CARING FOR your NEW TREE

1 WATER
Trees need to be watered regularly during the hot summer months and during dry spells. Aim for 15-20 gallons/week from May-Oct.

- Water slowly so that moisture will soak deeply into the soil and doesn’t run away from the tree pit.
- Water directly into the soil.
- Do not water the leaves or trunk of the tree as this can lead to disease and/or insect damage.

2 MULCH
Mulching is second in importance to the health of newly planted trees. Mulch reduces evaporation, delivers organic nutrients, and helps prevent weeds.

- Be sure to pull the mulch away from the bark of the tree in a three-inch radius to prevent fungus growth or infection.
- Remember the 3-3-3 Rule: 3 inches away from the trunk of the tree, 3 inches deep, in about a 2-3 foot radius.
- Do not “Volcano Mulch” your tree by piling mulch up against the bark.

3 KEEP CLEAN
Remove weeds and debris. Weeds and grass in the trees root zone absorb water and nutrients that the tree needs to establish itself.

- Pull (by hand) weeds and grass from the tree pit.
- Remove debris or garbage from the tree pit as these foreign substances can contaminate the soil and cause stress to the tree.

4 PRUNE
Young trees need all the nutrients they can possibly get from the leaves during the first two years after planting. Only dead or damaged branches should be removed.

5 STAKES AND TIES
Stakes and ties are used to support trees while their root systems develop. Stakes and ties should be removed one year after planting.

6 REPORT
Please report any dead or severely damaged trees.
Office of Parks and Forestry
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