

## HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR YOUR TREE

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



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Reclamation District  
of Greater Chicago**

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



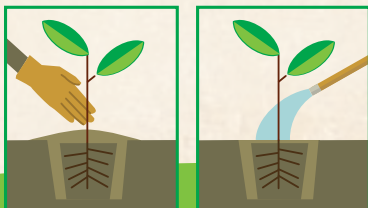
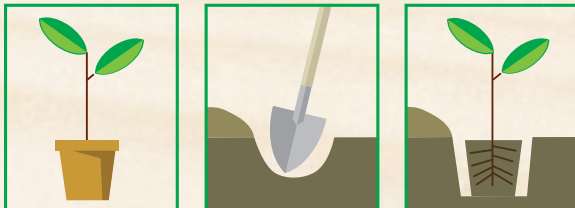
**CHICAGO  
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*Restore the Canopy*  
**PLANT A TREE**

## PLANTING AND CARING FOR YOUR FREE MWRD TREE



**Metropolitan Water  
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## 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

If you would like to learn more about our RTC program, visit [mwrddc.org](http://mwrddc.org). You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter for the latest news and information.

*Restore the Canopy trees are not for resale.*



## WHAT KIND OF TREES?

The MWRD is distributing a variety of oak saplings. All are native to the area and are powerful forms of green infrastructure that can help prevent flooding by absorbing stormwater.

BLACK OAK



PIN OAK



RED OAK



WHITE OAK



SPECIES MAY VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

## HOW GREEN IS THE CANOPY?

You can follow the progress of our program and see where the canopy is being restored at [mwrddc.org](http://mwrddc.org). We've created a GIS map of all the trees we've distributed using their location information provided by recipients.



## SPREAD THE WORD

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



#myMWRDTree

