

Planting Your Tree

Step 1

Dig a hole that is the equal to the depth and twice the width of the root ball of your tree.



Step 2

Remove the tree from its container. Massage the root ball to loosen the roots to ensure they grow outward. Place it in the hole and ensure that the top of the root ball is at soil level.



Step 3

Fill the hole with dirt so it is even with the surrounding soil surface. Ensure the base of the tree (where the roots begin to flare) is exposed.



Step 4

Place a tree guard around the base of the tree. This will prevent small animals or rodents from chewing the bark, as well as offer a visual cue to protect the tree from weed-wackers and mowers. Next, you will follow the directions to properly mulch and water your tree.



**ONCE YOU'VE PLANTED,
MULCHED AND WATERED YOUR
TREE . . .**

GO THE EXTRA MILE.

SHOW OFF YOUR TREE

Send a picture to trees@wrlandconservancy.org or post on your social with #Trees4CLE and tag @wrlandconservancy.

HUG YOUR TREE

Be gentle, it is getting used to its new home.

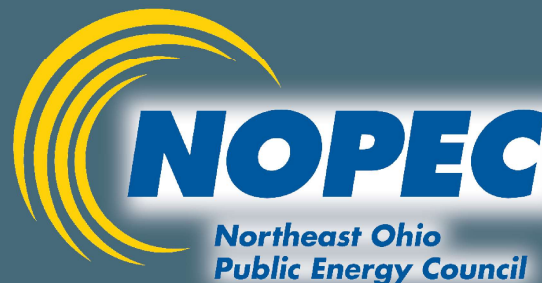
PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK

Go on, you deserve it. You are helping to make your neighborhood cleaner, greener, and more beautiful. Thank you for helping to Reforest Our City.

QUESTIONS?

email us at trees@wrlandconservancy.org

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#TREES4CLE

TREE OWNER'S MANUAL



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community

Our Vision

Trees save energy, reduce stormwater runoff, enhance property values, improve water quality, and make our neighborhoods more attractive. But... in many urban and suburban communities, tree canopies are dwindling. Some trees are lost to development, while others are never planted or replaced due to municipal budget constraints.

**Cleveland's
Tree
Canopy:**

18%

**Desirable
Urban
Canopy:**

40%

To reverse this trend, Western Reserve Land Conservancy launched its Reforest Our City program in 2014, which plants and cares for trees in the City of Cleveland and surrounding neighborhoods. **The vision is to increase Cleveland's tree canopy along with the social, economic, and environmental benefits it provides.**



Mulching Your Tree

Properly applied mulch provides trees with many benefits, such as moisture retention, nutrient addition, weed control, and more!

- Scrape the area around the base of the tree to get rid of any weeds or grass.
- Apply a wide, flat, donut-shaped layer of mulch around the base of the tree.
- Avoid applying the mulch in the shape of a volcano.
- This layer should be 2-3 inches thick and 3-4 inches away from the trunk of the tree.
- The mulch donut should be as wide as the edge of the tree's canopy.
- Maintain the mulch bed by pulling any weeds that grow and ensure the mulch is not pushed against the base of the tree.
- The root flare should be exposed.
- Repeat this process once a year.

yes



no



Watering Your Tree

- Trees need at least 15 gallons of water weekly for the first two summers after they are planted.
- Trees do not need to be watered past October.
- The donut shape of the mulch creates a basin to pour the water directly onto the roots.
- The best way to water trees is slowly, so the tree has time to absorb it. So, do not overflow the basin.

Hose Method

Turn your hose on to about 1/4 of its full flow and aim it toward the ground near the trunk. Water the tree for about 3 minutes, moving the hose to all sides of the trunk. This should allow for the tree to get about 15 gallons of water.



Bucket Method

Water the tree with about 15 gallons of water. This step should be repeated once a week. Pour the water directly into the basin formed by the mulch. Wait for the water to be absorbed before pouring more.

