

CITY OF CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
generalservices@concordnh.gov

SUSTAINABLE STREET TREE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Sustainable Street Tree Program is for the City of Concord to encourage the planting of shade trees within the right-of-way and adjacent to streets throughout the City. The trees are intended to provide shade, increase biodiversity, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce storm water runoff, provide screening and help to create a resilient urban tree canopy within the City.

II. PROCEDURE

Upon the City's approval of a completed Sustainable Street Tree Program Application, the Approved Property Owner's name will be placed on a master list, in the order in which it was received. The City will contact the Property Owner to schedule a site visit to determine the location of the tree.

The City has the capacity to plant between 25 and 30 trees per year. The City will plant the selected tree(s) at the approved right-of-way location.

III. RULES

- Trees only planted in the front yard (no side or back yard plantings).
- No trees planted further than 10' from the back of the right-of-way/sidewalk.
- Unless otherwise approved, no planting between the curb and sidewalk.
- No trees planted between the curb and sidewalk less than 30' from an intersection.
- Unless otherwise approved, no trees planted in the same location as an old stump.
- Two trees planted per property per year.
- Planted trees are the property of the property owner and all maintenance other than the first year's pruning will be the property owner's responsibility.

IV. TREE SELECTION

- The property owner may select a tree(s) from the City's list of available trees based upon the proposed property location.
- Each location will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- The trees sold and planted will be of nursery quality.
- Trees will be between 1 ¾" and 2 ½" caliper and approximately 6 to 12 feet in height depending on the specimen chosen.

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SUSTAINABLE TREE PROGRAM
TREE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Things To Do:

1) Monitor Water Levels

The Treetigator® bags provided with your new tree should be filled twice a week under normal weather conditions. Excessive rain or lack of rain may require less or more watering. Heat stress can kill a young tree quickly. Yellowing of leaves, dry leaves, wilting and lack of vigor could be signs of heat stress. If you notice this, water the tree more frequently.

2) Use Proper Mulch Bed Depths

Beds should be approximately 2-3 inches in depth and should extend slightly past the canopy when appropriate. This is what will be left after planting and should be kept this way for the life of the tree.

Things To Avoid:

1) Equipment Damage

It is important to keep weed whacker strings, mower decks, and any other equipment away from the trunk of your tree. Injuring the bark can girdle the tree. Mulch beds provide a barrier between equipment and the tree.

2) Volcano Mulching

It is extremely important to maintain a mulch bed depth no more than 2-3 inches. This will require removal of some old mulch before installing new mulch from time to time. Mulch thicker than this hinders available oxygen to root zone and slowly kills the tree.

3) Improper Pruning

Educating yourself on proper pruning techniques will help you decide when and if to prune in the future.

4) Improper Watering

It is important to remember that tree roots need oxygen. Trees also require more water during periods of drought.

Things To Remember:

- 1) A tree can lose up to 90% of its original root zone during the transplanting process.
- 2) A trees root zone generally will take one year for every caliper inch of planted tree. For example, a 2 inch caliper Maple Tree will generally require two years to establish a root zone.
- 3) Mulch beds are your trees best friend and sometimes worst enemy. They provide a barrier from equipment, holds moisture, and insulates soil. No more than 2-3 inches in depth, any more and you are doing more harm than good.
- 4) Grass can be your trees biggest competition. Grass requires much of the same nutrients as trees. Again, a mulch bed keeps the competition down.
- 5) The Tregator® bags are yours to keep and maybe appropriate to be used for two seasons of growth if weather conditions call for it.