

Appendix C: Planting Site Selection

To ensure that the tree plantings will be successful in the short and long-term, project leads must take precautions and involve the relevant stakeholders in the planning process. The following sections provide examples of important considerations for planning different types of urban tree planting projects.

1. Streets and Rights of Way

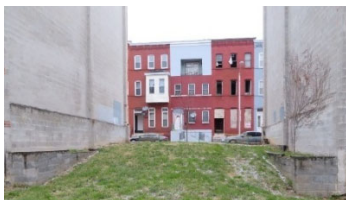


- a) Do any local governments or utilities have rights of way, allowing them access and sometimes putting responsibility for trees on those entities? If so, permission, possibly permits, and support must be obtained from those entities.
- b) Does your selected planting site(s) have underground utilities such as cable, water & sewer, gas lines, etc.? Proposals must address in-ground precautions taken.
- c) Are there overhead powerlines that put constraints on the size of trees that should be planted underneath? If so, choose the proper tree species (see Appendix C: Native Tree Species Selection).
- d) Do neighbors (residents, businesses, landowners) immediately adjacent want the trees? Proposals must address current level of support for the project and any efforts to increase it. Requests for personnel costs for this outreach work are allowed.
- e) Is there enough permeable space in the form of a tree pit in a sidewalk, for example, to plant the trees without risking tree mortality and/or buckling sidewalks with growing roots? Will tree pits need to be created or expanded, and will stumps need to be removed? Proposals must address the site conditions, and any work needed to prepare the site(s) for tree(s).

2. Vacant Lots

Projects in which tree planting is the focus for greening a vacant lot are eligible for this grant program. Costs for non-tree elements of vacant lot projects can be requested, but they should be used and framed as a way to enable tree planting at those sites and a relatively small portion of the total budget request. Project leads proposing vacant lot tree planting proposals must apply with permission in writing from the entity owning the vacant lot. For a list of vacant lot owners in Baltimore visit: <https://dhcd.baltimorecity.gov/vacant-property-resources-and-information-page>

Example Vacant Lot - Before and After



3. Institutional Grounds

A way to plant trees at scale and at lower cost per tree is to plant many trees at once on one property. Schools, faith-based institutions, health institutions, businesses, and other institutions can offer that opportunity. Project leads seeking to green institutional grounds must include permission and support from the landowner for both the installation of trees and the maintenance afterwards.

4. Open Space

Areas that are currently “open space” can provide an opportunity to increase tree canopy in urban areas. Project leads seeking to plant in these areas must consider how the land is currently being used and by whom, and who might be affected if the area changes from open space to a treed area. Open space can also have positive impacts on the health and wellbeing of individuals in communities, so consider:

- a) Is the open space a designated play area for the youth and families in the community?
- b) Do residents, businesses, landowners utilize the open space for social events (e.g., sports, weddings, festivals)?

Proposals must address tradeoffs between tree plantings in the proposed space and existing land use.