

Village of Mokena

Guidelines for the Care of Young Parkway Trees

Following are some guidelines to help you care for your young parkway trees:

Proper Water Management. Perhaps the two biggest mistakes that are made with young parkway 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. It is necessary to add new mulch every year. 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.

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

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

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