

HOW TO PLANT A PNPP TREE!

The **Providence Neighborhood Planting Program** is a partnership between the *Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Providence Neighborhood Planting Program Fund*, the Providence Parks Department's Forestry Division, and residents of Providence. Together we have been planting & stewarding street trees in the city since 1989!

Although we are unable to physically gather together this season to plant trees, we are so thrilled that we are **#PlantingTogetherInSpirit** with you, and we thank you for working with us this Spring to expand PVD's urban forest, one tree at a time!



WWW.PNPP.ORG/HOW-TO-PLANT-A-TREE

PREPARE THE TREE

Take the tree out of the pot. Tip tree onto its side & gently kick side/bottom of pot to loosen soil. Have one person hold onto the pot while another person grabs & pulls from the base of the tree. While the tree is still on its side, remove any twine that may be wrapped around the branches, then return the tree to a vertical position.

Find the root flare. This is where the trunk begins to widen and the first major roots begin to grow outward - it should never be buried in soil. *Note: the Forestry Crew will expose the root flare before dropping the tree off at your home, but take note of it so you are careful not to bury it in soil later!*

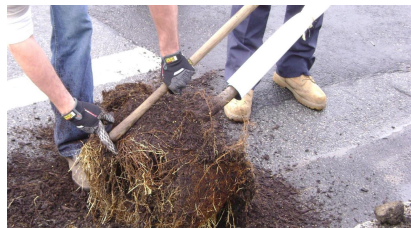
Cut circling/girdling roots. With pruners or a small saw, cut roots that are growing around the root ball or the base of the trunk. These roots can choke and stunt the tree as it grows, so while it may seem harsh to cut them, it will be better for the tree in the long run! If there are many roots circling the root ball, make 4 vertical slices on each side of the root ball & use your fingers to loosen them.

DIG THE HOLE

Dig a shallow, broad hole in the *CENTER* of the tree pit, about about 1ft deep and 3ft wide.

Measure the *depth* of the hole against the *height* of the root ball (distance from the ground to the root flare). The height of the root ball should be the same as the depth of the hole. Add or remove soil as needed and re-measure the hole's depth against the root ball. Firmly tamp down the soil in the hole.

Measuring the hole:



YOU WILL NEED:

- Long-handled pointed shovel
- Rake and/or broom
- Gloves
- Hand pruners and/or small saw
- Closed-toe shoes & clothing you don't mind getting a little dirty!

HOW TO PLANT A PNPP TREE, continued...

PLANT THE TREE!

Lift the tree from the bottom of the root ball and place it gently in the hole. Do not lift by the trunk only, as this could damage the tree. You may need two people, depending on the weight/size of the root ball.

Rotate the tree in the hole. Sometimes, young trees have a slightly “flattened” branch structure. If that’s the case, rotate the tree so that its main branches run parallel to the street, instead of jutting out *into* the street or sidewalk. (If the tree is round/even in shape, position it however looks best to you!)

Make sure the tree is standing up straight. Let go of the tree & eyeball it from several directions to confirm that the trunk is straight. If you need to adjust it, gently tilt the tree in the hole and add or remove small amounts of soil until it looks right.

Backfill around the tree. Begin filling the hole with soil around the root ball until it is halfway full, then pack down the soil by stomping around the rootball. This stabilizes the tree and removes air pockets in the soil. Backfill the rest of the way, being careful not to bury the root flare.

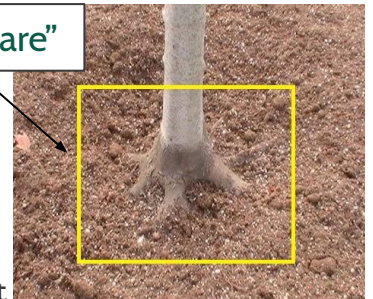
Remember: the root flare should be level with the ground--“at grade”.

Create a “berm” out of excess soil. About 12 inches away from the root flare, form a berm (or donut shape) around the tree by mounding up extra soil in a ring. This keeps water directed around the roots instead of running off into the street. (Note: if tree is on a hill, a berm is especially important on the downhill & curb side of the tree!)

Mulch your tree! Using the wood chip mulch that was dropped off along with your tree, cover all of the exposed soil with a 2-to-4-inch layer of mulch. As you did with the soil, pull the mulch away from the base of the tree so that it is not covering the root flare, and further build up the donut/berm.

WATER YOUR TREE! Water the tree right after planting, refer to the watering & tree care guide dropped off with your tree for instructions & tips.

“Root flare”



TAKE A PICTURE & SHARE IT WITH US! Send us pics of you and your household team planting and welcoming your new tree: Email to info@pnpp.org, or share with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram! **#PVDTreeLove** **#PlantingTogetherInSpirit** **#PNPPSpring2020**

HAVE QUESTIONS? NEED A VIRTUAL TREE PLANTING PEP TALK? Our *PNPP Tree Planting Tech Support Team* will be on call and ready to help! Send us a text between 9am and 3pm on your planting day, and we’ll reply to connect for a consult via the virtual method of your choice (phone, FaceTime, Zoom, etc.)!

TEXT Cassie: (401) 368-5380 ~or~ Candace (401) 426-0167