

PRIVATE REPLACEMENT TREE GUIDELINE

Engineering Operations | Urban Forestry



Replacement trees play an essential role in maintaining a healthy and resilient urban forest. As mature trees decline or are removed, new plantings help restore lost canopy and ensure long-term forest continuity. These young trees improve air quality, provide shade, enhance habitat, and contribute to healthier, more livable neighbourhoods. By caring for your replacement tree today, you're investing in a greener, stronger community for years to come.

DELTA TREE PROTECTION AND REGULATION BYLAW NO.7969, 2021:

- “**replacement tree**” means a tree that is shown on a replacement plan that is intended to replace a tree.
- Must be at least 3m in height for coniferous species and deciduous species must have a caliper of at least 7cm measured at 30cm above the ground.
- Must be watered and maintained at the owner's expense.

APPROVED REPLACEMENT TREE SPECIES:

A list of approved tree species was created using Metro Vancouver's Urban Forest Climate Adaption Framework. Please consult with your local tree care professional to choose a tree that's right for you.

Delta **WILL NOT** accept the following as replacement trees: Palms, shrubs, hedging or dwarf varieties, topiaries, or invasives listed with the Invasive Species Council of BC.

For a listing of approved tree species and more information, visit: delta.ca/Trees

SPATIAL PLANTING REQUIREMENTS:

Trees must be planted within the development or property where removal occurred and be at least:

- 3m away from another existing or replacement tree.
- 2m away from driveway and 1.5m from any other hardscapes unless root barriers are installed.
- 1.5m away from underground utilities.
- 3m away from BC Hydro lines.
- 3m away from the house, garage, pool, deck or other permitted outbuildings.
- 1m away from the property line, and
- Not underneath overhead powerlines or service drops. (utility/low growing trees are exempt)
Replacement tree plans must be approved by the City of Delta

PLANTING INSPECTIONS AND DEPOSIT REFUNDS:

Two inspections are required for replacement trees. The property owner or an authorized agent is responsible for booking a replacement tree inspection. Please contact engineering@delta.ca or call [604-946-3260](tel:604-946-3260) to book a replacement tree inspection.

- 1) 1st inspection when the tree is planted.
- 2) 2nd inspection – one year after the 1st inspection. The replacement tree deposit will be returned only if the tree is deemed healthy, so please ensure it receives proper care, particularly adequate watering.

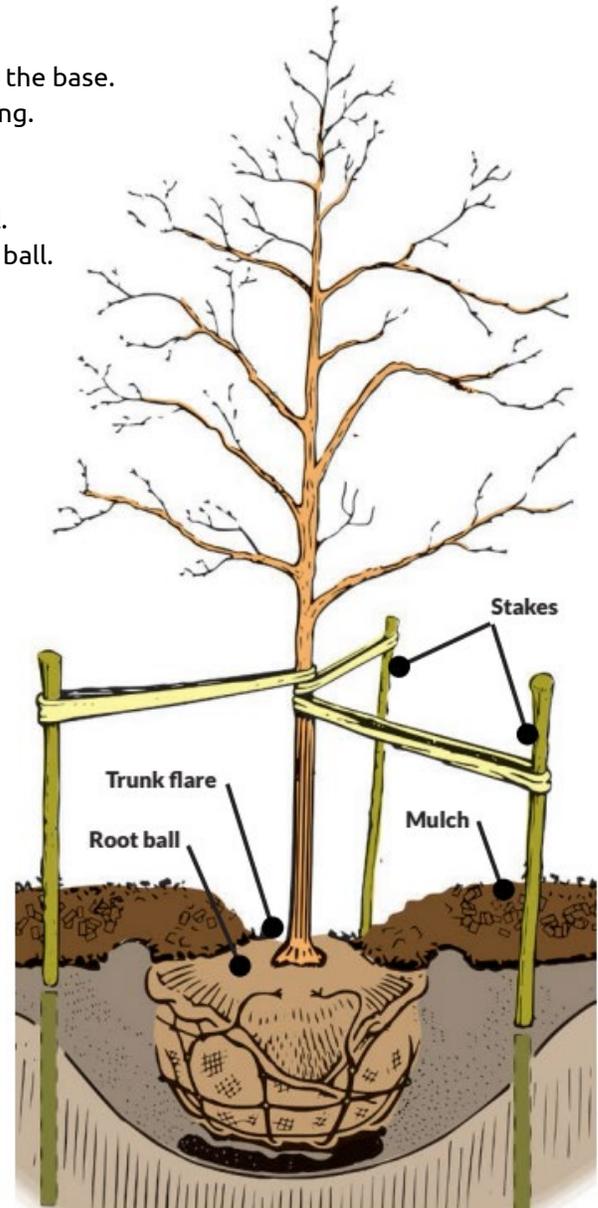
PRIVATE REPLACEMENT TREE GUIDELINE

Engineering Operations | Urban Forestry



STEPS TO PLANT A NEW TREE:

1. Identify the trunk flare:
 - The trunk flare is where the trunk widens at the base.
 - It should remain partially visible after planting.
2. Dig the hole:
 - Dig a hole 2-3 times wider than the root ball.
 - The hole should be no deeper than the root ball.
3. Remove the container or cut away wire/burlap.
4. Place the tree in the hole.
5. Straighten the tree in the hole.
6. Backfill the hole:
 - Firmly pack soil around the base of the root ball to stabilize the tree.
 - Continue gently packing soil while watering as you fill.
7. Mulching:
 - Apply 5–10cm of mulch around the base.
 - Keep mulch away from the trunk, leaving 5–10cm mulch-free space.
 - Extend the mulch as far as possible, or about 1 metre around the tree.
8. Watering:
 - Water 15–20 gallons (60–75L) once per week in the summer.
 - Water at the dripline, not at the trunk.
 - Consider using watering bags.
9. Staking
 - Consider installing two tree stakes for stability.



For additional resources on planting and tree care, please visit: treesaregood.org