

# PROPER CARE OF YOUR NEW PARKWAY TREE



The City of St. Charles Tree Planting Program has placed a new tree on your parkway. This new tree will add to the beautification of the City, and benefit our City's ecology.

We do ask your help in taking care of your new tree for the next few years while it becomes acclimated to its new location. The first year is very critical to the health of your new tree. Proper care over the next few years will encourage your tree to flourish for many years to come.

As soon as possible after the tree has been planted; please water it thoroughly. Please water it thoroughly again in seven days. **DO NOT WATER EVERY DAY.** Over watering will cause the tree to suffocate. Please continue to water once a week over the next few years. In the event that there is a good soaking rain, hold off for a week after the rain subsides; then begin the weekly watering once again. **Please remember that it is important to water, but not every day.** If your tree has a "Gator Bag" you can fill it every 4-5 days.

Please note the tree has a wrapping around the trunk. Do not remove this wrap for the first summer, as it is there to protect the tree. The weathering process will eventually dislodge the wrapping. If for some reason the wrap does not come off, please remove it in the fall of the following year.

In the spring of the first year, please put some dry wood chips (not wood chips that have been freshly chipped) around the base of the new tree leaving a space of approximately 6" from the trunk of the tree to where the chips begin. Ideally chips should extend to the outer drip line at the edge of the branches. The chips will help hold moisture in the ground, and will also control weeds. They will also protect the trunk from being hit by the lawnmower, which could injure the bark. When this happens, insects carrying disease can attack the tree causing a weakened condition that can ultimately kill the tree.

Wood chips can be picked up free of charge at the City Public Works Compound located at 1405 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, (south of Langum Park), Monday – Friday, 8AM-5PM. Please stop in the office and sign the clipboard before you load chips.

If the tree leans, needs pruning, becomes infested with bugs, or shows any signs of distress, please call Public Works Street Division for assistance. The trees are planted for your enjoyment and as an enhancement to your property and you, the resident, contribute to their good health in the form of watering, mulching, observation and relay of signs of distress to the Street Division. Please remember, trees planted on the parkway are the property of the City of St. Charles and all other maintenance tasks are the responsibility of the Street Division.

If you should have any questions, please call Ben Deutsch at 377-4459 for assistance.

We hope your future holds many happy years of enjoyment provided by your new tree.