

Caring for a parkway tree

Trees that are located in the parkway (the portion of the street right-of-way between the curb and the sidewalk) are owned and maintained by the City. However, residents can also play an important role in keeping parkway trees healthy. This sheet offers a summary of key information about caring for “your” parkway tree.

MULCH

Mulch is very important for retaining moisture in the soil, improving the soil biology, and reducing weeds. Mulch is a generic term that describes organic material spread on the soil surface, and there are many types of mulch composed of different elements. A 3-4 inch layer of medium-texture mulch is recommended to cover an area of at least 4-5' in diameter. It is important to keep mulch away from the trunk--when mulch is piled at the base of the tree, it creates conditions that favor decay, disease, and insects.

WATERING

For one year after a tree is planted, Culver City waters the tree periodically so that it can adapt to its new site and develop a healthy root system. After one year, the City waters only in case of prolonged drought, when the trees are at greatest risk of decline.

Residents can assist by checking the moisture level in the soil and adding water only if necessary. The best way to check soil moisture is to use a soil probe, available at hardware stores. Check the soil once a month, if the soil 18” below the surface is dry, it is ok to water. If possible, it is best to apply water slowly so that it sinks in instead of running off. Water until the soil is moist 18” below the surface.

STAKES

When the City plants a tree in the parkway, they use stakes to stabilize the tree and help it to grow a straight trunk. The City will remove the stakes when they are no longer needed. Please do not remove the stakes yourself.

OTHER PLANTING IN THE PARKWAY

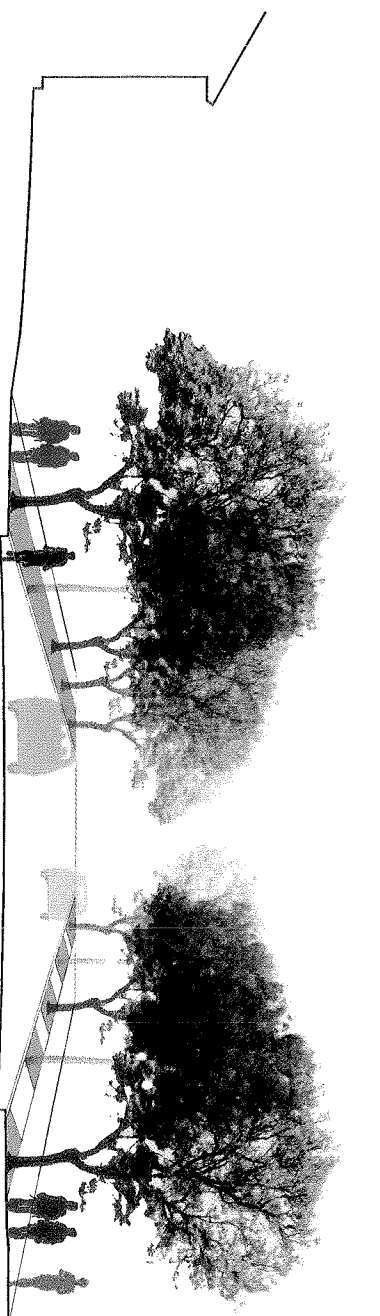
Planting in the parkway must follow certain guidelines to support the health of the parkway tree and to ensure visibility and access between

the street and the sidewalk. For example, plants should not be placed at the base of a tree, because they would compete with the tree for moisture and nutrients. Please refer to the Culver City Parkway Ordinance for complete information.

PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS?

If you have a general question about the characteristics and maintenance requirements of the tree in your parkway, please refer to the CalPoly Selectree website for detailed information.

If you think there is a problem with a parkway tree (you notice fungus on the trunk or roots, dead limbs, leaves yellowing or falling out of season, damage or wounds, etc), or if tree roots are damaging the sidewalk, please contact Public Works-Maintenance Operations Division at 310-253-6420 or 310-253-6440.



The urban forest is the ecosystem of plants and people in the city. The urban forest offers important, diverse benefits such as improving air and water quality, shaping neighborhood character and city identity, reducing energy use, and increasing property values.