

## VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TREE CARE AGREEMENT

*Congratulations on your new tree!* After planting, you will need to care for your young tree in order for it to become established and thrive. A city tree must battle many urban hazards daily — from air pollution and bicycles to dogs and people. In addition to above ground threats, tree roots also must contend with tough below-ground conditions. Because of this, it is essential to create as nurturing an environment as possible!

### ABOUT YOUR TREE

*How big is my new tree?* 1.5 - 2 caliper inch. Trees at this age are measured by caliper, or width of the trunk. Shade trees arriving to be planted will be approximately six to ten feet tall. If wires or size limiting obstructions are present, your tree will be a tree with smaller stature at maturity.

*What type of tree will I receive?* CommuniTree selects from a **diverse** list of urban appropriate trees available from the nurseries. A landscape composed of diverse trees is more resilient.

### WATERING

*Watering is the MOST important thing you can do for your new tree!* Watering trees during the first few years will help guarantee that your tree will grow to maturity. Due to compaction and pollution, urban soil is hydrophobic and difficult to penetrate.

- Water each young tree with **15 - 20 gallons once a week** between May and October. That's three to four large buckets.
- Water **slowly** so the water penetrates the soil and does not run off.

### WEEDING AND MULCHING

Street trees live in very small spaces that provide limited amounts of soil and nutrients. Mulch is simply organic matter applied in a ring around the tree and is the best way to keep your tree protected and healthy. Mulch acts as a blanket to hold moisture, moderate soil temperature extremes, and reduce competition from turf grass and weeds.

*Remove turf grass and weeds.* When removing the weeds, take out the entire root system. Leaving behind some of the plant material will allow for the weed to grow back.

*Mulch* in a donut shape around the tree using shredded bark, shredded leaves, or composted wood chips.

- Three to four inches in height of mulch is ideal. More than four inches may cause a problem with oxygen and limiting moisture to the tree roots.
- Tree trunk should **NOT touch the mulch**. When placing mulch, be sure that the actual trunk of the tree is not covered. Doing so may cause decay of the living bark at the base of the tree. A mulch-free area, two to three inches wide at the base of the tree, is sufficient to avoid moist bark conditions and prevent decay.

*Keep dogs and dog waste (both liquid and solid) out of the tree bed.* The waste will overwhelm a tree and burn its roots. A tree that is cared for is respected.

PLEASE SIGN THIS FORM

I have read this volunteer and tree care agreement. I am responsible for the care of this tree(s) for the next three years to ensure healthy establishment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address Date signed

*\* It is important to remember that a tree is not guaranteed to be planted until it is finally planted in the ground. Possible issues can concern utilities, electric lines, light and traffic signs, old stumps, or standing dead trees. Trees that die will not be replaced unless it was a problem with the nursery stock.*

