

BRANCH OUT WITH ADOPT A TREE

The City of Tallahassee is once again offering free trees to eligible homeowners within the city limits. The Adopt A Tree program provides and helps plant native and naturalized trees to increase the community's urban forest canopy. To apply for the program, visit Talgov.com.

Homeowners may request up to two trees be planted in the front yard within 100 feet of the centerline of the roadway (within the city limits) and must agree to keep each tree watered for one year. City staff will assist the homeowner with tree placement and take care of the installation.

The trees, depending on the species, are between 5 and 8 feet in height and are species native (or cultivars of species native) to the southeast. Trees available this year include:

River Birch – River Birch, a deciduous tree, grows to 80-100 feet at maturity and is typically a multi-stem tree, meaning it has multiple slender trunks. During autumn, the leaves turn yellow, and during late spring, it has tiny, winged seeds. The River Birch is typically found along streams and poorly drained soils but is also used in landscapes as erosion control. While it is tolerant of acidic soils and excessive water, the seeds will not germinate without a large amount of direct sunlight.



Sweetbay Magnolia - The Sweetbay Magnolia is a multi-stem evergreen tree in the local area and has a mature height range of 20-35 feet. The creamy white flowers have a vanilla-type scent that can be noticed several hundred yards away. The bark is smooth and gray and has a scent reminiscent of the bay laurel spice, which is how it got its name. The Sweetbay is an attractive ornamental tree found in gardens and parks that is grown for its large, conspicuously fragrant flowers and fast growth (13-24 inches per year). It is tolerant of wet, boggy sites and low areas in a landscape. It needs on average at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily.



Eastern Red Cedar - The Eastern Red Cedar is an evergreen tree that can reach up to 65 feet on average. The dark purple-blue seeds are an important winter food source for birds. The Eastern Red Cedar tends to outcompete grasses, creating bare spots, due to its dense low branches and wide base. It is tolerant of both drought and cold, while growing well in rocky, sandy and clay soils, with little competition. It benefits from increased carbon dioxide levels. This tree is a great buffer tree and wind break, as it thrives in adverse conditions.

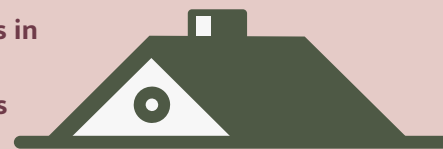


Tree planting will begin mid-December. Trees are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Adopt A Tree, which plants around 300 trees each year, is one of the programs that helps ensure the health of Tallahassee's tree canopy. At 55 percent, the City boasts one of the highest percentages of tree coverage in the nation.

To adopt a tree from the City, visit Talgov.com and complete the online application. Questions can be emailed to AdoptaTree@Talgov.com or answered by calling 850-891-5450.

Sustainability Tip

Proper insulation in the attic will cut heat loss in the winter. To help, the City offers ceiling insulation grants. Call 850-891-4968 for details



CONSERVE NOW, SAVE LATER

Every April, the City of Tallahassee resets your residential Maximum Sewer Charge based on your prior winter's water usage. The City calculates your Sewer Max based on the highest month of metered water usage as billed from December through March, when most customers used the least amount of water. Smart water choices during the winter months can help you save all year. For more information, visit Talgov.com.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY



The City's holiday celebrations begin on Friday, Dec. 1 with "Deck the Halls" at the Tallahassee Senior Center. The next day, Tallahassee's beloved Winter Festival kicks off a month of joyful tidings. This year's event will be held downtown on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 3-10 p.m. It features the annual Lighting Ceremony, Jingle Bell Run and the Holiday Parade. Festival attendees will enjoy live entertainment on five stages, Candy Cane Lane, food and crafts vendors and more. On Saturday, Dec. 9, residents can bundle up for an enchanted Holiday Stroll in Cascades Park. The holiday light display in Dorothy B. Owen Park premieres Thanksgiving evening (Nov. 23) and runs nightly through the New Year (Monday, Jan. 1), weather permitting. Elf Night, a signature family-friendly event at Owen Park, is set for Thursday, Dec. 14. On Saturday, Dec. 16, Soul Santa's calendar is full, with visits to see kids at the Walker-Ford / Smith-Williams centers and the LeVerne Payne Community Center. For more on these and other holiday happenings hosted by the City, visit Talgov.com.

COLD WEATHER TIPS

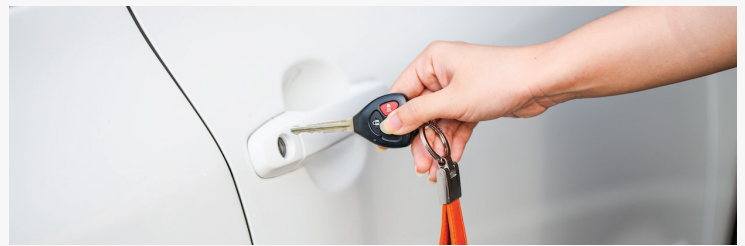
When a freeze warning is issued for Tallahassee by the National Weather Service, take these simple steps to help protect your family, pipes and pets.

- Insulate all exposed outside pipes with cloth or a similar material.
- Exercise caution when using supplemental heating units. Keep combustible materials, such as drapes or chairs, at least three feet away from any heating unit.
- Bring outside pets indoors during cold snaps, especially at night when temperatures dip to their lowest.

The City of Tallahassee wants to ensure all residents know what to do when the forecast calls for a hard freeze. Customers can call 850-891-4968 for utility service needs.



BE SAFE WHILE SHOPPING



The Tallahassee Police Department reminds you to be safe during the holiday shopping season. While you are in stores picking out those must-have gifts, thieves could be in the parking lot checking your car doors. Remember to park in a well-lit area near other people and to lock your vehicle doors. Criminals look for the easiest target to make a quick buck, and an unlocked car is a simple target. It takes less than 10 seconds to open a door, peek inside and steal your valuables before moving on to the next car in the parking lot. Whether you're out shopping or parked in your driveway, by simply locking your car doors you can prevent most car burglaries during the holiday season.

For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquiries, please call 850-891-4968 or visit Talgov.com.

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Insight is published monthly to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the City's ADA/Title VI Coordinator at least two business days prior to the event at 850-661-3235 or Kathleen.Wright@Talgov.com. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance notice.



MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Visit Talgov.com for the current list of Tallahassee City Commission, Community Redevelopment Agency, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency meetings and workshops. Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for more information and view the current meeting agendas online at Talgov.com. Follow [@CityofTLH](https://twitter.com/CityofTLH) on Twitter for City news.