



City of Brantford Tree Canopy Expansion Program

Commercial and Industrial Property Tree Planting Cost Share Program

Guideline and Resources

This document provides guidance on tree planting on your private commercial or industrial property. The guidance provided here can help with your application for the grant program including the preparation of a site plan. For more information or program questions, please contact Rochelle Rumney at 519-527-4150 ext. 5158 or rrumney@brantford.ca.

Site Plan

A site plan is required to be submitted with your grant application. Site plans for tree planting can be very simple, but must show where the trees are proposed to be planted, number of trees, species of trees to be planted and distance measurements to show estimated distance from streets, buildings, property lines, etc. and spacing between trees. Some example site plans are included below. Site plans can be prepared by hand or digitally, but must be submitted electronically.

The information below may help you to prepare your site plan by providing guidance on appropriate trees for your site and appropriate spacing requirements.

Types of Trees

Trees eligible for grant funding must be native species, which means species of trees that grow in Brantford naturally and have evolved to this particular climate alongside other native plant and animal species. This includes a wide variety of tree species and a local tree nursery will be able to tell you what species are native to this area. Some common examples of native species include:

- Sugar Maple
- Red Maple
- Red Oak
- Basswood
- Yellow Birch
- Black Gum
- Northern Hackberry
- American Beech
- Black Cherry
- Eastern White Pine
- Eastern White Cedar
- Red Pine

For a full list of native species along with descriptions of each tree and preferred planting conditions, please visit Ontario Tree Atlas linked below.

Spacing Required

Consider the mature size of the trees when planting and ensure that the spacing of young trees allows for growth to the tree's full height and spread (width). Look up! Be sure there is adequate overhead clearance, being mindful of overhanging cables, lighting, etc. As a default, leave spacing of 3 m (10 ft) around each tree.

Planting Conditions

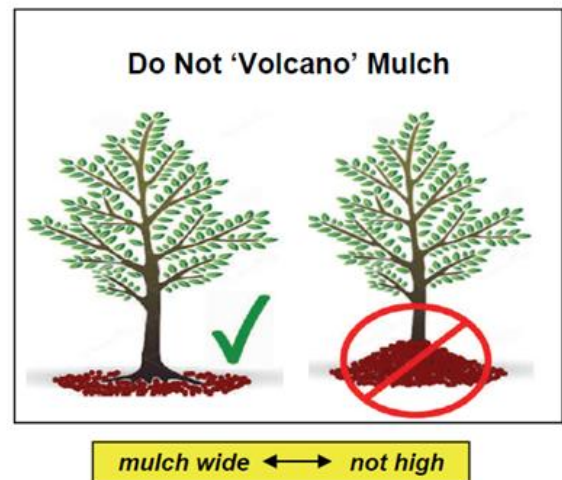
Different species of trees also prefer different types of soil conditions, sunlight conditions and drainage/moisture conditions. Having a basic understanding of the planting site will help you select trees that are more likely to succeed at that location. This information can be found within the Tree Atlas site or the GRCA information sheet linked below.

- Soil conditions: is the soil mostly clay, sand or loam?
- Drainage conditions: Is the soil well drained or wet? Is the site low lying or on a slope? Is the site next to a water feature (stream, pond, etc.)?
- Sunlight conditions: Does the location receive full sun, partial sun or full shade?

Planting Trees

The method used to plant trees depends on the size of the tree you are planting; most likely it will be a smaller tree in a container or a larger tree that comes balled and burlapped. General instructions are provided here, but detailed instructions for tree planting are provided in the links below.

1. Prepare a hole 2 or 3 times the width of the tree root system, at the same depth as the pot the tree was removed from.
2. Place the tree into the hole with the top of the root system just below the soil line. Do not plant the tree too deep. Ensure the tree is straight. Backfill the hole.
3. Water the tree with a steady stream of water from a hose for 30 seconds or equivalent.
4. Place a thin layer of mulch (4 in is ideal) around the base of the tree, but not touching the trunk. Do not over-mulch or pile up the mulch like a volcano as show in the image. Do not fertilize your new tree.



Ongoing Maintenance

Watering: Trees will require regular watering in the first two years. Trees should be watered weekly throughout the summer until mid-fall. Smaller trees may require more regular watering if it is very hot and dry.

Mulching: Trees may have mulch placed around the base of the tree in a thin layer (4 in depth is ideal) and not touching the trunk of the tree and replenished annually or as needed. Do not over-mulch.

Pruning: Some pruning may be required as the tree grows older. This can be done by a local arborist or you can review the reference sheet linked below for instructions.

Useful Resources

- The Tree Atlas. Ministry of Environment and Energy.
<https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/tree-atlas/ontario-southwest/7E-2>
- Trees, Soil Types and Drainage. GRCA. https://www.grandriver.ca/en/our-watershed/resources/Documents/Tree_fact_sheets/Trees_factsheets_soil.pdf
- How to Plant Containerized Trees. Arbor Day Foundation.
<https://www.arborday.org/trees/planting/containerized.cfm>
- How to Plant Balled and Burlapped Trees. Arbor Day Foundation.
<https://www.arborday.org/trees/planting/balled-burlapped.cfm>
- Pruning Trees and Shrubs. GRCA. [https://www.grandriver.ca/en/our-watershed/resources/Documents/Tree fact sheets/Trees factsheets pruning.pdf](https://www.grandriver.ca/en/our-watershed/resources/Documents/Tree_fact_sheets/Trees_factsheets_pruning.pdf)
- Landscape Ontario. Landscape Tree Planting Guide.
https://landscapeontario.com/assets/1570803523.Ontario_Landscape_Tree_Planting_Guide-2019_updated.pdf

Example Site Plans

