

The Benefits of Trees

Trees provide many benefits including improved air quality, reduced stormwater runoff, reduced erosion, and habitat for a variety of animals. Trees planted in the right places can help conserve energy by providing shade in summer and insulation in winter. Research also shows that trees also provide social benefits, like improved well being and reduced crime.

It takes approximately 3 years for a tree to be properly established. The tree should be cared for and maintained following the provided guidelines. For more in depth instructions please consult a tree care guide or contact a certified forester or arborist.



Planting

- Choose a site away from any overhead wires or utilities (see below)
- Locate any underground utilities before digging (MISS DIG/811)
- Dig a hole that is two to three times wider than the pot or root ball of your tree. Do not place tree too deep as it puts stress on the tree.
- Remove tree from pot or wrapping and loosen or tease the roots if they are bound up.
- Place tree in the hole and fill with soil half way.
- Before completely filling the hole, water the root system to help settle the soil around roots. When water is soaked in, finish filling the hole.
- When finished filling, firm the soil with your feet around the trunk of the tree. Make sure soil slants away from the tree trunk.
- Apply mulch around tree and water as needed. Place mulch in a doughnut shaped ring and not a volcano.

After One Year

- Water - check soil moisture a few inches below the surface
- Mulch - 3-4 inches under the dripline, do not let it touch the tree trunk
- Stake - only if necessary. Consult tree guide or contact a forester.
- Prune - only if necessary. Consult a tree guide or contact a forester.
- Check for physical damage and insects/disease
- Remove any tags or twine from tree

After Two Years

- Water - Continue to check soil moisture, roots are still developing.
- Mulch - Re-mulch to maintain 3-4 inch depth.
- Remove any stakes
- Prune - only if necessary. Consult tree guide or contact a forester.
- Check for physical damage and insects/disease

After Three Years

- Water - continue to check soil moisture.
- Mulch - add mulch if needed
- Prune - only if necessary. Consult tree guide or contact a forester.
- Check for damage
- Fertilize - in the spring if needed

Tree Size	Spacing between	Distance from building	Distance from powerlines ¹	Distance from sidewalk
Small (30' or less)	6-15'	10'	15'	3-4'
Medium (30'-70')	30-40'	15'	30-50'	5-8'
Large (70' or more)	40-50'	20'	>50'	>8'

¹ includes canopy spread (width)