

The Ft. Thomas Tree Commission will help pay to

# Plant a Tree

*in your front yard*



## Would you like the City of Ft. Thomas to plant a tree on your property?

The Fort Thomas Tree Commission offers Fort Thomas property owners a cost-sharing program for tree planting just outside the public right-of-way in private front-yard areas.

For this cost-sharing program, **the Fort Thomas Tree Commission will match the purchase costs of each tree up to 50%, or \$150**, whichever is less. Approved applicants shall be required to provide the remainder of the purchase cost. The City of Fort Thomas shall be responsible for tree purchase and planting, which will be scheduled up to two times per year (fall/spring) once an adequate number of orders are received for the City to handle in volume.

Interested property owners just need to submit the application form on the back of this sheet to the address at the bottom of the form. Approval of the application will be based upon several considerations, including but not limited to, adequate front-yard planting space, degree of urban forestation need in the area, suitable tree species desired, and non-interference with overhead and underground utilities. Applications will be reviewed and approved on a first come-first served basis while funds last.

Upon application approval, the property owner will be notified in writing and be required to sign a license agreement accepting ownership/maintenance responsibility of the tree after its first year, as well as submit payment equaling their cost share in full to the City of Fort Thomas **within 30 calendar days**. Property owners whose license agreement and payment is not received within that time frame shall automatically be disqualified.

If you should have any questions with regard to this program, please feel free to contact Jay Treft or Julie Rice c/o Tree Commission of City of Fort Thomas at 859-441-1055. **We look forward to receiving your application.**

Please fill out the form on the back of this sheet to apply for a tree to be planted in your front yard.

## The Value of Trees to a Community

*The following are some statistics on just how important trees are in a community setting.*

*"Landscaping can reduce air conditioning costs by up to 50 percent, by shading the windows and walls of a home."*

— American Public Power Association

*"A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000."*

—Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers

*"Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent."*

—Management Information Services/ICMA

*"Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent."*

—The National Arbor Day Foundation

*"The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams."*

—USDA Forest Service

Information is from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Please go to **www.arborday.org** for more information.

*"To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees." —Theodore Roosevelt*



# Fort Thomas Tree Commission

## Front Yard Planting Application Form

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please choose one:

- I will allow the Tree Commission to select the particular species of tree
- I require that I select the particular species of tree, as listed below:

1st choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd choice: \_\_\_\_\_

3rd choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Tree Commission encourages the following tree species.

#### Possible species include, but are not limited to:

#### Large:

Lacebark Elm  
Silver Linden  
White Oak  
Scarlett Oak  
Gingko (Male)  
Black Gum  
Japanese Zelkova

#### Medium:

Red Bud  
Hornbeam  
Saucer Magnolia  
Honey Locust  
Golden Raintree  
Hop Hornbeam

## 3 Things You Should Know About Trees

### #1: Don't Top Trees!

Never cut main branches back to stubs. The topping process may produce ugly, weakly attached limbs that usually grow back higher than the original branches.

Arborists say that topping starves the tree by drastically reducing its food-making ability and makes the tree more susceptible to insects and disease.

### #2: The Value of Mulch

Mulch insulates soil, retains moisture, keeps out weeds, prevents soil compaction, reduces lawn mower damage, and looks aesthetically pleasing.

Pour wood chips or bark pieces 2 to 4 inches thick around the tree, but not touching the trunk.

### #3: Girdling Kills Trees

Girdling is any activity that injures the bark of a tree trunk and extends around much of the trunk's circumference.

Often caused by lawn mowers and weed trimmers, this destroys the layers that conduct water and minerals to the rest of the tree.

Please go to [www.arboday.org](http://www.arboday.org) for more information.

**For a complete list of possible species, contact the Fort Thomas General Services Department at 859-572-1210.**

I hereby acknowledge the understanding that, if I am selected to receive a tree planted in the front yard of my property just outside of the public right-of-way, I will be required to sign a license agreement accepting ownership/maintenance responsibility of the tree after the first year. I will also be required to submit payment equaling my full 50% cost-share, or \$150.00, whichever is less, within 30 calendar days of notification. I further understand that the City shall be responsible for purchasing and planting the tree, to be scheduled up to two times per year (fall/spring) once an adequate number of orders are received for the City to handle in volume.

Owner/Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Applications shall be submitted to:

City of Fort Thomas, c/o Tree Commission, 130 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, KY 41075  
or fax your application to the City building at 859-441-5104

For more information, please contact Jay Treft or Julie Rice c/o Tree Commission of City of Fort Thomas at 441-1055.