

ADOPT A PARKWAY TREE



CARE AGREEMENT

In an effort to beautify our city, improve our community and environment, the City of Colton is partnering with our residents and businesses to plant and care for trees in our parkways. Our vision is that every neighborhood will benefit from trees that provide cooling shade, clean our air, reduce energy consumption and provide a more inviting and vibrant place to live, play and work.

How the Program Works

The City of Colton provides trees for Parkways that are appropriate for each location at no cost. Parkways are considered City owned property in front of most homes and businesses located in between the curb and sidewalk. In most cases, residents and businesses maintain these areas. City staff will install the trees and as the trees grow (when appropriate) provide maintenance pruning. The owner and/or resident of each home or business is expected to water the trees per this agreement.

Owner/ Resident Responsibility

The owner or resident's main responsibility will be to water the tree. Regular water for tree establishment is crucial for the first 3 years in it's new location. Trees don't require as much water as you may think! For the first year, water the trees once a week with 15-20 gallons. Each resident will receive a Tree Care Information Guide that will help them know when to water. Per (Ord. No. O-14-18, § 1, 1-15-2019) the owner or resident of the property is responsible for maintaining the City's parkway at all times – this includes, but not limited to any current or preexisting pest and/or rodent infestation. The owner/resident must take care of the issue(s), prior and during the lifetime of planting the tree(s).

City Responsibility

The City will provide the appropriate tree for the location, install with support stakes, fertilizer tablets and watering berm. Support stakes will be removed when it's appropriate, usually after one year Pruning of the tree will occur about the 5 year mark, depending on the species and if needed.

Please read and sign below:

By signing below, I commit to properly water and care for this tree according to the Parkway Tree Adoption Guidelines found on the back of this form.

Owner / Resident Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____



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PARKWAY TREE ADOPTION GUIDELINES

Watering: Regular water for tree establishment is crucial for the first 3 years. For some trees, 5 years of regular watering are needed for proper establishment. Trees like to be watered differently from surrounding plant material, if any exists. For example, grass and trees have different water requirements and root depths and don't like to be under or over watered. Here are some tips on how to properly water:

Year 1 & 2: Deeply water the tree once a week with 15-20 gallons of water.

Year 3 (Years 3 - 5 as needed): Deeply water every 3-5 weeks during the year. Water a little more during the summer. Continue to check the soil for moisture.

How do you know if your tree is thirsty? Frequently check the soil at a depth of 2-3 inches around the root ball. If the soil won't form a ball or crumbles when you squeeze it in your fist or between your fingers, the tree is thirsty and needs water. If the tree's leaves begin to curl or dry when it's not normal, check the soil moisture. Too dry: water. Too wet: cut back the watering.

Trees like a slow soak. One good way to water is use a 5 gallon bucket as a measure. Fill the bucket and then pour into the tree well 3-4 times. Wait each time for the water to soak into the ground.

Watering with a hose? Watering needs to be done with a slow trickle of water. Estimate how much time it will take to fill a 5 gallon bucket and multiply that by 3 or 4, make note of this time. Water the tree but make sure the water does not escape the walls of the berm – water should sink directly into the roots.

After years 3 - 5: After 3-5 years of growth, the trees will not need as much water. Continue to monitor and give it extra water as needed or if you see tree decline. Do not count on your sprinklers for your grass to provide enough water, if stressed, slowly water directly over the roots.

Remember: Do not keep the soil saturated with water all the time. Only water when the soil shows signs of moisture loss. Never water after a heavy rainfall, wait a week.

Visit our website for more tree information:
www.coltonlandscape.com

Questions? Please email conservation@coltonca.gov

