



Scenic Texas and Bay City Give Away Free Trees

Bay City, TX –Scenic Texas and Bay City Parks and Recreation partner to give away 2000 (3-5 gallon) trees to residents to plant as a part of Scenic Texas’ 1 Million Trees Across Texas Initiative.

Scenic Texas’ program is the only statewide program that supports sustainable landscaping and increases tree planting in overlooked rural to mid-size communities of Texas. This tree planting program improves the scenic quality of natural and built landscapes, aims to combat environmental conservation, preserves native trees, maintains greenspaces and enhances the sustainability of communities across the state.

Planting new trees and preserving existing trees in our overlooked communities will improve the overall quality of our environment and provide habitat for native wildlife, which maintains a harmonious balance between humans and nature. Scenic Texas strives to address the environmental challenges associated with pollution and ecosystem degradation due to Texas’ rapid growth rate.

The giveaways are open residents to obtain and plant up to two free trees in a yard or lawn on private property. We have selected Chinquapin Oaks, Mexican Oak, Shumard Oak, Bur Oak, Nuttall Oak and Kay Magnolias for residents to plant. Fall is the best time to plant trees in Texas – before the first frost. The cooler weather allows the trees to adapt to the planting site without the threat of scorching heat. Trees planted in the fall have more time to develop their root systems, and with proper planting and care, will have a higher survival rate than those planted in the spring.

Residents can drop by Riverside Park (7330 FM 2668) on Saturday, January 14th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. to pick up their two trees and instructions on how to plant and care for the tree while supplies last.

Here is more information on how the giveaways work:

- Participants take their trees home to plant in a yard, garden or commercial property.
- Participants must agree to the following terms:
 - Plant the tree.
 - Keep trees properly watered and maintained.
 - Do not plant the tree along streets, sidewalks or in city parks.

“We are very fortunate for this opportunity to partner with Scenic Texas” said Shawn Blackburn, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Bay City. “The trees we are offering to the community will be enjoyed for generations to come. Each tree is valued from \$20 to as much as \$80 each and there are six different species to choose from.”

Scenic Texas' wants everyone to know there are several reasons to plant trees. Trees reduce pollutants such as nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide, and particulates that trigger respiratory illnesses. Through the process of photosynthesis, trees provide us with the oxygen we need in order to breathe. Exposure to nature and green space benefits our social, psychological and physical health. Trees help reduce temperatures and utility consumption by shading buildings and concrete. In addition to providing shelter for wildlife, trees are a food source for many species of animals. Trees also absorb and clean excess rainwater through their roots, which helps hold the soil in place preventing erosion.

For more information the giveaway or to volunteer to help plant trees in the park, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 979-323-1660 or parks-rec@cityofbaycity.org

Want more information on this event or other Parks and Recreation's programs, events, facilities or parks? Call the Parks and Recreation Office at 979-323-1660 or check out the city's webpage at <https://www.cityofbaycity.org/190/Parks-Recreation>; or follow us on Facebook: @BCPAR; Instagram: @BCPARD or Twitter: @baycity_parks.

Whatever it is that you want to do – Get Your Play On in Bay City!