



Releaf Kearney

Street Right-of-Way Tree Planting Information

The City of Kearney encourages you to plant trees on the City right-of-way.

- To plant a tree, a free street right-of-way tree permit must be obtained from the Kearney Park and Recreation Department, place stake at planting site (5' to 20' from back of curb), call for approval at 237-4644.
- The type of tree must be on the City of Kearney approved street tree list and be a minimum one inch (1") caliper measured six inches from ground level.
- Street tree planting locations will be approved by the Kearney Park and Recreation Department.
- If there is not adequate space to plant and accommodate the mature size of a street tree on the city right-of-way, then consideration shall be given to planting on private property per Kearney City Code Section 7-504. Insufficient space on the city right-of-way and/or private property shall mean that no street tree shall be planted. This determination shall be made by Kearney Park and Recreation Department as per Kearney City Code Section 7-508.
- In order to avoid underground utility conflicts, after we have marked the location for the proposed tree, please call Diggers' Hotline at 1-800-331-5666. They require a 48-hour advance notice.
- If there are overhead wires, plant a tree that will not interfere with them at its mature height. Nurseries should be able to suggest appropriate species. Consult the tree list.
- Avoid the 40' x 40' visibility triangle at intersections. (Corner lots only.)
- Street tree pruning standards require 14' of clearance on the street side and 7' over the sidewalk; due to this requirement conifers (evergreens) of all species should be avoided.
- Do not stake the tree unless it really needs to be staked and even then leave the ties slightly loose. Remove the staking after the first year.
- Water newly planted trees thoroughly once a week during dry periods.
- Trees less than 5 years old need at least 15 gallons of water at a time.
- It's easy to water your trees: Put your hose under the crown of the tree and run water slowly for 1 hour for every 1 inch of trunk diameter.
- Check the soil moisture an inch below the mulch (addressed below) once a week. If the soil is moist, the tree does not need to be watered.
- Avoid over watering newly planted trees, especially in poorly drained soils, since this can kill the young tree.

- Water in the early part of the day to avoid evaporation.
- Watering of street right-of-way trees is the responsibility of each property owner
- Avoid planting flowers or other competing vegetation under the tree during its establishment period. Also avoid trying to grow turf right up to the tree's trunk.
- Avoid "weed-whipping" and/or scarring the young tree's tender bark with "mower blight". These mistakes kill and put severe stress on a lot of young trees. Mulching can help you to avoid this problem.
- Establish and maintain a 3" to 4" layer of shredded bark or wood chip mulch around your trees.
- Do not heap the mulch around the tree trunk; keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk of the tree. This will help prevent damage to your tree from excessive moisture and rodent damage.
- As your tree grows older, the mulched area should be maintained and expanded with the tree.
- Mulch is helpful to the tree by holding moisture, reducing weeds, and preventing damage from weed whips and lawn mowers.
- Remove nursery tags and all other items hanging from the tree. As the tree grows, plastic tags, wires, string, etc. can constrict it.
- Avoid the urge to hang a birdhouse, bird feeder, or other items from the tree until after it is established and sturdy enough to support these. A post-mounted house or feeder nearby may be one solution to this problem.
- Periodically check public trees adjacent to your property to help prevent or correct problems.

If you have questions, feel free to call Kearney Park and Recreation at 237-4644. Enjoy your tree!