



Tree Planting & Care Guide



Caring for Your Trees

Your responsibility is just beginning when you plant a new tree.

There are a number of important steps for caring and maintaining your trees.



WATERING

Your new tree will need to be **WATERED INDEPENDENTLY** from your lawn or other ground cover. For the first year, it is recommended that you provide a minimum of **15 GALLONS A WEEK**. To do this, fill the basin around the tree to the top then let the water soak in, then fill it a second time. Be careful not to wash away soil around the roots.



MULCHING

Maintain a **2-4" BASE OF MULCH** inside the dirt basin around the base of your tree to reduce moisture evaporation from the soil and help control weeds. Mulch should be kept 3-4 inches **AWAY FROM THE TRUNK**.



STAKING

Periodically **CHECK THE STAKES AND TIES** to make sure they are not harming the trunk or branches. The stakes and ties can be removed when your tree can stand securely by itself in an upright position.



WEEDING

Keep weeds and grass **AT LEAST 36 INCHES** from the tree trunk.



PRUNING

Generally, your tree will **NOT NEED PRUNING** during its **FIRST TWO YEARS**. The more foliage that remains on the tree, the faster it will grow.



CARING OF CITY TREES

It is both the responsibility of the property owner and the City of Riverside to care for City trees. A City tree is an approved tree that is located in the City right-of-way. This is generally the area between the sidewalk and the curb (or between 12 and 15 feet from the face of the curb or edge of roadway). Trees planted in that right-of-way must be planted by permit only.

RESI PAY

Resi Pay provides residents with an option to have trees **TRIMMED MORE FREQUENTLY** by utilizing the services of the City's tree maintenance contractor at a **DISCOUNTED RATE**. Also, certain trees may qualify to be planted or removed at the resident's cost, subject to City review and approval. Residents may also hire their own licensed contractor to trim trees by obtaining a no-fee permit.

Trees provide many aesthetic, environmental, and economic values, including clean air and increased property values.

However, in order to maintain them correctly, we must plant the right tree, at the right time, in the right location.

When choosing a tree to plant, you want to make sure it is one that will thrive in your community.

CHOOSE YOUR TREE CAREFULLY!

- Make sure trees have **PLENTY OF SPACE TO GROW**. Avoid conflicts with solar panels, satellite dishes, & roof structures.
- Plant your trees in **NATURAL SOIL**.
- Planting shade trees in the right locations around your home can help **LOWER SUMMER COOLING COSTS**.

WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CITY TREE?

WATERING CITY TREES is the property owner's responsibility. The City of Riverside is responsible for all other maintenance of City Trees.

The City of Riverside Public Utilities Department trims trees to clear high power lines on a yearly cycle or in an emergency. However, it is the property owner's responsibility to keep trees planted on his/her property **CLEAR OF ALL OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND POWER LINES**.

Make sure to hire a **TRAINED ARBORIST** to do this for you. For more information on Utilities line clearance services, call **(951) 826-5311**.

HOW OFTEN IS MY CITY TREE TRIMMED?

Currently, City trees are trimmed approximately **EVERY 6 - 7 YEARS**.

CAN I TRIM MY CITY TREE?

Property owners may raise the clearance of a City tree **UP TO EIGHT FEET**. Anything over eight feet requires a permit. For information on permits and trimming options, contact the City of Riverside's Urban Forestry Section.
RiversideCA.gov/PublicWorks/Trees

Some trees that thrive in the City of Riverside include:

- Chinese Pistache
- Goldenrain
- Jacaranda Silk
- Maidenhair (Ginkgo)
- Southern Magnolia
- London Plane (Sycamore)
- Pink Trumpet
- Redbud (Eastern or Oklahoma)

- **DO NOT PLANT TREES** underneath power lines, near water and sewer lines, sidewalks, walkways, driveways, and foundations.

If you are unaware of underground utility locations, it is always a good idea to call **UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT** at **(800) 227-2600** before you dig.