

# Tree Maintenance Guidelines

## Ensure proper tree support

- Tree stakes should be firmly secured.
- Leaning or loose stakes should be re-installed immediately.
- Tree ties should be placed in the middle to upper portion of the tree and allow for tree movement.
- When the roots of the tree are established, remove the stakes and tree ties. This typically occurs 1 to 3 years after planting.

## Weeding

- Remove all the grass and weeds growing in the tree basin by hand.
- To avoid root damage, do not dig into the soil with a shovel or hoe.
- To avoid trunk damage, do not use a weed whacker or lawnmower for weed removal.

## Pruning

- Newly planted trees may require minor pruning to remove damaged and or dead branches.
- Trees should be pruned sparingly. All other pruning should be withheld until the second or third growing season following tree planting.
- Sucker growth (sprouts from the base of the plant or from roots) should be removed at any time.
- All pruning should be conducted in accordance with pruning standards.

## Repair and extend tree basins

- Newly planted trees should have a 4"- 6" high berm just outside the root ball to direct water to where it is needed.
- As a tree grows and matures, extend the berm to the drip line.
- **IMPORTANT:** Build berms in the spring; take berms down in the fall.

