

**BUREAUS OF**

**WATER  
STREETS  
SEWERS  
FORESTRY  
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE  
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**



**Village of Oak Lawn  
Streets Department  
9446 Raymond Ave.  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
708-499-7098 VM  
708-499-7749 office  
708-499-7065 fax**

**November 4, 2010**

**Re: Parkway Tree Planting Scheduled**

Thank you for your interest in the Village of Oak Lawn tree planting program. This letter is to confirm that we have received your tree planting application. Your tree(s) were scheduled for install spring 2011. However, opportunities arose that allowed for a few trees to be planted this fall. **The TENTATIVE installation dates are Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, weather pending.**

Your curb should be or will be marked with a white "T" prior to planting. This marking will indicate the intended planting location. If the curb is obstructed by a vehicle, you may find the marking to be on the sidewalk. Many times due to various guidelines, we are limited in the possible locations for the new tree. If you do not see this marking or have concerns with the placement please call prior to installation, as once we have installed it, we will not move the tree.

Enclose please find the care instructions for your tree(s). You should also see J.U.L.I.E. paint and flag markings identifying the underground utilities in the area. If you see a conflict with the J.U.L.I.E. marks and the proposed planting location, please call. Otherwise, if a conflict exists, the installation crew will simply relocate the tree planting to the next available location.

We will also be providing this information via e-mail for your convenience, if you have submitted your e-mail address.

If you have questions regarding the planting please contact us as soon as possible at (708) 499-7098 or [hgreen@oaklawn-il.gov](mailto:hgreen@oaklawn-il.gov).

Sincerely,

Heather Green,  
Village Forester



## Some additional material you can use...



1. [www.treeownersmanual.info](http://www.treeownersmanual.info)

A great reference for new trees owners! Just like a new car manual, but better!



2. [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org)

Another great reference for tree new or existing tree care!



3. [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

Excellent place to help determine if your other trees are at risk, if you have an ash tree and what you can expect or what you can do.



4. [www.oaklawn-il.gov/ Departments/Public-Works /Forestry.aspx](http://www.oaklawn-il.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Forestry.aspx)

Other information related to Oak Lawn and trees!

# Care For Newly Planted T R E E S

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*Trees make a difference – Healthy trees bring beauty to the landscape, provide energy saving shade, reduce air and noise pollution, enhance property values, and provide urban habitats for birds and other wildlife. Our urban forest contributes significantly to the comfort and enjoyment of suburban life. You can make a difference to a young tree by giving the proper care necessary for it to thrive and grow in its new home. Properly cared for, a young tree will quickly become an asset for the benefit of you and the entire Community. Your new tree is a:*

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The transplanting procedure is traumatic to a tree, and many trees will demonstrate symptoms of shock. Symptoms can include withered leaves, dead branches, and reduced growth in varying degrees. Such symptoms of shock do not mean a tree is dead or hopelessly beyond recovery. Transplant shock is directly related to the drastic reduction in the tree's root system. The quicker the tree becomes adjusted to its new environment, the more successful the planting will be. The following practices will help establish the young tree in its new home.

## WATERING:

Adequate watering is especially important for the first two years following transplanting. Death of many young trees is frequently caused by either too little or too much water. Key words for a proper watering technique are: slow and deep. The best method is to leave a garden hose trickling at the base of the tree until the ground area around the tree is saturated. Watering every seven to ten days should be adequate during normal weather. During hot-dry weather, watering may be required every three to four days. The only sure way to tell how much water is needed is to check the soil at a depth of four to six inches of both the root ball and the surrounding soil. All trees should receive an

initial watering at the time of planting or shortly thereafter. Special care should be taken in the fall to insure that the tree root ball receives adequate moisture prior to freezing temperatures.

## MULCHING:

Wood chips, or wood chips combined with either leaves, or grass clippings, placed around the base of the tree to help retain soil moisture and modify soil temperature extremes. Mulching also prevents damage to bark from lawn mowers and string trimmers. A layer of organic mulch, at least three feet in diameter and one to two inches in depth, will give trees a better chance for survival and encourage rapid growth in the future. Mulching is also very desirable for established trees and shrubs. (See diagram in other brochure.)

## PRUNING:

Newly planted trees are pruned at the time of planting and/or shortly thereafter. This pruning involves the removal of any dead or damaged branches, and, in some cases, live branches to promote the development of healthy growth for both the crown and root system.

## FERTILIZATION:

Fertilization of newly planted tree is discouraged since fertilizers contain nitrogen, which may cause

damage to young plants. Fertilization is recommended after the second growing season.

## HARMFUL PRACTICES:

Placement of any type of plastic weed barrier around the base of the tree, although practical in reducing weed problems, is very detrimental to the tree. Trees require oxygen to live and a plastic barrier disrupts the oxygen transfer to the soil, creating a low level of oxygen within the soil. In many cases trees under these conditions will eventually die as a result of the loss of the tree's root system.

Lawn mowers are also a frequent cause of tree injury. Even a small nick on a young tree, caused by mowing too close to the trunk, can cause serious problems.

The spray from weed killers frequently causes severe injury to tree foliage. Lawn fertilizers containing weed killers should not be used in the vicinity of trees.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A Forestry staff person will be inspecting your tree at specific intervals during the next year. If you notice your tree isn't doing well or you have any questions regarding its care, please call the Forestry Division at 499-7758 or e-mail [hgreen@oaklawn-il.gov](mailto:hgreen@oaklawn-il.gov)

# MULCHING

Mulches are materials placed over the soil surface to maintain moisture and improve soil conditions. Mulching is one of the most beneficial things a home owner can do for the health of a tree. Mulch can reduce water loss from the soil, minimize weed competition, and improve soil structure. Properly applied, mulch can give landscapes a handsome, well-groomed appearance. Mulch must be applied properly; if it is too deep or if the wrong material is used, it can actually cause significant harm to trees and other landscape plants.



Mulch wide—not deep.

Please mulch wide and not too deep!



"Mulch volcanoes" cause many problems for trees.

Please don't "volcano mulch!"

# TRIMMING/ PRUNING

Pruning is the most common tree maintenance procedure. Although forest trees grow quite well with only nature's pruning, landscape trees require a higher level of care to maintain their safety and aesthetics. Pruning should be done with an understanding of how the tree responds to each cut. Improper pruning can cause damage that will last for the life of the tree, or worse, shorten the tree's life.

**Pruning of parkway trees is NOT to be performed by the homeowner. Please call 708-499-7758 or e-mail [hgreen@oaklawn-il.gov](mailto:hgreen@oaklawn-il.gov) to schedule trimming of your tree.** Shaping and topping are harmful practices; therefore the Village does not encourage or trim trees in this manner. VOL crews and contractors will prune your parkway trees professionally for health, safety, and appearance. Please call to schedule trimming of your new tree every three (3) years until the tree attains a diameter of 7" across. After that you can call to schedule pruning every five (5) to seven (7) years.



Professional arborists can determine what type of pruning is necessary to improve the health, appearance and safety of your trees.

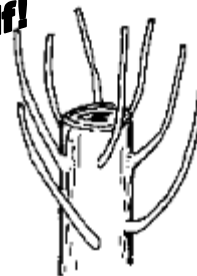
**Call for pruning:  
708-499-7758**



**Do not prune yourself!**



Stubs left from topping usually decay. The shoots that are produced below the cut are weakly attached, and often become a hazard.



New shoots develop profusely below a topping cut.



Trees that have been topped may become hazardous and are unsightly.