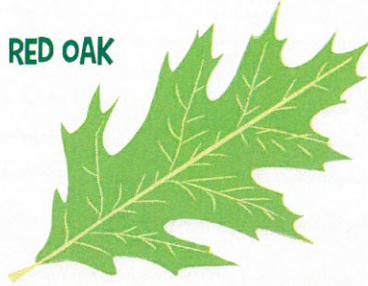
If you would like more information or would like to order additional trees:

- ✓ call MWRD Office of Public Affairs at 312.751.6633
- ✓ visit our website at [mwrld.org](http://mwrld.org)
- ✓ email [public.affairs@mwrld.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrld.org)

## WHAT KIND OF TREES?

You will receive one of four types of oak trees that are native to the area. As leaves begin to appear, you will be able to identify which oak you have by its leaf shape.

RED OAK



BUR OAK



PIN OAK

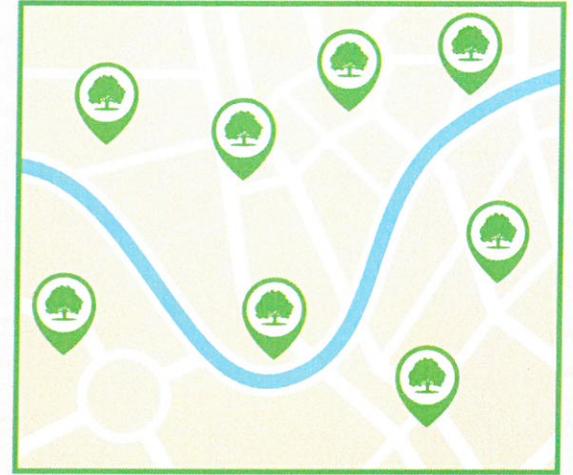


SHINGLE OAK



## HOW GREEN IS THE CANOPY?

The MWRD can't wait to see where all these trees will be sprouting up! We are creating a GIS map of all the trees. The tree's location information provided to us will be used to map where the canopy is being restored. You can follow the progress of the program at [mwrld.org](http://mwrld.org).



## SPREAD THE WORD

Post a selfie with your tree on Facebook or Twitter and tag us @mwrldgc with #MyMWRDTree. You can also email pictures to [public.affairs@mwrld.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrld.org).

