

Dear Hamden Resident,

The Hamden Tree Commission is committed to ensuring that Hamden has a healthy, sustainable tree canopy. The success of any tree planting relies on the cooperation and active participation of Hamden residents. Residents who request a town planted a tree are required to water and care for the trees for at least 3 years. Neighborhood streets that are in need of multiple trees are more likely to receive priority over streets that are in need of only one tree. We suggest residents who live on streets that need multiple trees coordinate with their neighbors when requesting trees be planted in their neighborhood. Please read through this document thoroughly before submitting your request. Requests will be reviewed by the Tree Commission and the Town Tree Warden.

The First 3 Years

For the first 3 years after planting, the trees will need extra care. Dependable weekly watering of the roots will feed the trees and help them to grow.

- During the first year, most tree growth is underground in the root system.
- The second year, the roots continue to grow and use more of the surrounding soil. This is also when the trees will begin to develop a canopy.
- The third year, the trees will grow in leaps – a beautiful and satisfying result of your commitment to care for the trees.

Your Commitment and Care is Essential for a Tree to Thrive and stay Alive

- Trees need water even when it rains. Water your tree 25 gallons once a week. We suggest using a 5 gallon bucket to help you measure. Without water, the trees will have trouble thriving and may die.
- When mowing or weed whacking, avoid hitting and damaging the trunk of the trees. The outer bark protects trees and without it they lose the ability to transport food and water.
- Keep mulch away from the trunk of the trees and avoid making mulch volcanoes around them. Mulch offers many benefits to newly planted trees but too much mulch can result in poor health and death. Maximum mulch depth is 3 inches.
- Do NOT top the trees. Not only is it disfiguring, it can compromise the health of the trees.

Below is a link to a printable informational booklet offered by the US Forest Service:

Tree Owner's Manual: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5368392.pdf

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