In this video, I’m going to show you how to locate a City tree well and its identification on the City of Richmond’s tree inventory map.

You will need a street tree well’s identification if you are trying to permit for a tree that you yourself want to plant in a City-owned tree well or if you are applying for the Adopt-A-tree program. A tree well’s identification consists of its street address and its tree ID number.

We’ll start by going to the City of Richmond’s Urban Forestry Division homepage, then scroll down until you see Tree Inventory Mapping Application and click on the link for Interactive Map.

Once you’re in the map, you’ll see a box in the upper left hand corner where you can fill in the tree location by address.

Type in the address of where you’re interested in planting a tree. It may be in front of your house, or it may be somewhere else.

Once you hit enter, you’ll be taken to the address and you’ll be able to see where trees and vacant wells are indicated on the map.

The green pin - or lollipop - represents a tree that currently exists in the tree well. When you click on it you will see that a tree species is listed, letting you know there should be that type of tree planted there.

An empty square represents an empty tree well. You’ll see under species that instead it says “vacant site”, as well as an indication of what size tree at maturity needs to be planted there.

For example, a small tree at maturity reaches up to 25 ft and is often used under power lines.

If you need to learn more about size of tree at maturity you can find more resources on the TreeLab permitting page where you found this video.

You’ll see when you click on either a tree or empty well that it is associated with an address and a tree ID number. These are the two pieces of information you
need for your tree permit or adopt a tree application, so the arborists know exactly which tree well you are referring to.

Now, it’s important to note here that this map is not completely up to date! You may see a tree indicated in a spot that you know for a fact has no tree - that is fine. What you need from the map is the address of the tree and the tree ID number so the arborist knows where to go to survey the site. It will be obvious from a site supervision whether or not a tree is in the well.

Keep in mind that the street tree permitting process is only for trees that you yourself would like to plant on public property. You will be responsible for the expenses of purchasing and planting the tree if you are submitting a street tree planting permit.

If you are going through the adopt a tree program, you will pay $50 and the city will plant a tree for you. To learn more about that program, please visit the TreeLab permitting page or the city’s urban forestry division homepage.

Both the tree permit and the adopt-a-tree application are available in those two places.