

- 1 First things first.** Before you plant, consider the following: How much space do you have available? How much sunlight does the area get? What are the soil conditions? How will you water the tree? *What function do you want your tree to serve?*
- 2 Plant your new tree!** While it is okay to plant a tree any time of the year, the *best* time is when the tree is dormant during the winter months.
- 3 How is the soil? Be sure to aerate the soil when planting your tree.** Compact soil makes it difficult for roots to grow outward and downward, which can result in raised sidewalks and an unhealthy tree. By digging a large area around where the tree will be placed, you can promote deep root growth and greater tree health.



- 4 Mulch, mulch, mulch.** To hold in moisture and discourage the growth of competing plants, spread mulch around the base of the tree. The mulch should be about 4 inches deep and kept about 6 inches from the trunk of the tree. Mulch could include grass clippings, compost, or bark dust.
- 5 Stake your tree.** The tree should be staked for at least the first year after planting. The stakes should be tied loose enough that the tree can sway 2 inches from side to side.
- 6 Feed your tree.** Your new tree will need 5-10 gallons of water once or twice a week for the first three years after planting. **Watering your tree slowly and evenly will promote deep root growth;** over-watering your tree will promote shallow root growth which can cause surface damage. A 5-gallon bucket with small holes in the bottom or slow-release watering bags are excellent methods for watering your plant slowly.

- 7 Weed your tree.** Other plants around the tree are competing for water. Be sure to remove competing plants several feet around the base of the tree.

- 8 Trimming & pruning.** Remove dead branches in the tree canopy and suckers located at the base of the tree. This will allow the tree to focus its energy where it is needed and desired! Yes, you can do the trimming yourself. If you need help, check out the U.S. Department of Agriculture's pruning guide at: www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_prune/prun001.htm

For **street trees**, the City has the following regulations: *All overhanging trees/shrubs/vegetation are required to be at least 8 feet above the sidewalk and 12 feet above the street. Trees/shrubs/vegetation must not impede vision for a minimum of 150 feet from stop signs and other signage.*

