

Level Two

Plant a Tree



Trees can add so many benefits to your community. They can improve the overall beauty of your house or neighborhood. They can improve property values and if placed correctly can even reduce your electric bill. But trees can do even more than that. Within the community they can provide shade for pedestrians and reduce the temperature of the city. They can even reduce the amount of CO2 and pollutants in the air. Trees are amazing additions to any neighborhood!

Investment: The cost of the tree can vary depending where you purchase it, but can cost up to \$100 and take a couple hours to dig and plant the tree.

1. Choose the Perfect Spot

- Before you buy a tree, you need to determine where you want to plant it. Some good spots would be in your backyard, front yard or the public right away in front of your house.
- Make sure to do your research on the place you want to plant it. If you want to plant the tree on your property, you will need to determine your property line by contacting **City Planning 480-474-5083**. Then you will want to contact your utility companies and make sure the tree at full maturity will not impede any city utilities like water, electric or sewage.
- With choosing a location, one great location would be to place the tree relatively near your house on either the west or east side so that it can shade your house during the summer months and reduce your electric bill. Just make sure that when it reaches full maturity it will not cause damage to your house by being too close.
- If you want to plant the tree on public land you will need to send an **application form** to **Heather Patel** hpatel@ajcity.net. If the city gives permission to plant the tree, please be aware that there is always a possibility that the city may need to take it down for any reason.
- You will need to get a Blue Stake and place it on the spot where you want to plant the tree. This way, utility companies can come out and determine if there are any utility lines in the spot.

2. Choose Your Tree

- Once you have chosen the perfect spot you will need to pick a tree for your needs.
- Below are trees that are native to the desert and have low water needs. This means they will require very little management in the long run. Buy the tree that fits your needs.
 - Palo Verde
 - Mesquite

3. Plant Your Tree

- Dig a hole that is as deep as the root ball of your tree and 2 to 3 times wider than the root ball. Mix planting soil with the native soil you dug up, off to the side.
- Lay the tree on its side near the hole and remove the pot container.
- Gently place the tree in the hole and refill the hole with planting soil and native soil blend. Lightly pack down the refilled soil.
- Make sure you create a firm watering berm around the tree that is about 10 ft in diameter.
- Place stakes on either side of the tree and tie the tree off to them. This will protect the tree from strong winds until it has firmly established itself.



4. Care for Your New Tree

- Water the tree when you are done planting it.
- For the first year after planting, the tree will need to be watered every 3 to 4 days. The second year you can gradually reduce it to once a week. The third year it can be watered every other week and after that year it can be infrequently water as needed.
- If the tree is on public property the tree must be watered and maintained by the resident who planted it. It is not the responsibility of the City of Apache Junction.