

City of Albany

STREET TREE PROGRAM & CARE GUIDE

Every tree added to our urban environment enhances the beauty of our streets and helps against climate change.



APPLY FOR A STREET TREE PLANTING

Property owners can apply to have a street tree planted by the City in the public right-of-way adjacent to their property at no cost. Fees for planting will be covered by the City, which may include concrete removal to create a tree basin. This program is funded in part by voter approved tax Measure DD, which endeavors to utilize a portion of the funds on projects that help against issues associated with climate change.

We can also help you select a tree species that works best for your location from the City's Accepted Street Tree List.

Visit **www.albanyca.org/street-tree-planting** for more information.



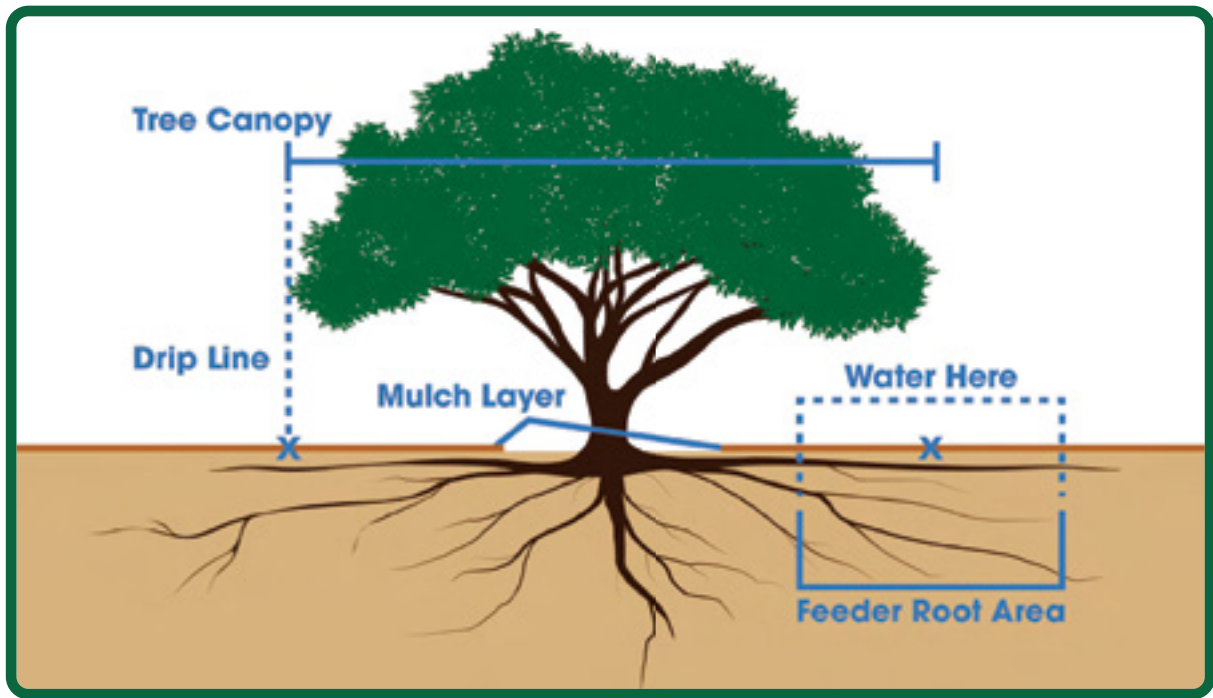
WHY A HEALTHY URBAN FOREST IS IMPORTANT

Street trees within our urban forest provide a number of important benefits. These include removing carbon from the atmosphere to help slow climate change impacts, improving air and water quality, and providing habitat for wildlife. Our urban forest is comprised of a variety of trees that serves to also decorate and beautify our city streets.

Taking part in the Free Street Tree Program and giving your trees proper care are ways you can help preserve our urban forest and better the environment.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM STEPS

We will review all applications for new tree plantings and coordinate on any planting needs. Trees are typically planted during the winter and spring months when planting conditions are the most amenable. Your tree will be planted, mulched, and staked to help encourage healthy growth. Once planted, you will receive guidance and important steps to follow to help your tree grow. You may receive a watering bag to help you more effectively water your young tree. In addition, the City will provide any necessary pruning for the first 3-5 years.



HOW TO WATER YOUR NEW STREET TREE

CHECK YOUR SOIL FIRST

Before you water, use a screwdriver or other small tool to dig into the soil 4-6 inches. If the soil is moist, the tree probably doesn't need water yet. If it is dry, it is time to water.

WATERING WITH YOUR CITY SUPPLIED WATERING BAG OR OTHER TOOLS

When watering a tree, it is ideal to use a watering tool with a slow release at ground level. The goal is to get the water to the roots which are typically 12-18 inches below the ground. The watering bag holds about 20 gallons. The bag slowly releases and directs water to the root zone in about one to two hours. Fill (or half-fill) the bag and let it water the tree. This is the easiest way to properly water. Alternatively, you can water by letting a hose slowly run for several minutes, or by using a bucket with holes punched in the bottom.

WATER DEEPLY AND REGULARLY

How much water your tree should receive mostly depends upon the tree species and size. Newly planted and young trees (less than three years old) are not yet established and have a limited root system. These trees need supplemental water. A general rule of thumb is to use approximately 10-20 gallons of water if the soil is dry, though the amount of water and watering frequency varies based on the size, age, and type of tree. Roots need air as well as water. Too much water can be worse for your tree than too little.

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

Mulch to reduce moisture loss, reduce weeds, and feed the soil

Add a 2 to 4-inch layer of arborist wood chip mulch on the ground surrounding each tree, making sure not to pile any mulch against the trunk. Avoid rock or plastic mulches as they can harm your tree and can be bad for the environment. Very fine mulch, like shredded redwood bark, or dried grasses, can form a dense mat that allows fungus to grow. These should also be avoided.

Roots and sidewalks

Tree roots need air and moisture, much of which is found in the top several inches of soil. It can be helpful to break up the soil just outside the root zone so water will be absorbed and not run off into the street

Young tree pruning

New trees need foliage to create energy from the sun to help them grow. The City will conduct any appropriate pruning for the first few years to train the tree to grow properly and keep the path of travel clear for vehicles and pedestrians. For more information about Albany's Street Tree Program, tree maintenance tips, and our urban forest, please visit our Urban Forestry webpage, [**www.albanyca.org/urbanforestry**](http://www.albanyca.org/urbanforestry).

Questions?

Contact the City's Urban Forester:

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