

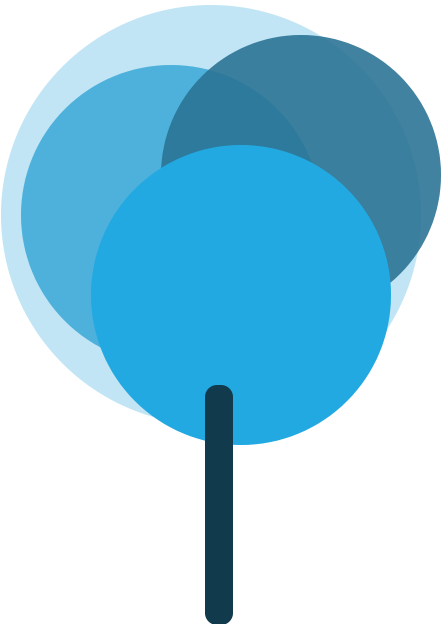


Rooted in Harleston

Restoring Harleston Village's historic canopy — one street tree at a time.

● **Apply Now — Only 15 Trees Available in 2026**

\$295 per tree · HVA gives 1 free tree for every 2 you plant



Program Description

Rooted in Harleston is HVA's partnership with the City of Charleston's Street Tree Program. Homeowners purchase trees for planting in the public right-of-way — typically a sidewalk strip — and the City's Urban Forestry Division plants and maintains each tree for the long term.

15

Trees allocated to Harleston Village in 2026

\$295

Cost per tree, paid to the City of Charleston

1 : 2

HVA's match — a free tree for every two purchased

Harleston Village's 2026 allocation is capped at 15 trees. For every two trees purchased by participating members, HVA donates a third tree free of charge — accelerating canopy restoration within this year's allocation at no added cost to residents.

Why It Matters

1 Restores our tree canopy.

Decades of storm damage, disease, and development have thinned Harleston Village's historic canopy; each new planting helps rebuild the shade and greenery that define our streets.

2 Helps manage flooding.

Trees absorb and slow stormwater runoff, easing pressure on the peninsula's aging drainage system and reducing nuisance flooding on our streets and sidewalks.

3 Boosts livability and property values.

Mature street trees cool sidewalks and homes, improve walkability, and are consistently linked to higher property values and neighborhood appeal.

4 Supports wildlife and native habitat.

Species like Live Oak, Blackgum, and native hollies provide food and shelter for birds and pollinators throughout the Lowcountry.

The role of Urban Forestry. The City's Urban Forestry Division confirms each tree is the right tree for the right place, plants it, and provides scheduled maintenance through its first year, then as-needed maintenance and pruning over its productive life.

Planting Guidance

Every street tree is reviewed by your Area Steward and approved by the City's Urban Forestry Division. Here is exactly how a request moves from application to planting.

1 Check your site & complete your application

Look at your planting strip or yard: note overhead power lines, strip width, and sun exposure, then complete the Rooted in Harleston application on the following page.

2 Submit your application

Send your completed application to info@harlestonvillageassociation.org. An Area Steward will contact you to review the application.

3 Area Steward review

An Area Steward will review your application and take photos of the site (if needed), then forward your request to Urban Forestry.

4 City review & approval

Urban Forestry checks the site against the Street Tree Manual and approves, conditions, or declines the request. Only the City may approve a planting.

5 Payment

Pay \$295 per tree to the City of Charleston around the time of planting, in the December–February timeframe — waived for HVA's matched trees.

6 Planting & maintenance

The City plants between December and February, the safest window for new root establishment. Urban Forestry provides scheduled maintenance through year one, then as-needed maintenance and pruning over the tree's productive life.

Popular choices: Live Oak and Shumard Oak (large shade trees, open sites only), Crape Myrtle and Hollies (compact, case-by-case near power lines), Blackgum (native, brilliant fall color). Ask your Area Steward for the full eligible-species chart.

Good to know: if this year's 15-tree allocation fills, your request joins next year's queue. You'll hear from Urban Forestry around Labor Day — with no financial obligation until a Work Order# is issued.

Application

Print clearly and return this form to your Area Steward, or email it to info@harlestonvillageassociation.org.

