Quality Trees, Quality Cities

Best practices for managing and caring for urban trees

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Urban and Community Forestry Program

Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (CTLA)

Three factors affect tree value: species, condition, and location. These factors are rated from 0 to 100 percent. This is taken from the valuation guide:

- Circumference of trunk at 4 1/2 feet = 47 (inches)
- Circumference multiplied by 0.08 = 177 (square inches)
- Multiplied by current value per square = $2.77 x 177 = $4,776
- Multiplied by species factor, e.g., 06 percent = $4,776 x 06 = $286.56
- Multiplied by condition factor, e.g., 75 percent = $286.56 x 75 = $214.92
- Multiplied by location factor, e.g., 60 = $214.92 x 60 = $14,695
- Value of tree = $2,437

Valuing Tree Benefits

Investment in Urban Trees

$1.00 Invested = $2.00 Returned

Larger trees provide greater benefits

What are “best practices”?
Reduce Risks
Best Practices
Maximize Services
Control Costs

Industry (ANSI) Standards
- Z133 Safety Standard
- A300 Pruning Standard - Part 1
- A300 Soil Management Standard - Part 2
- A300 Lightning Protection Systems Standard - Part 3
- A300 Construction Management Standard - Part 4
- A300 Planting and Transplanting Standard - Part 6
- A300 Integrated Vegetation Management Standard - Part 7
- A300 Root Management Standard - Part 8
- A300 Tree Risk Assessment Standard - Part 9
- Z60 Standards for Nursery Stock

- Pruning (Spanish)
- Utility Pruning (Spanish)
- Tree Planting (Spanish)
- Integrated Vegetation Management (Spanish)

Overview of Best Practices for Tree Care

Right Tree, Right Place
(above ground)

Right Tree, Right Place
(below ground)
Tree Planting

- Remove container, cage, burlap, tags, twine, etc.
- Locate root flare; plant at grade
- Dig a wide hole
- Stake only if necessary
- MULCH!

Tree Mulching

Keep mulch away from trunk
Spread mulch to a diameter of at least 3 feet
Maximum depth of 3 to 4 inches

Tree Watering

How Much? How Often? When?

Tree Pruning

- Understand why you’re pruning
- Remove no more than 25% of the foliage
- DON’T TOP TREES!!
- Enlist the services of an ISA Certified Arborist

Tree Topping is Wasteful, Costly and Dangerous

- Costs a lot of money
- Damages the tree
- Shortens trees’ lifespan
- Increases tree risks
- Undercuts tree benefits

Structural pruning in young trees
Tree Protection

Pesticide Application

Let’s rethink our use of pesticides in the urban landscape

Fertilization

When is fertilizer for trees really necessary?

Overview of Best Practices for Tree Management

Designate Authority

Either:
– Assign responsibility for tree-related issues to an existing staff member,

OR,
– Consider establishing a community tree board or committee

Adopt a Tree Ordinance

• **Ordinance** –
  – A tool to guide or regulate behavior in favor of a preferred outcome
  – There is no one size fits all ordinance, especially for trees
Track Activities & Costs

Publicly Recognize and Celebrate Trees

Include Trees in Other Planning Documents

- Comprehensive Plan
- Department-specific Management Plans
- Urban Forest Management Plan
- Emergency Management or Disaster Response Plan

http://ufmptoolkit.com/resources-guides-to-UFMP.htm

Connect Trees with Stormwater Management

"A Tree is a BMP"

Adopt Policies, Specifications and Standard Operating Procedures
Practice and Promote Proper Tree Care

- Hire an ISA Certified Arborist
- Provide Staff Training
- Develop Annual Contracts for Tree Care Services, etc.
- Develop an Inventory
- Develop a Pruning Cycle and Annual Work Plans
Risks

Services

Costs

The cost of prevention rarely exceeds the cost of repair/mitigation.

WA Department of Natural Resources
Urban & Community Forestry
800-523-8733
www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry