

Congratulations on your new street tree! With a little care, your new tree will bring generations of beauty to the surrounding streetscape. Here are simple care instructions which will help your tree thrive.

Water

If you do nothing else, water! New trees have just gone through a stressful transplant process. They need about 20 gallons per week to help them settle into their permanent home. Normal rainfall is not sufficient to support the needs of a newly planted tree.



Instructions:

Set your sprayer on a gentle “shower” setting and aim it directly at the base of the trunk for 5 minutes, gently sweeping from side to side to saturate the soil and mulch without washing them away. Never use a high powered water spray on or near a tree.



Water bags

20 gallon water bags such as Tree Gator® can save you time. Zip up the bag around the trunk and fill it with water on full power. The bag will slowly release the water right where needed over several hours. Note: Do not put a water bag on your tree until 6 weeks after it is planted, and always remove bags from November to March.

Watering Schedule

In its first 12 months, water your new tree once per week for as long as daytime temperatures are above 40 degrees. For example, if your tree is planted in October, water weekly until mid-December, stop, and resume around mid-March, continuing weekly until the following October. After the first year, your tree should only need water during hot dry spells in mid-late summer. If ever your tree is looking limp, watering should be your first step.

Weed

Excessive weeds in the tree bed can take nutrients and water away from your new tree. Pull weeds out, root and all when they are very young, before they become big problems. Similarly, gently pull and remove small sprouts that may emerge from the trunk and roots.



Remove weeds and sprouts while they are young.



Mulch

Mulch in a tree bed retains water for the tree, deters weeds, and decomposes into nutrient rich soil. Apply a 2" layer of a natural mulch or small bark chips to the entire tree bed once or twice per year. Tree trunks need to stay dry so be sure to create a mulch-free ring around the tree trunk.

Don'ts

- ✗ Don't pile soil up around the tree trunk
- ✗ Don't pile snow or salt in the tree pit
- ✗ Don't pile trash bags in the tree pit
- ✗ Don't remove stakes and ties for at least 1 year
- ✗ Don't add pavers or concrete to the tree pit
- ✗ Don't plant large woody shrubs
- ✗ Don't pour chemicals of any kind into the tree pit



If you have any health concerns about your tree including dead or broken branches or trunk damage, do not wait. Notify the Parks Department using 311 and they will inspect your tree.