

TOWN OF SMITHTOWN

Department of Environment & Waterways, Forestry

Caring for young street trees



Trees serve as difference makers in the community.

Often the first observable part of neighborhood infrastructure, trees do more than add color.

Trees are working for us every day in unseen ways

1. Trees give us shade and reduce temperatures.
2. Tree provide privacy.
3. Trees buffer pedestrians and vehicles.
4. Tree remove carbon dioxide from the air.
5. Tree canopies and roots reduce the storm water run-off.
6. Healthy, mature trees add 10% to a property's value (*USDA Forestry Service*).
7. The net cooling effect of a healthy tree is equivalent to an air conditioner operating 20 hours a day (*U.S Department of Agriculture*).
8. Trees protect driveway materials from deteriorating during hot summer days.
9. Healthy trees bring reduced stress 😊



Rose Street, Smithtown (02/2020)

With all work trees do for us, it is important to set them up for success after planting!

THREE 'P' METHOD TO SUCCESSFUL TREE ESTABLISHMENT

- PLENTY OF WATER
 - Water 10-15 gallons every week for the first growing season.
 - Watch for signs of drought stress: curling, wilting, or browning of leaves.
 - Check soil moisture once a week. Soil should be moist but not over-saturated.
- PROTECT
 - Weeds and grass compete with a tree's root system for water and nutrients
 - Keep the tree pit free of weeds and grass so that newly planted tree can establish.
 - Avoid any contact with mowers or string trimmers.
 - Damage to the cambium layer of a tree, especially to a young tree, will hinder its ability to transport water and nutrients. This damage will cause permanent and lasting effects.
- PROVIDE MULCH
 - Proper mulching of a tree bed improves the quality of a tree's living space by,
 - Provides nutrients to the roots as the mulch decomposes
 - Impedes weed and grass growth that compete with tree roots
 - Protects from mowers and string trimmers
 - Conserves soil moisture
 - *Check out the 'Tips for proper mulching' for advice on successful mulch application*

For advice on tree care or to report a street tree in need of service

Contact the Department of Environment & Waterways

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