Chapter 14: Street Tree Planting Standards

The City of Delaware requires all new residential development to include the installation of street trees to be planted within the tree lawn area of the public right of way. The species to be planted will be selected by the City Shade Tree Commission in advance of project approval.

1. Notification

   The City shall be notified five (5) days in advance as to location, time, and number of trees to be planted. The City reserves the right to inspect planting procedures for adherence to requirements regarding spacing, clearance, and obstructions as specified in Chapter 907.03 of the City code. It shall be the responsibility of the developer or his designee to contact OUPS to avoid underground utilities. The City of Delaware will spot tree planting locations by placing a white dot on the curb. Trees planted without prior City approval risk of having to be removed, relocated or replaced.

2. Site Preparation

   The planting hole shall be excavated to a depth so that the root flare and first order of lateral roots will be 2-inches above grade. The planting hole shall be a minimum of one foot wider than the diameter of the root ball, and prepared with sloped sides.

3. Planting

   Prepare the tree for planting by removing the top 1/3 of the wire basket, all plastic shipping collars and ropes. Remove burlap from top of root ball and tuck in hole. Treated or plastic burlap is not permitted. Care shall be taken to not damage the root ball when handling or back filling. Place the tree within the hole and adjust its position so that it is plum in the hole. Tree shall be planted so that the root flare is one to two inches above finished grade. Never plant trees deeper than existing grade. Backfill around the root ball with existing un-amended soil and thoroughly water. Tamp soil to remove air pockets. Apply two to three inches of hardwood mulch leaving a 2-inch open space around the trunk. When finished, the top of the mulch shall be not more than 5-inches above existing grade. Excess soil must be removed from the site and not piled on top of the root ball.

4. Maintenance

   It is the responsibility of the developer to maintain the trees in a healthy condition until final inspection and acceptance by city officials.

5. Warranty and Final Inspection

   The developer shall guarantee that all trees will be healthy and vigorously growing two-years after planting. The city will inspect all newly planted trees twice a year and report all unacceptable trees to the developer. A tree will be considered unacceptable if it is dead, has more than 33% dieback of lateral branches, or has more than 20% dieback of the terminal branch. Trees not 1.75-inches in caliper, wrong species, or that show poor quality or lack tags will be unacceptable. It will be the responsibility of the developer to remove all unacceptable trees within 30 days of notification. Replacement trees will carry the same two year warranty and the warranty will start when the tree is planted and inspected by the city. Nursery inspection certificates and documentation of plant origin will be provided prior to trees being planted. Only trees grown in zones 4 and 5 are deemed acceptable unless prior approval has been granted. Trees grown in zones 7 or greater will never be accepted by the City of Delaware.