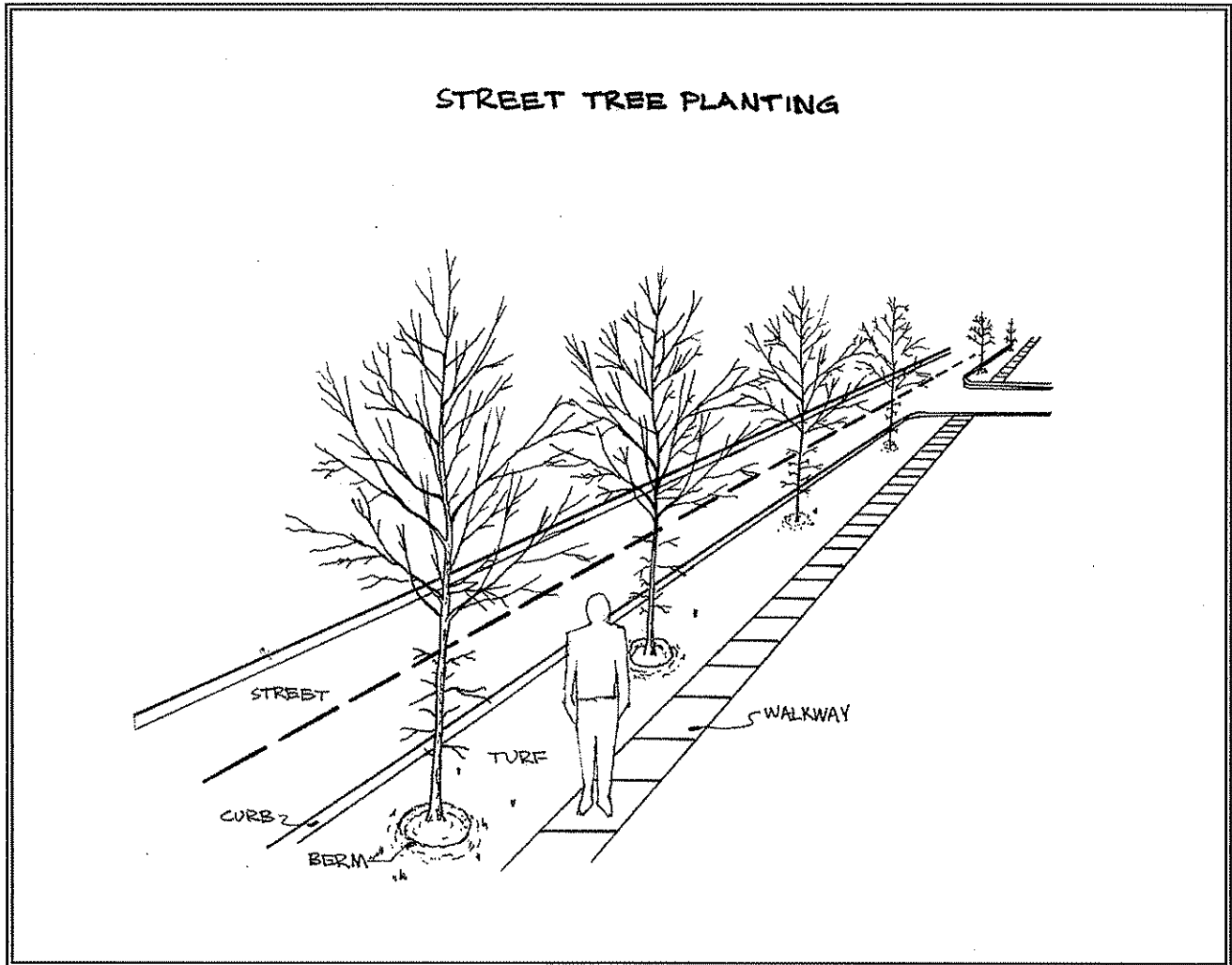


STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR STREET TREE PLANTING



CITY OF VISALIA Urban Forestry Guidelines



Tree Selection, Planting and Maintenance Guidelines

This section provides the City of Visalia's standards for selecting, planting and care of street trees. These guidelines are based on arboricultural industry standards and are backed by research and experience.

Preplanting / Improvement Plans

The Developer shall provide a street tree plan for all new developments. This can be a comprehensive plan, or a typical section which would be applied to the entire site. This plan shall specify tree species, location and spacing. The plan shall be submitted to the City of Visalia with the improvement plans. Street trees shall be managed through a Landscape and Lighting District. Improvement and street tree plans shall show locations of any overhead utility lines.

Guidelines for Species Selection

Species choice and planting locations have a major impact on the success of Visalia's urban forestry program. It is recommended that a single species be used on a given street, however, different trees species shall be used throughout a development. The City shall not accept a street tree plan concerning multiple streets that features a single species of tree. No more than 20% of the street trees in a development may be of the same species unless approved by the city arborist. Attached is a list of approved street trees.

City of Visalia Specifications for Container-Grown Trees

The highest quality tree possible should be selected. Generally, the cost of the tree is the least expensive part of the planting and care process. If poor quality trees are purchased and planted, the success of the long-term goals may not be realized. The city shall require all street trees meet city specifications for container-grown trees. City specification for nursery stock quality is attached.

Planting Sites

Street trees shall be planted in the public right of way, easements and medians along transportation corridors. Street trees planted along public corridors provide a dramatic visual impact while creating much needed shade. Street trees in parkways provide pedestrians with a shaded walking area separated from automobiles. Street trees shall be placed in the following locations:

1. Along streets in concrete cut outs in the sidewalks in commercial areas.
2. In parkways on residential streets and in the landscaped area surrounding a development.
3. In a front yard within 10' to 12' of the edge of the right of way and/or easement that extends into private property.
4. In street medians (which are in the center of a roadway separating the lanes of traffic).

