



Cleveland Park Historical Society P.O. Box 4862 Washington, DC 20008 (202) 237-2538 <http://clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org>

Care of Street Trees

January 8, 2007

The Cleveland Park Historical Society and the District of Columbia have planted new trees along streets in our neighborhood. Your care can help to ensure the survival and healthy growth of these trees. Contribute to our neighborhood by caring for the street tree in front of your house.

Protection The tall stakes installed at planting protect the tree from car doors, lawn mowers, weeders, and other hazards. Take care to protect the base of the tree from scrapes. Prevent compaction of the soil by maintaining a layer of mulch (see below) and by not walking at the base of the tree. Remove the guy wires six months after planting, but keep the stakes installed.

Water For at least two years after planting, young trees require 40-80 liters (10-20 gallons) of water each week during the warm months of the year, generally from May to October. During times without rain, water your tree by pouring slowly at the base using a bucket or soak the tree slowly using a garden hose. A “gator bag” is not necessary and may trap excessive moisture at the base of the tree.

Mulch Mulch conserves water, protects the base of the tree, and reduces weeds. Keep a 5-7 cm (2-3 inch) layer of shredded hardwood bark mulch around your tree. Make sure that the mulch does not touch the trunk because mulch can burn the bark.

Pruning Only the DC Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) is authorized to prune street trees. Residents can contact UFA to request pruning. Residents who wish to hire an arborist to prune a street tree or skilled residents who wish to prune a street tree can apply for a permit from UFA.

Contact

John Poole, tree committee (202) 966-8329

Patrick Gonzalez, Christine A. Rose, foresters (202) 364-3658

DC Urban Forestry Administration (202) 465-6140, <<http://ddot.dc.gov/ufa>>
