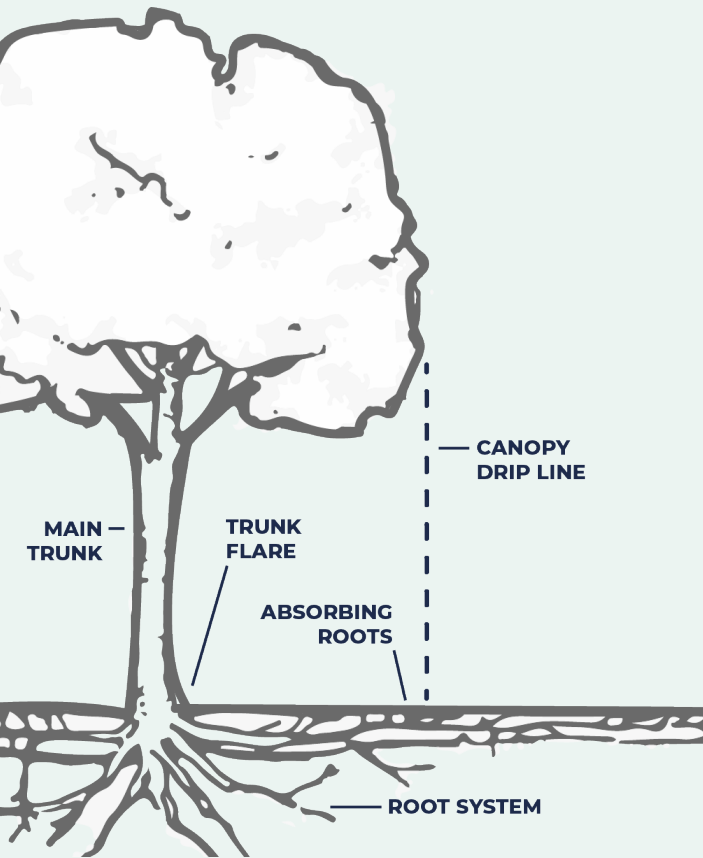


TREE BASICS

A tree has a leafy **canopy** to capture sunlight and a wide spreading **root system** to pull water and nutrients from the soil.

The canopy needs clean air and room to expand free of wires and buildings. Tree roots need uncompacted and biologically active soil.

Connecting the canopy and the roots is the main **trunk** which **flares** into a bellbottom shape as it transitions underground. The trunk flare is critical for tree stability, nutrient uptake and oxygen exchange.



FAQ's

Who owns and cares for the tree?

The property owner is responsible for the tree after planted by the Town's DPW Division of Forestry.

Why is my front lawn better than the street's planting strip?

Urban Forestry best practices have changed since the days when curbside planting strips were designed to prioritize looks over longevity. In most neighborhoods there isn't enough room to expand the size of the planting strips. Your lawn has more soil volume and open space to give young trees the best conditions to grow healthy and strong.

How will this benefit my neighborhood?

Shade will cool the street and can help reduce your home energy costs. Healthier trees are more resilient during storm events. Native trees especially provide valuable habitat for beneficial insects and birds.

YOUR PLEDGE

You pledge to mulch, water and protect the tree as recommended.

If the tree does not survive its first 12 months, the DPW Division of Forestry will replace and plant a new tree for free.

Have questions about caring for your tree? Contact the DPW Forestry Division at **978-623-8780**.



Scan the QR Code for more information, or visit: andoverma.gov/treecommittee

CARING FOR YOUR NEW TREE

Resident Tree Ownership Program

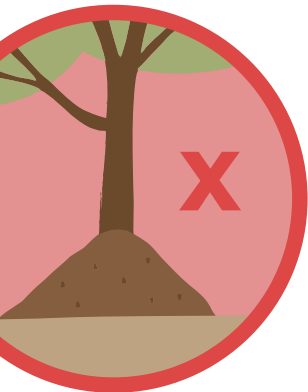


An official guide produced & distributed by the Town of Andover Tree Committee

MULCH



- ✓ Trunk Flare is visible at base of tree
- ✓ Make a “mulch donut” that does not touch trunk flare and is evenly spread outward at a depth of 2-4 inches
- ✓ Donut edge extends to at least the drip line



- ✗ Trunk Flare is not visible at base
- ✗ Mulch piled too high into a “mulch volcano”
- ✗ Mulch does not extend to drip line

If mulch is piled against the trunk flare it will suffocate the tree, rot the bark, and make the tree less resistant to disease and pests.

DPW Division of Forestry will include compost & aged wood chips with the planting of your tree. With a Bald Hill Permit you can replenish your mulch donut yearly as needed, or you can purchase materials from a reputable source.

WATER



- 5 gallons per inch of tree trunk diameter
- Put your hands in the dirt around the base of the tree. If soil feels wet, it's saturated and watering not needed that day. Overwatering is worse than underwatering, and you don't need to water when temperatures are below 40°F.

YEAR 1

First 2 Weeks: Every day
Weeks 2-3: 3-6 times per week
Weeks 4-12: 2-4 times per week

For remainder of growing season water once per week unless rain falls in excess of 1" per week.

YEAR 2-3

Water once per week during abnormally dry weather.

PROTECT



- Maintain a mulch donut to protect the trunk and flare from lawn machinery and string mowers, and to prevent grass from growing next to the trunk.
- To help protect against deer and rabbits, create a tube of wire mesh around the trunk. Do not let the wire touch the trunk.
- Do not wrap the trunk with tape
- Check protection often and do not let it grow into the trunk. Depending on your area, wire protection may be needed until the bark grows thick enough to resist deer and rabbit damage.
- Chicken wire and metal mesh are available at most hardware stores.

STAKING & PRUNING



The DPW Division of Forestry will not stake your tree when planted unless absolutely necessary. Young trees grow stronger trunks and root systems when they are allowed to adapt to local wind conditions.

Do not prune your new tree yourself. Contact a certified arborist to begin a structural pruning program.