

Dr. Bonnie Lee Appleton

Development of Utility Line Arboreta

Steps, Components, and Estimated Basic Costs

- Obtain a site where planting, maintenance and especially pruning for height control are under your control if possible (ie – many street tree situations mean someone else controls maintenance, which may be counter to your objectives). Possible locations: city and county parks, school and university grounds, botanical gardens and arboreta, community centers, etc. A utility line arboretum can also be developed along a street but be aware of energized overhead utility lines that may limit your activities.
COST – 0 (or fill in your cost if land must be purchased, leased, etc.).
- Install one or more spans of lines – work with the local utility so that they provide this free.
COST – 0
- Layout planting design. Leave 20' – 25' between each tree. See example of the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center's Utility Line Arboretum.
COST – tape measure, flags.
- Prepare planting sites either as individual planting holes or entire planting rows.
COST – Soil prep; Roundup to kill vegetation.
- Purchase trees. Purchase 1"-1 ½" caliper if available (not larger). Try to purchase locally grown and acclimated trees.
COST – average of \$50-\$75/tree (wholesale) – consult the directory or website of your state nursery association for in-state availability.
- Install trees. Use city employees and equipment or volunteers.
COST – 0
- Mulch trees. Recycle line clearance chips or similar material whenever possible.
COST - 0
- Install an information sign (project name, cooperators, funding, etc.).
COST - \$100-\$200 (may be available free from the city park department, a local technical school, etc.).
- Tag individual trees with common and Latin names.
COST – depends on tagging method - \$2-\$5/tree.

If you are developing your utility line arboretum with grant funding there are many items – land, labor, etc. – that can be used as a match for your grant.

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Developed with a grant from the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC).

