

Where should I plant a tree?

(Based on a document developed by the Brackett School Green Team, 2022)

1. Identify possible tree planting locations.

- Walk around the property and identify areas that have room for a tree and where shade would be welcome
 - south side of property
 - west side of property to protect from late afternoon sun
 - close to a hot and impermeable surface such as a driveway or walkway.
- Ensure that locations have sufficient sun and room for growth.
- Make sure underground utilities such as water and gas are identified and avoided.
- Stay at least 10-15 feet away from buildings. Also, watch out for overhead power lines, which sometimes dictate what size tree you can plant.
- Select a properly sized tree for your site. While canopy trees are most desirable from an ecological standpoint, some sites can only support a small tree. The Arlington Tree Committee has a list of recommended tree species of all sizes on their website, <https://www.arlingtontrees.org/recommended-urban-trees>.
- Make sure you have access to an outdoor spigot for tree watering. Hose access is helpful but using other watering vessels such as watering cans, repurposed containers (e.g. gallon milk jugs) is also sufficient. Tree watering bags are not essential; if using a bag, please remove bag from tree in extreme heat events so the trunk is not damaged.

2. Call Dig Safe.

- Always call [Dig Safe](#) before digging, no matter how shallow you think the holes will be.
- First, place a white stake or flag at the proposed tree location(s). Then, call the number on the Dig Safe site. They will ask you a few questions about your plans and location. They will provide you with a ticket number and the date when you can start digging (assuming no issues, like an intersecting utility line, has been identified).
- Adjust planting location if underground utilities are present.