



## 2022 City of Sheridan Tree Planting Program

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 1995 West Hamilton Place

NAME: ORDER# \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL TREES ORDERED: \_\_\_\_\_

Chinkapin Oak #7 APC	Shumard Oak #7 APC	Western Catalpa #7 APC	Eastern Redbud #7 APC	Hot Wings Maple #7 APC
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This letter confirms your tree order for the 2022 City of Sheridan Tree Planting Campaign. The tree pick up date is either Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> or Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>. You will select this using the order form provided. Distribution will take place at the Old Sheridan Firehouse at 1995 West Hamilton Place (see enclosed map) between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Most of the trees were grown in #7 Air Pruned Containers (APC) and may have been removed from the containers and wrapped in burlap. The roots of these trees need to be kept wet (daily watering) and should be planted ASAP.

We will provide the trees, mulch, tree stakes and a wealth of advice at the distribution site. Call 720-593-1225 if you need directions on pick-up day. The trees are 5-10 feet tall with a 3-5' branch spread. Pickup trucks or trailers are best for transporting these trees. A van, SUV or station wagon also will work. Please call Ari at 720-593-1225 if you cannot pick up your trees on your selected day due to a schedule conflict or lack of an adequate vehicle. **No refunds can be provided for trees not picked up within the two-day window.**

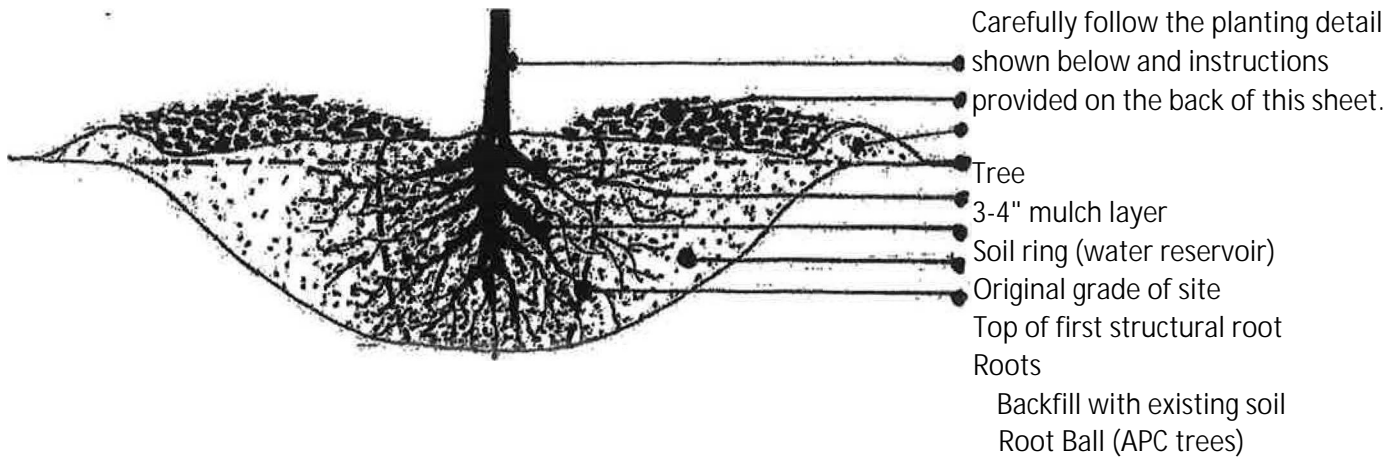
### Selecting a Planting Location

Generally, a tree should be placed so that it may grow freely to a mature size without crowding other trees, buildings or utility lines. Stand at the location you are considering planting your tree. Look down to determine if the location has poor drainage or is too close to a structure or paved area. Look up and all around to see if there are other trees or utility lines. Look to the north to determine what a mature tree will shade in future summers.

Selecting the planting location is an important decision with long ranging implications.

Most of the trees in this year's program are larger shade trees, growing 30' to 60' tall and 25' to 50' wide. They should be planted at least 20' from houses and overhead utilities and 30' from other trees. Tree planting sites should be located as far as possible (a minimum of 8') from streets, driveways, sidewalks and other paved surfaces. Smaller trees may be planted closer to structures or other trees and under overhead utilities in certain situations depending upon their mature size. Prior to any digging, call the Utility Notification Center at 811 to locate underground telephone, cable TV, gas and electrical utilities on your property at no charge within two working days of your phone call.

