

Any organized group is invited to participate in planting along Preston Ridge Trail. The group can be endorsed by a Homeowners 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 3rd 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.

The City of Dallas Parks Dept needs about 4 months advance notice of the plant count that you want.

Specimens are limited mostly to crepes and redbuds.

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?

As a guide to how many volunteers are needed, for the planting 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 the 2 hoses. Each crew spends 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 tankfuls, each 1000 gallons. No heavy lifting needed.

As a further guide, the Nov 2005 planting was about 430 SMALLER specimens, but spread over a wider area. The church group (LDS, Dallas Ward 4) responsible for this planting and watering takes about 5 hours (more trees, less water per tree as smaller in size). They have many volunteers.

More or less volunteers? Just adjust the number to be planted. It is your job to recruit and manage the volunteers and trucks. An advanced newsletter article is helpful to encourage volunteers. You can drive your neighborhood and note where there are big pick up trucks 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 a newsletter article in the prior 2 weeks, it helps break down resistance to what you are asking. Bigger trucks best (250 not 150) or larger SUV and 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 36 events per year for one watering crew (or 2 crews each taking 18 events, or 3 crews 12 events etc)

Equipment details

Insurance of the trailer is covered by the tow vehicle insurance coverage.

The water tank weighs 8000 pounds when full. The water tank is filled from fire hydrant.

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