



# TIPS ON HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR STREET TREE

Trees add to the well-being of our communities by:

- ✓ moderating our local climate,
- ✓ filtering air pollutants,
- ✓ storing stormwater and reducing run-off,
- ✓ adding to the diversity of species by providing a stable habitat, and
- ✓ connecting us to larger ecosystems.

## YOU CAN DO YOUR PART TO CARE FOR YOUR STREET TREE BY:

### WATER, WATER, WATER

The single most important thing a newly planted tree needs is water. Throughout its first growing season, a newly planted tree will need roughly 20 gallons of water a week. In some years, Albany receives regular, steady rain events that allow our new trees to flourish without our help. In times of drought and severe heat, watering a street tree can make the difference between life and death. If it has been a week since the last rain event, running a low-pressure hose at the base of the tree for 20 minutes can help restore a stressed tree and ensure its survival.

### MULCHING

You can add a layer of loose, coarse mulch around the tree to suppress weeds and help retain moisture in the soil. Mulch should be no more than 3 inches thick, and remain at least three inches from the tree trunk. When it comes to mulch, there is such a thing as “too much of a good thing,” so be careful not to over mulch.

### WEEDING AND CLEANING

Weeding removes competition for nutrients and allows trees to better survive in a tough urban setting. Removing weeds also makes the tree look better and removes ground clutter. Please also remove any trash or animal waste from around trees.

### ADDING MORE PLANTS

Planting small annuals, perennials, and bulbs can actually help trees, but please don't plant any species that will grow too large. Also, never add more than two inches of soil to the pit. Adding too much soil around the tree can actually suffocate the roots. Never plant ivy, vines, woody shrubs, or evergreens. These can interfere with the proper growth and health of street trees.



**ADOPT A TREE**  
CITY OF ALBANY

The Department of General Services Forestry Division oversees public shade trees. We prune and remove City trees throughout the year. New tree planting is typically done in the spring and fall by City contractor.

Please report any tree issues to the Department of General Services at 518-434-CITY (2489). To learn more about our Adopt a Tree Program visit [www.adoptatreealbany.com](http://www.adoptatreealbany.com)