



a 501c3 Corp

Formed to preserve, promote and celebrate our world class trees

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I care about trees? Aside from our great people, our trees are Mobile's #1 resource. Trees efficiently clean the air we breathe by producing essential oxygen and removing harmful carbon dioxide. They shade us from cancer-causing sun rays, cool us in hot weather and reduce soil erosion in wet weather. Yet, the Mobile area is losing about one tree every day on the public right of way from urban development, old age, disease and neglect. Many more trees are lost on private property.

How can a non-profit like FOMT make a difference? As an IRS-approved 501c3 Corporation, FOMT is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions from businesses and individuals and public and private grants to restore our urban forest. A \$10,000 grant is now in place to match your contributions to more effectively upgrade our existing treescape and plant new species where appropriate.

I see trees all over Mobile. Why spend money to fertilize them? Much of Mobile's existing treescape is distressed or neglected and needs professional fertilization and pruning. It's much easier and less expensive to maintain our existing treescape than to plant and fertilize new trees.

So why then do we need new trees planted? New trees are most needed where they have been lost or in newly-developed areas. Heritage trees like live oaks and magnolias take decades to grow to full potential. We are planting now so future generations can continue to enjoy our world class treescape.

Why not spend the money raised to create jobs? We can create jobs, lots of them! Urban forestry projects require trained arborists and tree farmers who certainly earn their compensation. Enhancing our treescape also draws more tourists who, in turn, create many jobs in hotels, restaurants and shops. It's estimated that every tourist dollar spent in Mobile turns over seven times, generating income for residents and more tax revenue for our city and county budgets. For example, Charleston is one of the world's leading tourist destinations largely because of their beautiful live oaks. Yet, Mobile's live oaks are just as impressive, if not more so.

So FOMT is just interested in live oaks and magnolias? We love our larger heritage trees. But, they need to be planted in areas with sufficient root space such as our city parks so they can flourish. Other species such as maples, dogwoods and crepe myrtles are often more appropriate for smaller spaces like sidewalks.

I pay my taxes. Why shouldn't the city and county care for the trees? Urban Forestry specialists are out caring for our trees every work day, but with limited resources. With many other vital city services such as police and fire protection competing for slices of the budget pie, more urban forestry funding is not likely without raising our taxes even higher. With your tax-deductible donations and federal, state and corporate grant money, FOMT can finance vital tree projects that, otherwise, would be neglected

How do I know the money I donate will actually go to improving the treescape? FOMT has sufficient operating revenue set aside, so 100% of your contribution goes to rehabilitating our treescape or planting new tree species where appropriate.

Can FOMT help us plant trees in our neighborhood? Absolutely. Ask us about our *Dedicated Neighborhood Fund* that can fund your HOA tree projects through tax deductible contributions.

How do I deduct my contribution from state and federal taxes? FOMT provides each donor with a tax document acknowledging the contribution is deductible under applicable state and federal laws

Is FOMT political? Not at all. Under the IRS code, nonprofits such as FOMT are prohibited from supporting political candidates or causes. That prohibition is written in our bylaws to ensure that FOMT can retain its tax-advantaged status for years to come. Our only cause is our beautiful trees.

How can I help FOMT? Your tax-deductible contributions can help upgrade our treescape throughout the City and County of Mobile to flourish now and for generations still to come. To learn more and/or volunteer, message us. You can join us today as a *Founding Friend* with a minimum donation of \$100. Just click *Donate Here*. **Or mail your contribution to: FOMT, PO Box 8072, Mobile, Alabama 36689.**

Come grow with us!

www.Facebook.com/FriendsofMobileTrees

www.mobiletrees.org