

Trees are Vital for our planet. They play a crucial role in air and water purification, climate regulation, habitat provision, and supporting human well-being, while also combating climate change and providing resources. As we enter the Spring season, here are some tips in making sure you properly care for your personal trees, as well as ones on the public parkways.

Do's of Tree Care:

- **Water Deeply and Infrequently:**

Instead of frequent, shallow watering, water trees deeply and less often, allowing the soil to dry out between waterings.

- **Prune Strategically:**

Prune only when necessary for structure, health, and safety, and make sure to prune properly. Call Public Works to request pruning on a parkway tree.

- **Mulch Appropriately:**

Apply a layer of mulch around the base of the tree to help retain moisture, suppress weeds, and improve soil conditions.

- **Consult a Certified Arborist:**

For complex tree issues or before major pruning or planting, seek advice from a certified arborist. Call Public Works for assistance with concerns about a parkway tree.

- **Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place:**

Choose trees suitable for your climate and soil conditions and ensure there's enough space for the tree to grow.

Don'ts of Tree Care:

- **Don't Top Trees:** "Topping" (severely cutting back the top branches) is a harmful practice that can weaken a tree and make it susceptible to disease and pests.
- **Don't Damage the Bark:** Avoid damaging the bark of trees, as it can lead to infection and disease. This includes using a line trimmer around the bark while cutting the lawn and inserting nails/screws into the tree's bark. Do not strangle the bark by installing rope, chain or wire to the bark to hang or guide an object.

- **Don't Pile Lawn Clippings Around Trees:** Lawn clippings can smother the soil and attract pests, so avoid piling them around the base of trees.
- **Don't Damage the Roots:** Be careful not to damage tree roots when planting, mowing, or digging near trees.
- **Don't Prune Without Knowledge:** Pruning improperly can harm a tree, so learn proper pruning techniques or seek professional help. Call Public Works to request tree pruning on a parkway tree.
- **Don't Fertilize a Stressed Tree:** Avoid fertilizing a tree that is already stressed from drought, disease, or other problems.
- **Don't Use Mulch from Diseased Trees:** Avoid using mulch from trees that are known to have diseases.
- **Don't Make Improper Cuts:** Ensure that pruning cuts are made correctly to avoid damaging the tree. Call Public Works to request pruning on a parkway tree.
- **Don't Water the Tree's Trunk:** Watering the trunk can encourage rot.
- **Don't Water if the Soil is Soggy:** Avoid watering if the soil is already saturated.