



**FAQ about  
Trees for Sacred Places  
Project**



**General Questions:**

To get started, or ask any questions: contact Bonnie Sorak, Outreach Coordinator, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake at [bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org](mailto:bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org) or call her cell: 443-799-0349

***What is required of us to get trees?***

1. Either a minimum of 1 acre or space for 60 trees (or a partner congregation within 5 miles with space for planting trees that together would add up to this)
2. One central contact person
3. Approval by your governing body
4. Schedule an Educational (Spiritual & Environmental) Workshop
5. Recruit Volunteers for Planting Day
6. Agreement to care for the trees after they are planted

Here is a [Step-by-Step Guide](#) which provides an overview of the process to acquire trees.

**Tree Questions:**

***What type of trees do we get? And what size?***

Trees will be native to the Maryland area. Species will be chosen depending on environmental factors like soil types, sun availability, and tolerance to shade. The trees will vary from seedlings (~1ft tall) to potted trees (2-4ft tall). Size will vary depending on the planting site. Groves will be planted with seedlings because we can create a more natural forest ecosystem, individual trees, for example in front of churches, will be potted and more mature.

***How do we get a Planting Plan?***

The Alliance will draft your planting plan after a site visit and a conversation with the committee in charge of the planting. Plans are drawn up based on the preferences of the congregation and at the Alliance's discretion to ensure tree survivorship.

### ***How do we care for the trees?***

- Watering: 2 gals /week/ per tree IF less than 2 inches of rain in a week when tree has leaves, for the first 2 years. Particularly important during drought conditions in the summer months.
- Mulching: None is necessary (note: "volcano" or cone style of mulching up over the base of the tree is actually unhealthy for tree growth)
- Mowing: twice a year to remove competitive weed and grass growth from around the tree

### ***What happens on Planting Day?***

- Volunteers are trained how to properly plant trees.
- Volunteers plant, stake, and provide deer protection (provided by the Alliance).

### **Workshop Questions:**

#### ***What is the content of the Workshop? And length of time?***

The Workshop is offered in two parts (in one session: 1hr - 1.5 hr OR two separate sessions at separate times: 1/2 hr- 45 mins. each): Environmental/ watershed ecology (offered by the Alliance) and Spiritual/ theology of caring for God's Creation (offered by IPC). The former offers an overview of your watershed in the context of the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed, along with presenting the challenges of stormwater runoff, pollution, and deforestation. Central message is how tree planting contributes to the restoration of the watershed (in a variety of ways). The Spiritual side of the Workshop is customizable to your congregation and provides experiential reflection/ meditation on our connectedness to the web of life/ God's Creation, how the Creation story calls us to be stewards of the earth, and unpacks the symbolic meanings of trees portrayed in the bible.

#### ***What age does the audience have to be?***

Adults are our primary audience but the Workshop can be adapted for an intergenerational audience to include children above 7 years of age and youth are especially welcome.

#### ***When are the Workshops held?***

They can be held on a weekday or weekend evening (could be combined with a potluck), or after a worship service (when you have a "captive audience").

#### ***Can the Workshop occur the same day as the Tree Planting Day?***

Yes, however, offering the Workshop ahead of your Planting Day can help generate more volunteers and motivate more participation for your Tree Planting Day.