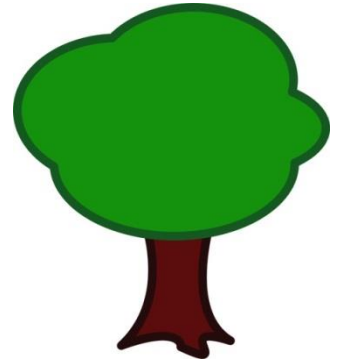


Plant a Tree Today for a Healthy Tomorrow

Trees provide many benefits in an urban setting, including:

- Providing oxygen
- Reducing soil erosion
- Providing shelter from wind and sun exposure
- Providing habitat for birds, animals, and beneficial insects
- Increasing property values



Tree Selection

Think diversity! Diverse tree species help balance the local ecology and reduce the possibility of pest infestations.

- Select trees suited to the conditions of the planting site. Consider sun/shade, drainage, soils and climate –before selecting your tree!
- Consider tree species native to Southeast Michigan. Native trees are well-adapted to local growing conditions. Native trees provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Maintaining Healthy Trees

- Annually, inspect the tree to identify possible insect or health problems.
- Water is the critical factor for tree survival after planting. Water trees at least once a week. Distribute water evenly over the root system and mulched area.
- Keep the soil moist but not soaked; over-watering causes leaves to turn yellow or fall off. To determine whether watering is needed, pull the mulch back and feel the soil. When soil is dry below the mulch, it is time to water.
- Prune sparingly during the first season after planting. Wait to begin corrective pruning until after a full season of growth.
- Use soil tests to determine the need for fertilizer, if any. Trees that are well- mulched often do not need any fertilizer, since the organic matter from the mulch enriches the soil system.
- Mulch each year, extending the mulch in a wide circle out from the base of the tree.