APPLICANT NAME	PROPERTY ADDRESS (HARLESTON VILLAGE)
PHONE	EMAIL
REQUEST TYPE	TREES REQUESTED
☐ Street tree at my address	
☐ Donate — City chooses the location	
TREE SPECIES PREFERENCE	
☐ Live Oak ☐ Shumard Oak ☐ Crape Myrtle ☐ Holly ☐ Blackgum ☐ No preference	
SITE CONDITIONS	
☐ Overhead power lines nearby ☐ Full sun ☐ Partial shade ☐ Full shade	
SPECIAL CONDITIONS (DRAINAGE, SIDEWALK / STRIP WIDTH, UNDERGROUND UTILITIES)	

☐ I understand Urban Forestry selects the final species and placement per the Street Tree Manual, and that a \$295 per-tree fee (if applicable) is due to the City around the time of planting (December–February).

APPLICANT SIGNATURE	DATE

FOR OFFICE USE — REVIEW & APPROVAL

Area Steward	SIGNATURE	DATE
Urban Forestry	SIGNATURE	DATE

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the HVA Street Tree Program?

HVA has partnered with Charleston's Urban Forestry Division to expand the neighborhood's tree canopy. For every two trees purchased by participants, HVA contributes a third tree at no added cost. Apply to have a tree planted on the public space adjacent to your property, or donate a tree to be planted at a site selected jointly by HVA and Urban Forestry within Harleston Village.

Q. Can I request where a tree is planted?

You're encouraged to state a preferred location and tree, but final placement is determined by Urban Forestry based on the "right tree, right place" philosophy — available right-of-way, overhead and underground utilities (including storm drainage), sight distance, and other site considerations.

Q. Can homeowners who are not HVA members apply?

Yes — the City's Street Tree Program is open to any Charleston resident. HVA's tree match is simply an added benefit for participants in Harleston Village.

Q. Why is Harleston Village restricted to 15 new trees?

Urban Forestry attempts to fairly allocate new trees across all interested neighborhoods citywide. The Division already maintains over 70,000 trees, and new plantings add to that maintenance workload, so annual growth is carefully controlled.

Q. How much does a tree cost, and what does that cover?

\$295 per tree, payable to the City of Charleston. Once approved, Urban Forestry plants, waters, and maintains the tree, and will replace it within the first year if compromised. Through its annual contingency programs, Urban Forestry may also replace diseased or damaged street trees later in the tree's productive life, subject to budget.

Q. May I select the species of tree that will be planted?

Depending on the location, you may select from a list of eligible species in the Street Tree Manual, though certain species may not always be available. Newly planted trees generally have a trunk diameter around 2" and rarely exceed 12' in height at planting.

Q. How and when do I pay?

By check to the City of Charleston, noting the street address and number/type of trees in the memo line. Payment is due around the time of planting, in the December–February timeframe.

Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

Q. What are my financial obligations to be placed on the wait list?

None. A financial commitment may be incurred within 30 days after a Work Order# is issued, if your application moves from the wait list to active status.

Q. Am I required to consult neighbors on new tree plantings?

Technically no, but it's strongly recommended if a new tree is planted near a property line, restricts line-of-sight such as a driveway, or may eventually affect a neighbor's view as it matures.

Q. What if my request is deferred to next year's planting cycle?

It joins next year's queue. Around Labor Day, you'll be emailed to confirm you still want to move forward — again, with no obligation until a Work Order# is issued.

Q. Is my contribution tax deductible?

Payments are deemed to be tax-deductible, but please consult a tax attorney.

Q. How do I apply?

Complete the Rooted in Harleston application with your tree preference and any special conditions, then send it to your Area Steward for review before it's forwarded to Urban Forestry.

Q. When are trees actually planted?

Normally December through February, when cooler, wetter conditions are safest for new root establishment.

Q. What if there are power lines near my planting site?

Note it on your application. Priority goes to replacing compromised or at-risk trees near power lines, reducing the need for future utility cutting.

Q. Which streets get priority for new trees?

HVA prioritizes blocks with the thinnest canopy and locations where new planting may help mitigate flooding, along with special cases such as schools or houses of worship.

Q. Who reviews and approves my application?

Your Area Steward reviews it first for neighborhood context; Urban Forestry makes the final call — approving, conditioning, or declining based on site suitability.

EVERY TREE STARTS WITH A NEIGHBOR WHO APPLIES

Help Us Put Harleston Back Under Canopy

Only 15 trees are allocated to Harleston Village this year, and the queue is filling. Pick a spot, complete the application, and send it to your Area Steward.

15 Trees Available for 2026

PLANTINGS SCHEDULED · DECEMBER – FEBRUARY

Return your application to your Area Steward, or email:

Harleston Village Association

info@harlestonvillageassociation.org