



**SHADE TREES
FOR
OLMSTED FALLS**

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Trees along our community streets are important for a number of reasons. First of all, they increase property values by making our city more attractive. In addition, street trees provide shade, muffle noise, reduce glare from structures and pavement, purify the air, and act as a windbreak. The street tree program of the City of Olmsted Falls is an important part of supplying our city with these benefits.

This leaflet was prepared by the Shade Tree Commission of the City of Olmsted Falls to inform residents of the plans for the street tree program. It is hoped that residents will contribute to the success of this program by becoming informed and working together to make a more beautiful Olmsted Falls. The Shade Tree Commission was created April 4, 1985, by Ordinance 22-85. The responsibilities of the Commission are to study, formulate, and develop plans for the placement, planting, and preservation of trees along the public street right-of-ways and on public property owned by the City of Olmsted Falls.

Planning for Proper Selection and Location of Trees

The necessity for proper planning becomes apparent as trees can be responsible for heaving sidewalks, interfering with utility lines, blocking street signals, and clogging sewers. By properly matching tree species and location, the Shade Tree Commission is working to eliminate these problems. This is accomplished by using suitable native trees with assorted cultivars and varieties, to incorporate superior form and growth characteristics along with spring flowers, attractive foliage, and fall color. Reduced pruning and maintenance are other benefits of choosing trees with superior form. This is important in reducing costs to the city for the care of trees on public property.

Considerations in locating the trees for planting are numerous. The Shade Tree Commission cannot only consider spacing the trees at specific distances. Other important factors include visibility at intersections, tree lawn width, traffic and street characteristics, utility lines, sewer and fire hydrant placement, and neighborhood characteristics.

Resident Care of Street Trees

Survival of our street trees depends on the help of our residents. Proper watering is extremely important for the first two years. During dry periods, residents can help by letting a hose trickle at the base of the tree for an hour once a week. This helps to soak the root system. Mulching with shredded bark or wood chips keeps roots cool and moist while acting as a barrier to lawn mower damage of the tree trunks. It is very important, how-

ever, that mulch not be piled higher than ground level next to the trunk and not be allowed to touch the trunk. A thick mulch against the trunk will create conditions that are ideal for fungal and bacterial growth and will kill trees. In addition, placing additional soil around the base of a tree will result in the death of tree roots from lack of oxygen and also should not be done. Power string weed trimmers can easily damage tree bark and should be used with caution.

Resident planting of flowers, vines, groundcovers, etc. at the base of the tree must not be done as these compete for water and soil nutrients which the tree needs for successful growth. Any such plants must be removed, along with any planter boxes, bricks, landscape timbers, etc.. Also do not nail signs to the trunks or hang lights, ornaments, etc. from the branches.

Residents should also refrain from placing their garbage cans and refuse within several feet of the street trees. This will prevent damage to the trees by the refuse company when picking up your trash and returning the cans. Resident vehicles should also not be parked near street trees to avoid damage to the branches and the tree trunk. Snow should not be shoveled up against the tree trunk. Piling the snow in this manner can result in damage, particularly to the tender bark of young trees.

The Shade Tree Commission wants to thank you for your help in following all of the above.

Permit to Plant

It is illegal by ordinance to plant, cut, break, climb, injure, kill, or remove any trees growing along public streets or on public property without permission. A permit must be obtained from the Tree Commission before any trees are planted, pruned, or removed from public property. Information about a permit may be obtained by calling Olmsted Falls Service Department at 235-1345. In addition, trees on city property are protected by ordinance at all times from any construction and/or storage of vehicles or materials.

Property owners do not need a permit to plant or maintain trees on private property. Consideration should be made of the space the tree will require at maturity to alleviate interference with other trees or buildings. Helpful information can be obtained by calling the Cuyahoga County Extension Office at **1-216-429-8200**

Additional Tree Related Services

Tree limbs and branches from trees located on your private property can be placed cut end to street on tree lawns and stacked no higher than three feet. The city will collect these with the brush chipper on the first Monday

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of every month beginning in April and ending in October. Branches should be six inches or less in diameter and no stumps or vines. No other debris of any kind should be left in the pile of limbs and branches. Do not pile branches near the street trees.

Wood chips are available to all city residents on a first-come, first-serve basis, in truckload quantities only, which the city will deliver. Sign-up sheets for wood chips are available at City Hall.

Leaf collection begins the middle of October and continues through the end of November. Leaves must be raked to the curb, and not into the street. Please keep foreign objects out of the leaves. Do not pile leaves at the base of the street trees so that city employees can gather them easily.

Questions and Answers

Any questions regarding the street tree program may be directed to the Olmsted Falls City Hall at 235-5550.

PREPARED BY
THE OLMSTED FALLS SHADE TREE COMMISSION, EST. 1985

SPECIAL THANKS TO
ROBERT SAYERS FOR MAIN STREET BRIDGE ARTWORK

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