

Your young street tree is one of the most valuable elements of our urban environment

Trees... are the most beautiful solution to global climate change.

Trees... remove CO2 and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

Trees... clean our air, removing particulates and other harmful pollutants.

Trees... slow the rush of rain water to the storm drain system, protecting creeks, preventing flooding.

Trees... provide cooling shade and reduce energy costs.

Trees... raise property values.

Tree roots... filter rainwater and runoff, cleaning and recharging drinking water resources.

The first 5 years are critical for the long-term health of a tree

Select the right tree

Tree preservation begins with planting the right tree in the right place. For example:

- Plant drought-tolerant species to ease water requirements.
- Plant small trees in small spaces and under power lines.
- Plant medium-large trees to create shady play areas or on the west and south sides of buildings for energy conservation.

Water your tree

- Young trees require regular watering for good health and disease prevention.
- Deep watering prevents surface roots (see detailed watering instructions inside).
- Conserve water and preserve trees! Increase watering for trees during drought and conserve water in other areas of your home and landscape.
- FYI: The cost of watering a young tree is very small (between \$2 and \$4 per year) and requires only about 15 gallons of water per week, less than the average load of laundry.

Protect your tree

- Keep the base of the tree free of weeds, lawn and other plants, as they compete with the tree for water and nutrients.
- Safeguard the trunk from damage by weed trimmers and mowers.
- Spread mulch 1 inch deep inside the watering basin and 4-6 inches deep around the basin, to the edge of the tree's dripline.

Your new young street tree:

Species: _____

Date Planted: _____

Learn interesting details about your particular tree species at the Canopy Tree Library: canopy.org

Together, we can grow a vibrant urban tree canopy

The City of Palo Alto plants new trees and provides tree maintenance:

City trees are defined as trees growing in the City's right-of-way or parks. The city provides some tree maintenance, including:

- Clearance pruning
- Tree stake adjustment and removal
- Structural pruning
- Removal and replacement of dead or declining trees

Contact the City's Public Works Urban Forestry Section at 650 496 5953 or cityofpaloalto.org/trees.

Residents provide care:

Residents play an important role in caring for urban trees.

You can help:

- Water
- Mulch
- Monitor your young tree.

Contact Canopy or the City of Palo Alto if your tree needs attention

Canopy provides information and community education about trees:

In addition to tree plantings, Canopy offers programs and services that educate residents about trees and engage the community in tree care:

- Online Tree Library
- Answers to tree questions: 650-964-6110 or info@canopy.org
- Care and watering information
- Monthly, TreEnews update
- Volunteer tree activities

Information on these services can be found at canopy.org.

Please do not prune street trees

The City of Palo Alto Urban Forestry staff will take care of this.



Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities
3921 E. Bayshore Road,
Palo Alto, CA 94303
650 964 6110 • canopy.org