Tree spacing

Tree spacing is an important element in a successful landscape. Tree spacing in some areas may vary because of drive approaches, lighting, and utilities.

Small trees - 20' to 25' apart. Small tree shall be used when planting under the utility lines. Small trees should be considered in the area between the wall and the back of sidewalk in the landscaped area surrounding the development. Small tree will generally not be approved for uses as street trees unless overhead utility lines are present.

Medium trees - 25' to 35' apart. Medium size trees can be used as street trees in parkways in front of homes and the back of sidewalks in the landscaped area surrounding the development.

Large trees - 30' to 45' apart. Large trees can be used as street trees in parkways in front of homes and in the landscaped area surrounding the development.

Tree Locations

1. One to two street trees shall be planted per residential lot (depending on lot size) or two to three per corner lot unless the lot is very large. The number of street trees required of commercial lots will be dependent on length of street frontage. Street trees shall be planted in parkways or concrete cut outs. Approximate spacing should be 30' to 45'.

-Trees are not to be planted within;

-5' of drive approaches

-5' of sewer lines

-5' of water lines

-10' of fire hydrants

-10' of light poles

2. Trees are not to be planted within clear vision triangle on corner lots.
Local Streets (30 mph) – 25' distance from side street curb face to first street tree.
Collector Streets (40 mph) – 50' distance from side street curb face to first tree.
Arterial Street (50mph) – 90' distance from side street curb face to first tree.
3. Trees should not be planted where they will obstruct the views of stop signs or traffic signals.
4. No tree that grows taller than 25' shall be planted under power lines.
5. The Street Tree Plan shall show all overhead power lines, and easements for underground utilities.

Planting

Planting a tree is an investment in time, money and the future. Correct planting procedures are critical to achieving a return on the investment. Good planting practices greatly improve plant establishment. The City of Visalia shall reject any street tree not planted according to standards. A planting detail is attached.

Digging the Planting Pit

In all but sandy soils, dig the hole to the depth of the root ball (but no deeper) and two to three times as wide.

Installing the Tree

Remove the tree from the container and cut circling roots and those matted at the bottom. Set the root ball so its top is at grade. Backfill with native soil and gently firm the soil to

hold the tree in place and minimize air pockets. All trees shall be watered in at planting. In turf areas, a 3-inch berm shall be formed around the root ball.

Turf

Within a six-foot parkway, there shall be no turf within a three-foot ring around the tree. In an eight-foot or greater parkway, a five-foot ring free of turf shall be formed around the tree. In the perimeter-landscaped area around a development, the trees shall be sited in a planter area free of turf. See attached details.

Mulch

Mulch can improve soil structure over long periods of time. The developer shall add mulch such as shredded bark or wood chips around the tree in the turf free ring. Mulch shall be three inches thick and be kept at least 3 inches away from the trunk. Shredded bark and larger wood chips also discourages lawn mowers and weed-eaters from hitting the tree trunk.

Staking

The amount of support needed to keep the tree straight is largely dependent on caliper and taper of the trunk and the height and size of the crown. A tree with good taper and moderate crown will not require a great deal of support. The tie should allow the tree to move and flex in the wind but keep the trunk from hitting the stake. If a single stake system is used, the stake should be installed on the windward side of the tree. If the double stake method is used, the stakes should be installed so that they are perpendicular to the prevailing wind.

Irrigation

Trees planted in turf do not require a separate irrigation system. Water from the overhead spray is expected to be sufficient. Bubblers are required if there is no overhead irrigation.

Pruning

Proper pruning is important to develop a strong framework in young trees by eliminating weak or defective structure, improving branch spacing, strengthening branch attachment and directing growth. Significant structural defects can be eliminated with early pruning.

- Young trees in L&Ls should be pruned once a year for the first five years.
- Adolescent trees (range in age from five to twelve years) shall be pruned on a three year cycle.
- Mature trees shall be pruned on a five to eight year cycle or depending on need.

Tree Inventory

The City of Visalia shall maintain an inventory of all public street trees. Developer shall provide the City of Visalia an inventory of all street trees in the computer program MS Excel. The city will provide the inventory base sheet.

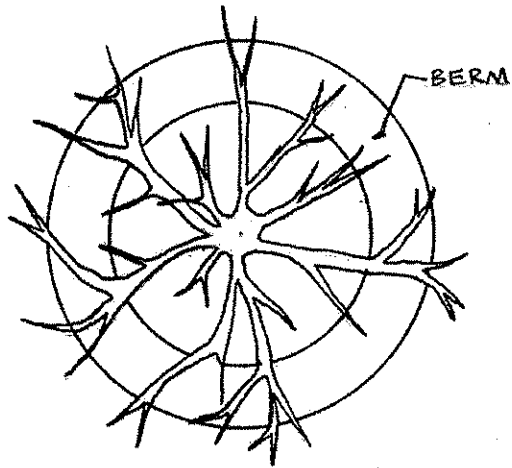
Tree Replacement

It is important to replant trees that die and have been removed. Developer shall be responsible for tree replacement for a one year period after initial planting.

TREE PLANTING IN PARKWAY DETAIL

TOP

SIDEWALK



CURB

STREET

LINEAR ROOT
BARRIER

TURF

TREE PLANTING IN PARKWAY DETAIL

SECTION

