



## The Benefits of Trees



### **Trees increase property values**

Homes are worth 4% to 15% more and sell faster than homes without trees.

### **Trees conserve energy**

Three trees strategically placed around a home can reduce air conditioning needs by up to 50%. By reducing the amount of electricity for the air conditioner, we can reduce carbon dioxide and other pollution from power plants.

### **Trees reduce stormwater runoff and reduce water pollution**

Trees reduce runoff by breaking rainfall, allowing the water to flow across the leaves and branches to the tree trunk and into the ground where it is absorbed by the tree's roots. When mulched, the trees act like a sponge to absorb the water.

### **Trees protect us from the sun**

Ultraviolet light, from the sun, can reduce UV exposure by 50 percent, thus providing protection to adults and children.

### **Trees cool your community**

Through the release of water vapor into the air through their leaves and the effect of their shade on buildings and pavement, a shade tree can reduce the surrounding air temperature by 10 to 15 degrees. This cooling effect reduces the "heat island effect" that contributes to global warming.

### **Trees provide food and shelter for wildlife**

In the past 40 years, half of the songbird species have disappeared. Birds, bees and other wildlife depend on trees for their food supply and shelter.

### **Trees provide oxygen and remove air pollutants**

In one year, an acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people. They also remove carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and other pollutants and fine particles from the air.

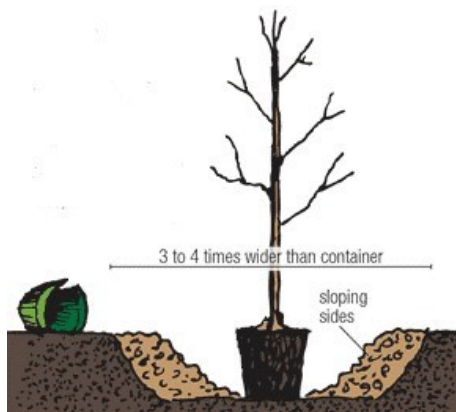
# Tips for Planting and Caring for Your Trees \*

Call **JULIE** at **811** to locate utility lines before planting.

## Planting distance recommendations:

- 3 feet from pavement or fencing on all sides
- 15 feet from buildings or other trees
- 25 feet from overhead electric wires, if your tree will grow taller than 30 feet

## Digging the hole



- Do not plant the tree too deep. Only dig the hole as deep as the root system. The top of the soil in the container should be even with the top of the ground.
- The width of the hole should be 2-3 times the width of the root ball.
- Make sure the tree is straight and backfill with the same soil.
- Water the root ball and the entire backfilled area
- Put a 2-4 inch layer of mulch over the backfilled area away from the trunk so that none touches the tree bark. The mulch will keep the soil moist and also prevent grass from growing under the base of the tree. Tree roots are more dense when not competing with grass.

## No mulch volcanos

The mulch causes moisture to build-up on the bark of the tree which can cause bacteria and fungus that will weaken the tree. Also, if it is too deep, moisture cannot get to the roots.



## Fertilizer

- Delay fertilizing newly planted trees a season or two. When applying, use a slow release fertilizer spread evenly over the entire root zone.
- Caution: Some weed and feed products that you apply to your lawn can damage your tree. Anything that states it will kill broadleaf weeds can injure the tree. (most deciduous trees are broadleaf)

## Save Fallen Leaves

- Incorporating leaves into your mulch recycles a natural resource that provides your trees and other plants with a richer soil. So, mulch your collected leaves with a mower or add them to your compost pile.

\* Tree information provided by the USDA Forest Service *Tree Owner's Manual*. For additional information, go to [www.treeownersmanual.info](http://www.treeownersmanual.info)