

# Tree Planting Guide



## City of Rochester Hills

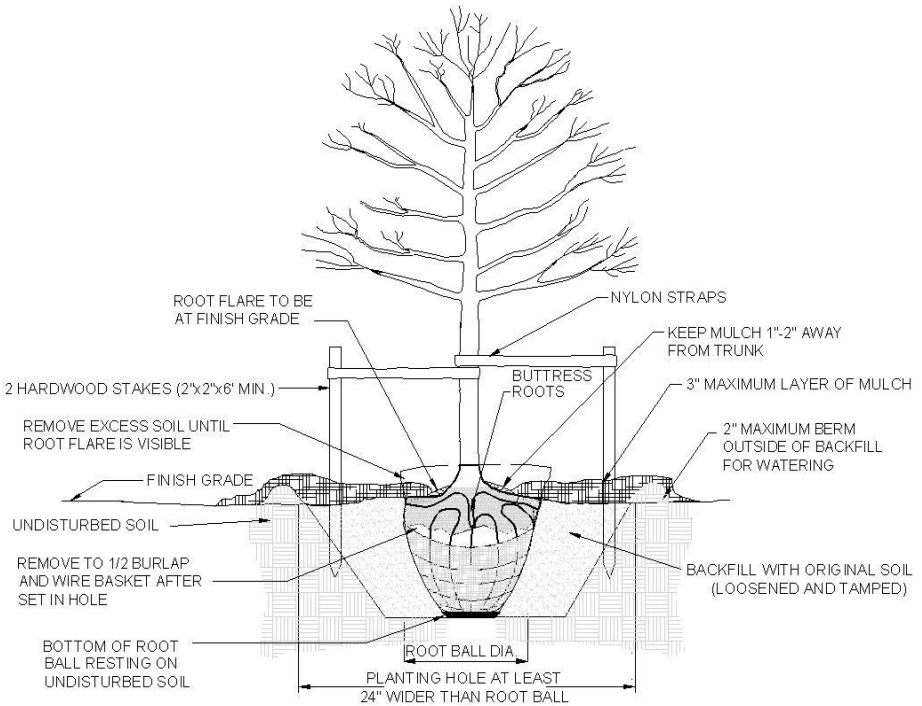
**Parks & Forestry Department**

**248-656-4673**

Email: [forestry@rochesterhills.org](mailto:forestry@rochesterhills.org)

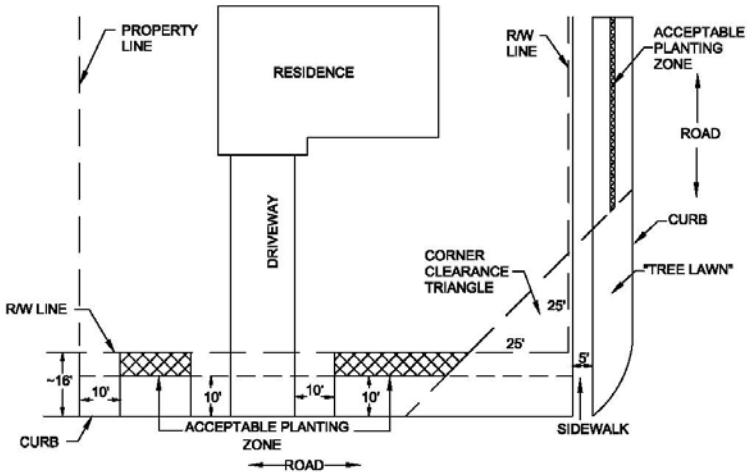
Website: [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org)

# STANDARD DETAIL FOR STREET TREE PLANTING



- Planting hole needs to be at least 24" wider than root ball.
- Root ball should rest on undisturbed soil.
- Top of root ball should be at finish grade or slightly higher (3" max.) in poorly drained soils.
- Cut burlap, wire, and twine; remove from top half of root ball (after tree is set in hole).
- Backfill firmly tamped to prevent settling and leaning.
- For non-irrigated sites, create a berm of soil around hole to catch water (no berm necessary for irrigated sites).
- For non-irrigated sites, water thoroughly immediately after installation.
- Add shredded bark mulch (3" max. depth). Keep mulch away from the tree trunk.
- Staking is required only for leaning or loose trees. If needed, use two hardwood stakes (2"x2"x6' min.) and nylon straps.
- Properly dispose of all excess soil and sod.

# STREET TREE PLANTING SITE DIAGRAM



Trees planted on the right-of-way (R/W) are subject to the following restrictions:

- A permit (free) is required to plant on the R/W.
- The R/W is generally 60' wide (30' from the centerline of the road). This normally includes a zone about 16' back from the curb or edge of road.
- Where there are sidewalks and a "tree lawn" at least 8' wide, trees should be located halfway between the sidewalk and street. Do not plant in "tree lawns" less than 8' wide.
- Where there are no sidewalks, trees should be located > 10' back from the curb or edge of road.
- Do not plant in the "corner clearance triangle" formed by the first 25' along the R/W line in each direction from the corner.
- Do not plant within 10' of driveways or adjacent property lines.
- Do not plant within 10' of fire hydrants.
- Do not plant medium or large sized trees within 15' of the nearest overhead wire.
- Space large-sized trees at least 30' apart, medium-sized trees at least 25' apart, and small-sized trees at least 20' apart.

Trees and shrubs planted on private property are subject to the following restrictions:

- No trees or shrubs may be planted within the "corner clearance triangle" (with the exception of low-growing shrubs having a mature unmaintained height of less than 30" above street level).
- Shade trees and shrubs must be planted at least 5' away from sidewalks.
- Evergreen trees and ornamental trees must be planted at least 10' away from sidewalks.
- Any trees or shrubs planted near sidewalks must be maintained (pruned) by the property owner at least 1' off the edge of the sidewalk, and 8' of clearance above the sidewalk.

Be sure to contact "Miss Dig" (800-482-7171) to have underground utility lines marked at least three days before planting.

# CARING FOR YOUR NEW STREET TREE

- Your new street tree is guaranteed for one year. If the tree dies within the first year, it will be replaced free of charge. If the tree dies after the first year, a replacement may be purchased through the Cooperative Tree Planting Program. You can help keep the tree in good condition by following the guidelines listed here.
- All trees are mulched with shredded bark at the time of planting. Mulch helps protect the stem and conserve moisture. Please keep the mulch ring free of grass and weeds. You may add mulch as needed (2"-3" deep), but avoid mulching too heavily and keep the mulch off the stem of the tree. Please do not add soil or raised beds over the root zone.
- All trees are fertilized at the time of planting. No additional fertilizer is needed during the first year. After that, applying a slow-release granular or water-soluble fertilizer will increase the growth rate.
- Watering is usually not necessary if you are running your sprinkler system regularly. If you are not running your sprinklers (or do not have a sprinkler system), please add water at least once per week during dry weather. Soak the root zone thoroughly (a slow trickle from a garden hose at the tree's stem for 15-20 minutes is recommended).
- Please do not prune the tree during the first year. After the first year, minor pruning is permissible, but please do not top the tree. For major trimming, please call the Forestry Division.
- If the tree leans, please call the Forestry Division to have the tree straightened.
- Please keep lawnmowers and string trimmers away from the tree's stem.
- If the tree appears unhealthy, or if you notice any pest problems, please call the Forestry Division.
- Additional trees may be purchased for the right-of-way through the Cooperative Tree Planting Program. Please do not plant trees on your own without first obtaining a permit (free) from the Forestry Division.
- Please refer to the website for additional planting information.

