



## What is a Trees Party?

A **Trees Party is an event** for people to join together for education and hands-on work to care for their neighborhood trees and have fun doing it:

- Proper selection and planting
- Pruning and mulching
- Removal of invasives, including English ivy, kudzu, privet and wisteria

The Trees Coalition can assist you in starting a successful program in your neighborhood. We'll even come help you with your Trees Party. Contact us at [treescoalitionsc@gmail.com](mailto:treescoalitionsc@gmail.com) to get started.

**Objective:** Beautify one spot at a time, for good results and recognition.

**Site selection:** High visibility, corners are great, a place that needs clean up, not too large and overwhelming, especially at the beginning. Select it before the day of the Trees Party event.

### Tips for success:

- Need an owner to carry the ball – can vary with every event
- Start a month ahead to get the word out, with flyers, emails, small signs
- Enlist the neighborhood association board & invite the press
- Goal is to get 6-10 volunteers to turn out per session
- Cheerleaders and photographers welcome
- Start the event by meeting in someone's home with coffee and snacks
- Emphasize safety
- Provide an educational flyer for the project at hand
- Agree on the scope of the work to be done that day
- Limit the time to 2 hours – quit before they want to quit
- Take pictures to share – post them on your or [our FB page](#)
- End the event back in the home with coffee & fellowship, evaluations of what worked, what could be done better next time, set next event date.
- Put up a sign at the spot, "Cared for by \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood"

### Ideas for Trees Party activities:

1. Respond to a complaint or remove a spot of embarrassment.
2. Beautify a spot to make it a place to linger.
3. Mulch properly around a dozen trees. Make it a goal to do all street trees in the neighborhood, over time.

4. Prune a dozen trees – limb them up for good clearance, take out dead and crossed branches and co-dominant leaders.
5. Remove invasives in a localized area – i.e. ivy off of several trees, or remove all Chinese privet or kudzu or wisteria in a common area.

**Tools needed:**

1. High visibility orange or yellow safety vests
2. Cones to divert traffic around the work area if working on the side of a street
3. Gloves
4. Pruning & invasives removal - bring pruning saws, loppers, hand pole saw, heavy duty yard waste bags.
5. Mulching– bring pitchforks, spades, potato forks and potato hooks, steel rakes.
6. Bottled water

**Evaluations: (recommend written)**

What part was the most fun?

What can we do to make it more fun next time?

What kept you going while we worked?

Did you feel safe?

What could we do to make you more safe?

What additional information or tools do you need?

What would make this go more smoothly?

What do you want to tackle next?