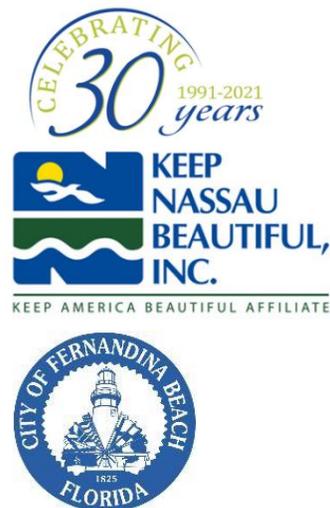


# Media Release

## For Immediate Release

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## City of Fernandina Beach and Keep Nassau Beautiful Host Free Tree Drive-through Event

*In celebration of Earth Day the City of Fernandina Beach plans to distribute up to 250 free trees to residents of Fernandina Beach.*

**Fernandina Beach, Florida, March 26, 2021.** In celebration of Earth Day Keep Nassau Beautiful (KNB) volunteers and members of the Fernandina Beach Planning and Conservation Department will be holding a free-tree drive-through event where residents of Fernandina Beach will pick-up one or two 1-gallon or 3-gallon free trees to be planted within the limits of the municipality. If you are unsure if you live within the City limits, please call (904) 310-3480.

To reserve free trees residents are asked to review UF/IFAS tree fact sheets to select the right species for their planting location, and view an on-line educational video led by UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension on proper planting and maintenance of trees. Once the on-line learning is complete residents will be ready to complete the free tree reservation form to select their preferred tree species. Four tree species are being offered while supplies last. Residents may receive 1 or 2 of the same species or choose two different species.

Pickup is on Saturday April 17 at the Public Works Complex, 1017 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina Beach, between the hours of 8am – Noon. This event is taking place during the Fernandina Beach Recycle/Hazardous Waste Event, also being held 8am – Noon.

Trees must be reserved 48 hours before the event. Visit [keepnassaubeautiful.org/programs/planting-nassaus-future](https://www.keepnassaubeautiful.org/programs/planting-nassaus-future) for links to Tree Fact Sheets, a YouTube video on proper tree planting and maintenance, and the Free Tree Reservation Form.

“Planting a tree is one of the easiest and most beneficial things we can do for the environment and ourselves,” said Lynda Bell, KNB Executive Director, “Keep Nassau Beautiful is proud to be part of contributing to the long-term health and beauty of our community.”

When picking up their free tree, residents will be provided a care and maintenance quick reference guide. Residents are asked to help the tree get its best chance at a healthy long life by following a watering schedule until the tree gets established.

For more information [KNB@KeepNassauBeautiful.org](mailto:KNB@KeepNassauBeautiful.org) or 904-261-0165.

Keep Nassau Beautiful, Inc. is working to inspire, educate, and equip individuals, groups, businesses and governments to take action to make Nassau County a place where residents, visitors and wildlife can thrive and experience the beauty of Nassau County.

[www.keepnassaubautiful.org](http://www.keepnassaubautiful.org)

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### How to Plant Your Tree

1. Dig Hole (2-3x wider than root ball, no deeper than root ball)
2. Build Mound (so top of root ball sits 1"-2" higher than the ground)
3. Score Sides of Hole (loosen the soil)
4. Remove Pot and Score Root Ball (cut circling roots and 1" off the bottom of the root ball, loosen dirt on the root ball)
5. Fill Hole With Soil That Was Removed (do not amend the soil, when hole is 1/2 full of soil saturate with water to remove air pockets)
6. Build 3" High Circular Berm (build around outer edge of hole)
7. Pour in Water (3x amount of original pot size)
8. Apply Mulch (do not allow mulch to touch tree trunk)
9. Install Stake if Desired (remove after 12 mos.)

### When to Water Your Tree

Size of Nursery Stock	Irrigation for Vigor	Irrigation for Survival
Less than 2" Caliper	Daily: 2 Weeks Every Other Day: 2 Months Weekly: Until Established	Twice Weekly for 2 – 3 Months

[nassau@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:nassau@ifas.ufl.edu)  
(904) 530-6353

Quick Reference Guide for Planting and Watering Your Tree