

Any organized group is invited to participate in planting along Preston Ridge Trail. The group can be endorsed by a Homeowner Association, or be independent.

The liaison with the City and the various approvals and planting arrangements are all done through FPRT: contact Rod Scales at cell 972 679 8359, h 972 233 6054

### **Your commitment**

It takes a group to commit to watering for 2+ years. It is possible that a 3<sup>rd</sup> summer will be required if a long drought occurs. The number of plants will depend on the size of that watering group. The general principles are outlined below.

### **When to plant**

Planting occurs in November on the day of your choice. It can also occur in the Spring, but then the watering commitment runs about 30 months to get beyond that last summer.

The City of Dallas Parks Dept. needs about 4 months advance notice of the plant count that you want. Specimens are limited to what ONCOR will permit, with growth potentials limited to 15 feet. This allows such things as Mexican Plum, Possum Haw, Yaupon, Vitex and Redbuds. The choice may be limited depending on what the City can obtain from its tree bank. Crepes were disallowed by ONCOR in 2008. You cannot control plant size - City will do its best for you.

FPRT has been very pleased with the co-operation from the City.

### **How many volunteers are needed?**

To guide you in how many volunteers are needed:

Example: for the planting in Nov 2006 of 230 LARGE specimens, there was a total volunteer group of 4 trucks (to tow the tank) and 8 walkers. A crew is 1 truck, 1 driver, and 2 walkers who use either one or two hoses. Each of the 3 crews spent 4 hours watering about 12 times a year (which was felt to be onerous enough for most volunteers). The duration to water is a function of the tree size. Bigger specimens need more water. This 230-tree group takes 4-5 tankfuls, each tankful being 1000 gallons. No heavy lifting is needed. We later increased to 5 crews in the second year to ease the load. And then we had some rain days, so we were able to skip when the rain was heavy enough.

From an organizational viewpoint, these 5 crews were ideal as they became very practiced in doing the work as quickly as possible. But it takes VERY reliable volunteers who never fail to show up. Some HOAs have gone with much larger groups of volunteers, so each has to do less, but then they don't get to be so practiced and thus not quite as fast.

More or less volunteers? Just adjust the number to be planted. Figure one tankful, taking 45 to 50 minutes for every 50 trees. It is your job to recruit and manage the volunteers and trucks. Newsletter articles are helpful to encourage volunteers. You can drive your neighborhood and note where there are big pick-up trucks and SUVs and call the occupant to ask for their help. If you do not have a neighborhood directory, go to <http://www.dallascad.org/SearchOwner.aspx> on the Dallas County Appraisal District website, find the home owner name and then get the phone number. If there was an HOA newsletter article about the volunteer effort in the prior 2 weeks, it helps break down resistance to what you are asking. Bigger trucks are best (250 not 150; but they will work as we have found out) or larger SUV. Need 2" ball hitch, and automatic not standard shift as the crawling destroys the clutch of a standard shift.

### **Watering Schedule**

*Overriding this general schedule is that plants should not dry out.*

Water heavily the day of planting, then weekly for 3 weeks, then every alternate week for a month, then as follows:

Alternate weeks for Apr 1 - May 30 and Oct 1 - Nov 30  
Monthly for Dec 1 - Mar 30  
Every week during the summer from June 1 - Sept 30

This works out to about 33 events per year for one watering crew (or 2 crews each taking 17 events, or 3 crews 11 events, etc)

**Equipment details**

Liability insurance of using the trailer is covered by the tow vehicle insurance coverage.

The water tank weighs 8000 pounds when full. The water tank is filled from a fire hydrant. The water is free to you. We pay the bill. The heavy load is quickly reduced and the driving speed does not exceed 20 mph so that is how we discovered that 150 pickups can handle it.

FPRT makes the tank, trailer and water available at no charge, supported by donations from interested parties and some HOAs.

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