## Tree Planting Detail



## Planting the Trees

Proper planting is essential to insure a long, healthy life for your new tree. You may want to dig wide, shallow holes prior to picking up the trees, adjusting the depth of the hole when the trees are on site. Carefully follow the planting diagram and steps described below. These instructions apply to bare root and container trees. The roots must be kept moist. We recommend soaking the roots of bare root trees in water for 30-90 minutes prior to planting.

Calling 811 before Digging. Call 811 to locate underground utilities prior to digging, if assistance is needed, please reach out to the City or to Groundwork Denver. Dig a saucer shaped hole three times the root mass/ball diameter (30-40" wide) and to a 12-18" depth as determined by instruction #3 below. You will be reusing this excavated soil, so break up large clods and place the soil next to the planting hole on a tarp or in a wheelbarrow. For most trees, you will probably need some additional soil to backfill the tree. You can either import good soil from another location in your yard or mix purchased topsoil with the soil you have excavated. We do not recommend mixing in fertilizer, compost or manure in your backfill as these may burn tender roots.

2) Prune roots and branches sparingly... Properly prune any broken branches leaving the branch collar (swollen area where branch attaches to larger branch) intact. Prune out any damaged roots and make fresh cuts at the tips of large roots of bare roots trees. Remove any labels, twine or tape from the trunk, roots and branches.

3) Place tree in hole at proper depth. The science of determining proper planting depth has been evolving over the past decade. Generally, on a young tree, the uppermost structural roots (two or more) should be within the top 1 to 3 inches of the soil surface, as measured 3 to 4 inches out from the trunk. After your tree is planted, the top of the first structural root should be even with or slightly below the original grade of your planting site with 1-2" container soil (APC trees) on top of this root. On APC container trees remove all of the burlap or just remove from container. Then, carefully measure the height of the root ball and adjust the hole depth so that the root ball rests on undisturbed or compacted soil in the bottom of the hole with the **top of the root ball above the original grade after planting.**

4) Backfill the hole. Set APC trees in the hole, then gradually fill with loose soil, making sure that the tree is straight and at the correct level. Do not tamp or compact. Instead, settle the soil by slowly adding water all around the hole after backfilling. Continue adding soil and watering until the even with the top of the root ball (APC trees). Construct a 3-4" high soil ring around the edge of the hole to act as a reservoir and retain mulch.

5) Mulch the tree, add and maintain a 2-4" layer of wood mulch around the tree to conserve moisture and keep out weeds. This mulch should not contact the trunk. Mulch depths of less than 2" or greater than 4" are not desirable. Ideally you should expand the mulch ring out to the dripline (tips of branches) as the tree grows. Do not plant flowers, bulbs, shrubs or turf under trees, as their roots will compete with those of the tree for water, oxygen and nutrients. A four-inch organic mulch layer can increase fine root development by 400% compared to roots growing under turf. In most cases it is not necessary to stake these trees unless they are planted in an open, windy area or will not remain upright. If staking is required use canvas tree straps (available at nurseries) and remove guy wires after one year.

6) **Water and Maintain the Tree.** Regular watering will insure development of a strong root system. Water thoroughly, slowly soaking the roots every 7-10 days starting in April and tapering off in October. Water more frequently during hot weather. In general, if the soil is dry four inches down, it is time to water. Over watering should be avoided. Water every 3-4 weeks in wintertime. Mild fertilization and structural pruning can be started after a full year of growth. Structural pruning on young trees will ensure good structure as the trees mature. Excellent info on structural pruning can be found at <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/structural-pruning-flash.shtml>. Wrap the trunk up to the first branch with tree wrap every November to April for 5-7 years to prevent sunscald (especially maples). Avoid injuries to the tree bark (string trimmers, mowers, pets, etc.). Replenish and widen mulch rings annually. Enjoy and care for your tree!



*The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now. – Chinese Proverb*