

The initiation of planning, design, layout, site preparation, species selection, planting and continuous maintenance is provided by the Forestry Division.

Planting is divided into four categories; **full streets, requests, fill-ins** and **replacements**. The majority of the planting now occurs as fill-ins due to the sporadic nature of recent development. Street tree planting follows the paving program. Once walks, curb and gutter and roads are paved, planting is initiated. Planting sites are determined by the location of utilities (sewer, water, gas, telephone, electric and cable), drives, hydrants, street lights, signs, existing vegetation and intersections. Designated sites begin thirty-five (35) feet from street corners with each successive site determined by the site immediately preceding it.

Sites are spaced on an interval of approximately fifty (50) feet. Intervals may vary due to species and/or conflicts.

The selecting of a species to be planted is determined by many factors. Most common to all species considerations are hardiness, ease of maintenance, aesthetics and insect and disease resistance. Of equal importance are terrace width, home set-back, size and architecture of home, existing private tree material, and street tree type on adjacent streets. Once these factors have been evaluated, size, shape, form and species of the tree can be selected. Request and fill-in trees would utilize the same parameters. In the event of tree mortality, exclusive of deliberate destruction, trees that have been previously assessed are replaced at no additional charge. When tree mortality occurs after the initial planting, the replacement tree will generally be of the same species. If however, mortality occurs a second time, the species may be changed.

All regularly scheduled and necessary maintenance is performed by Forestry Division arborists. For a new tree, it is extremely important to leave the mulched area around the base of the tree in place. Mulch maintains soil moisture and improves nutrient availability. It also eliminates invasive competition from turf. Never plant flowers or install turf around a young tree. Mulch also prevents weed eater and lawn mower trunk damage. Ideally mulch should be maintained at a three to four inch depth, however, mulch depth at the tree trunk should not exceed one inch. Mulched trees are healthier and get bigger quicker. Following planting, training pruning on all new trees will occur annually for three to five years. This will shape and structure the tree. After that time, the trees will be pruned on a routine maintenance pruning cycle. Please do not stake or prune your street tree. If you feel your tree is in need of maintenance contact the Forestry Division. Your cooperation in maintaining this valuable resource is greatly appreciated.

Support for the Street Tree Program is provided by the Street Tree Ordinance, Chapter 3, Boards and Commissions, Section 3.06 inclusive.