

## Free Parkway Tree Planting Program Information

Trees are normally available through a share-cost program. However, in order to recover from the tree losses caused by the Emerald ash borer and other losses, the Village of Skokie in cooperation with the Sustainable Environmental Advisory and Beautification & Improvement Commissions will be waiving the share-cost tree planting fee for 2020.

Why plant a tree? They offer the following benefits and more:

- **Financial:** They increase property values by about 1% and reduce your air conditioning bill by up to 9%. Trees are good for business too! They beautify and shade storefronts, increasing pedestrian shoppers.
- **Environmental:** They clean our air by absorbing CO2 and other harmful gases while also releasing oxygen. Just one tree can intercept hundreds to thousands of gallons of stormwater annually, which reduces flooding and erosion.
- **Health:** Children have lower obesity rates when they grow up on tree-lined streets because they run and play more. Trees reduce skin cancer rates by lessening our exposure to harmful UV rays.
- **Well-being:** Trees reduce noise, promote calmness, and increase concentration levels. That lowers our stress levels, reduces crime, betters student test scores, and increases success rates for medical recoveries.

Don't wait! We have a limited number of trees available and the sooner you send in the attached application, the better your chance of getting your first choice for tree species.

We need your help. You will be responsible for watering the tree approximately twice per week for the first 2 years. A door hanger with watering instructions will be delivered after the tree is planted.

The Village will prune the parkway tree about once every 5-6 years.

If you have any questions or do not like the location, please contact a forester at 847-933-8427 before March 15<sup>th</sup>.