Urban Forestry
650 496 5953
cityofpaloalto.org/trees



Young Tree Care

How to Care for Your New Street Tree

Inside

- Watering instructions
- Young tree care tips
- Tree protection ideas



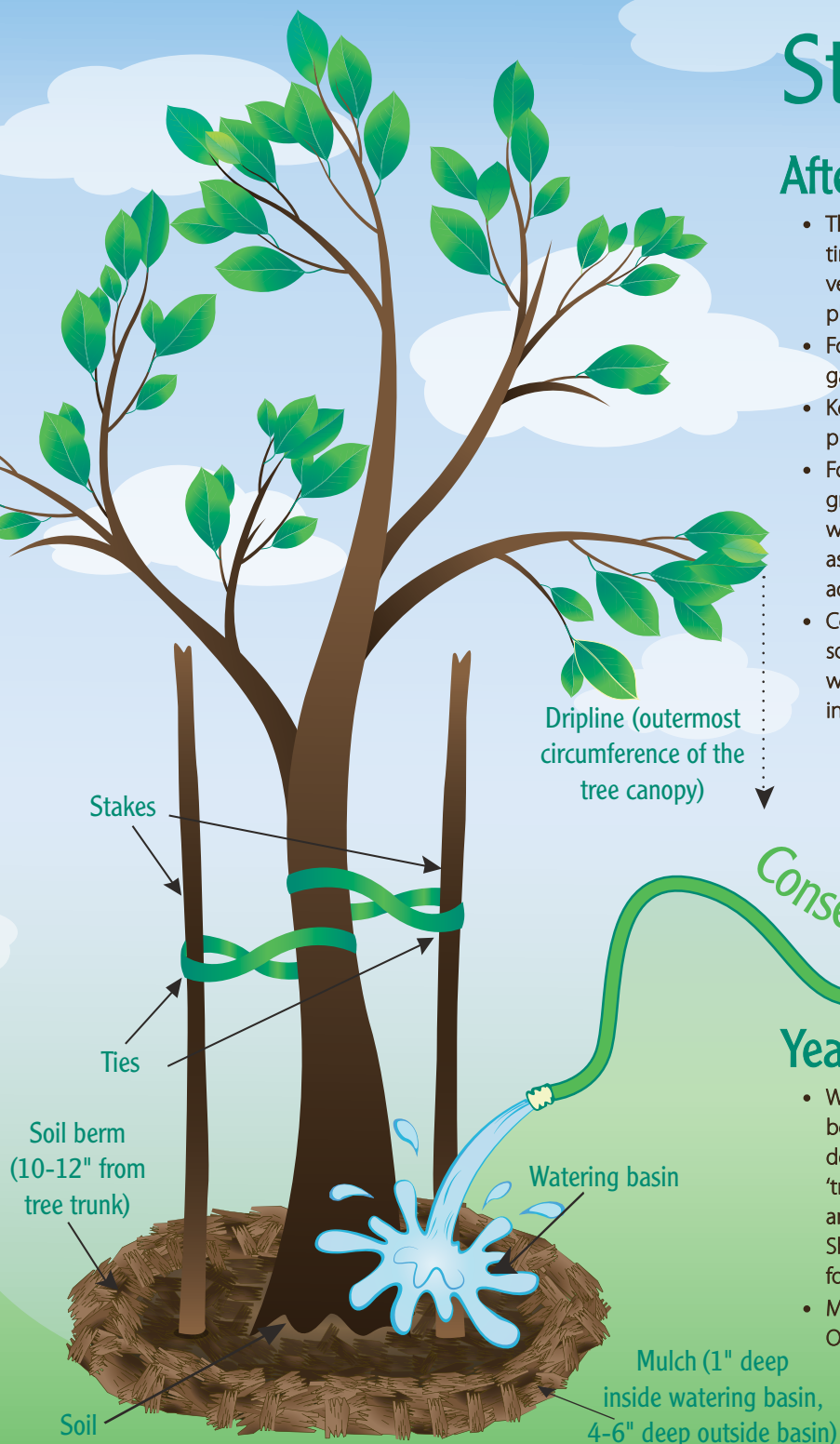
Steps to Growing a Healthy Tree

After planting, through Year 1:

- Three days after planting, fill the watering basin 3 times using 15-20 gallons of water. This initial watering is very important as roots are most sensitive right after planting.
- For the next 3 weeks, fill the watering basin with 5-10 gallons of water once a week.
- Keep your young tree mulched to suppress weeds and protect young roots from drying out.
- For the following 6 months—or until the end of the growing season (mid-November)—fill the tree basin with water every other week. Roots need oxygen just as much as they need water. Water conservation at this stage will actually help your tree grow!
- Continue watering once a month in the absence of a soaking rain through the first winter. It can be helpful to water frost-intolerant trees before a cold spell, to help insulate roots.

Years 3-5:

- Over the next 2 summers start watering less frequently. Monthly soakings should maximize growth while conserving water. Many irrigation timers actually have a setting for monthly watering. You can also set several start times 15 to 30 minutes apart to decrease runoff and improve soil penetration.
- In the following few years, be wary of prolonged dry periods. One or 2 summer waterings can mean the difference between a tree that thrives and one that is permanently stunted. Between 3 and 5 years old, your tree should be fully established. Occasional deep watering, especially during times of drought, will help your tree thrive.



Conserve water, protect trees... Follow these smart watering guidelines!

Year 2:

- When rain is scarce, usually beginning in late Spring, begin watering again every 2 weeks or every month, depending on the tree species.* This limited watering will 'train' the roots to seek out moisture deeper underground and further away from the trunk, creating a resilient tree. Shallow watering leads to shallow rooting and the need for more frequent watering.
- Maintain the watering basin so it continues to hold water. Over time, widen the basin so it holds more water.

*Learn specifics about your tree species at Canopy's Tree Library: canopy.org.