

Village of Mokena

Guidelines for the Care of Your Newly Planted Parkway Tree

As a part of our Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) management program, we're replanting many new species of parkway trees where EAB-infested ash trees previously stood. Parkway reforestation is a high priority. Utilizing the expertise of a professional consulting arborist/forester, a diverse set of high quality trees are being slotted and planted, with an appropriate species being carefully selected for each planting site. While we're confident this approach will increase the long-term sustainability of Mokena's urban forest, we need your help.

Following are some guidelines to help you help us care for your newly planted parkway tree:

Proper Water Management. Perhaps the two biggest mistakes that are made with newly planted trees are under watering and overwatering. During dry periods, your tree should be watered twice a week by taking a hose and letting it trickle 3-5 feet around the tree for 20 minutes. You will be watering the soil and root system. **DO NOT WATER THE TRUNK OR FOLIAGE.** In the event of significant rainfall, wait 3 days and start the cycle again. In extreme summer heat and drought, you can water every other day. No matter what, do not water your tree every day.

Mulch. Trees benefit from mulch in many ways. Mulch holds in moisture, keeps lawn mowing equipment from damaging the tree trunk, and breaks down into organic material that helps improve the soil below. Keep in mind that after your tree was planted, the contractor properly mulched the tree, so it needs no new mulch at this time. In years to come, however, it will be necessary to add new mulch. We suggest you use organic mulch—no gravel, limestone, lava rock, landscape fabric, or plastic. Avoid piling the mulch up high on the tree trunk. This is called "volcano" mulch, and is **EXTREMELY BAD** for the tree. Keep mulch at 2-4 inches deep and away from the trunk so the root flare is exposed.



Proper Mulch - **CORRECT**



"Volcano" Mulch - **INCORRECT**

Pruning. Other than broken or dead branches, your tree will not need any pruning for the first 2-3 years. Removing any live growth at this time may stress the tree and lead to its death. We ask that you kindly refrain from pruning any newly planted tree, as this may void the warranty on the tree provided by the planting contractor.

Staking. If your tree is leaning, it may require temporary staking. If you feel your tree is not positioned properly, please contact our staff for an evaluation and possible assistance.

Fertilization. DO NOT fertilize any tree for the first year. Fertilization can damage the roots of a newly planted tree.

Thank You! Please follow these guidelines and you will enjoy your tree for years to come!

Have questions? Give us a call at (708) 479-3900.