

TREE PIT CARE

Adopt your street tree!



Water your street tree for at least 1/2 hour weekly, especially during the first 3 years of its life and during droughts.

Using a hand cultivator, loosen the top 3 inches of soil to alleviate compaction and help water and air reach the roots.

Apply a three inch layer of mulch to the tree pit, but do not pile it up too close to the trunk. This will help keep the soil moist and prevent weeds.

Maintain soil at the original planting level.

Keep dogs and dog waste, garbage and de-icing salt out of the tree pit. Pile garbage bags next to planting pit, **not in it**.

Consider installing metal tree guards around the edge of the pit, which will reduce soil compaction from people and dogs stepping inside it. Do not build solid walls; these encourage people to use the pit for trash. If done carefully, shallow rooted annuals or bulbs can be planted. They will not compete with the tree, but will require extra watering.

Want to get **fencing** for the tree well in front of your house or building? The cost is about \$400 - check the Ellis website for further information.

Be on the lookout for exotic pests, such as the Asian Longhorn Beetle (as serious threat). For more information and to report sightings, visit www.massarbor.org, the Mass Arborists Association website.

Always contact the City arborist before contracting for work. More information on the Ellis website, see Trees.

To REQUEST a tree for your tree well: call Albin at 617.635.PARK.



Urban Tree Websites

Urban Ecology Institute - www.urbaneco.org,
Boston's Urban Forest Coalition -
www.BostonForest.org