

Healthy Trees for Healthy Neighborhoods

Possible Guidebook for Kate Sessions Commitment 2020

Draft Outline, March 10, 2020

At March 13 meeting, participants will be asked to confirm these items for Guidebook.

Objectives of Guidebook

1. Identify steps for organizing neighborhoods and organizations to plant and care for trees
2. Provide education and training materials
3. Produce detailed instructions for tree planting, watering, mulching and removing stakes
4. Follow arborist advice to ensure planted trees become healthy trees

Outcomes of Kate Sessions Commitment campaign

- 100 trees in each of five communities, on or about Kate Sessions' birthday, November 8, 2020
- 95% of trees are healthy and alive, one year later

Outline of Guidebook:

A. Interest and Inspiration

- Media materials on this project, that all can adapt for newsletters, eblasts, social media and other communications.
- Presentations on tree benefits, planting, and tree care, that all can adapt for community education.
- Template for community outreach plan that starts with identification of local resources, interested groups, businesses, and ways to communicate with these stakeholders.
- List of local resources for tree planting (see list developed at June 19, 2019 meeting)
- Organization(s) to accept, disperse and manage funds for arborist consultation, purchase of nursery trees and materials, and other expenses.
- Examples of promotions and celebrations, and steps to report accomplishments-successes.

B. Agreement and Advice

1. Checklist for "readiness" of organizations and/or individuals to participate in this campaign:
 - a. Name of approving official or owner, who has agreed to plant and care for ten (10) or more trees on the property and adjacent street parkways
 - b. Contact name, to schedule onsite certified arborist consultation
 - c. Hand-drawn map with buildings, pavement, landscaping, trees, and uses for the open areas
 - d. Available funds, up to \$200 per tree to purchase trees, materials and arborist advice (or equivalent donations)
 - e. Certification of functioning irrigation to the areas likely to be planted with trees (or not)
 - f. Identification of group willing to water trees weekly with buckets (if there is no irrigation)
 - g. Contract for youth group, to invite participation with site planning, planting and/or tree care
2. Expectations for certified arborist to:
 - a. Conduct initial site consultation: Assess the site and suitable planting areas. Determine what species are appropriate for the location. Confirm availability of onsite irrigation and determine supplemental water program.

3. Templates for community-site map and action plan for planting the 100 trees, based on “readiness” and arborist consultation.
4. Signed agreements from property owners to water and care for trees.
5. “No-fee permit” for trees planted on adjacent street parkways.

Tree Planting

1. Detailed instructions for planting trees
2. Detailed instructions for organizing tree-planting events, including places to borrow tools.
3. Expectations for certified arborist to:
 - a. Evaluate nursery stock. Select containerized trees that meet specifications for this project.
 - b. Oversee planting site preparation and advise teams at tree planting event. Ensure that each step is done correctly during the tree installation process. Holes must be the proper size/depth, trees must be planted correctly, and irrigation or watering system must be in place. Provide and maintain layer of mulch, to keep roots from drying out.

Tree Care

1. Tree care advice and periodic volunteer tree care events throughout the establishment period (about five years), to support tree owners and communities.
2. Expectations for certified arborist to:
 - a. Confirm onsite irrigation and determine water program by land owner and/or landscape contractor (modified irrigation schedule, adjusted emitter heads, and supplemental hand watering). If there is no irrigation system, outline needs for hand-watering by an organized team, to provide about 5 gallons of water twice a week in first year, weekly for next two years.
 - b. Continue services from certified arborist to monitor tree health, confirm that trees are watered properly, and prune young trees (if needed).

Background

- Trees are affordable and amazing ways to shade neighborhoods, implement Climate Action Plans, provide wildlife habitat and ecosystem services, and offer many co-benefits. More healthy trees are needed in street rights-of-way, parks, parking lots, schoolyards, routes to school, backyards, houses of workshop, and businesses.
- If communities invest a reason amount of time and resources in the early stages of the tree’s life, they can realize more benefits over the course of its life. Trees will live longer, look more attractive, and require less resources to maintain. They simply need to be selected, planted, irrigated, and structural pruned correctly from the beginning.

Partners (add other partners, perhaps w/ pledges)

- Arborist site consultation offered by Butch Everett and Bradley Brown, Board Certified Master Arborists, TreeLife Consulting, <http://treelifeconsulting.com/>
- Consultation on education and training offered by Anne S. Fege, San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council, afege@aol.com, 858-472-1293
- City of San Diego’s “free tree program,” 18-month wait list, <https://www.sandiego.gov/blog/free-tree-sd>
- Climate Action Campaign and SanDiego350.org