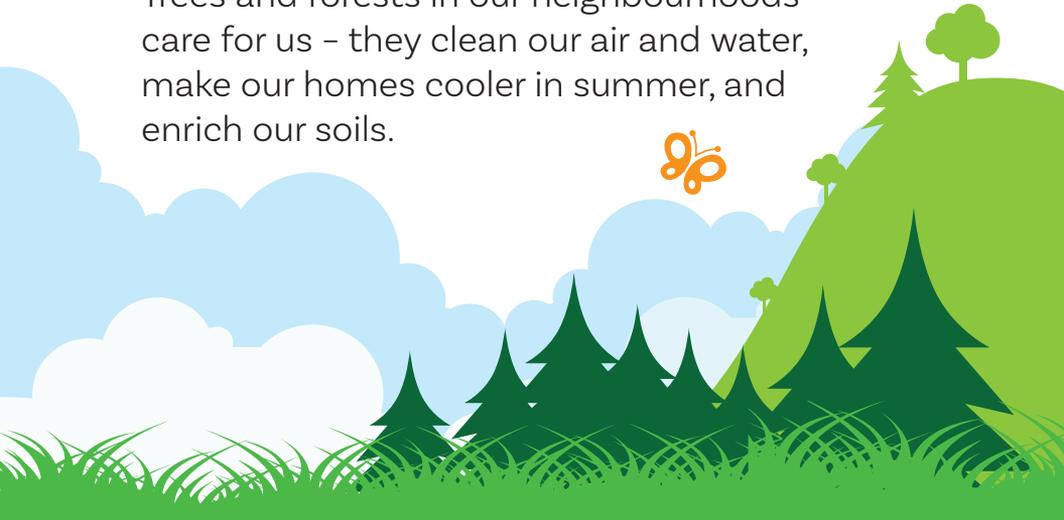


# CARING FOR OAKVILLE'S TREES



Love trees? Become an Oakville TreeKeeper!

Trees and forests in our neighbourhoods care for us – they clean our air and water, make our homes cooler in summer, and enrich our soils.

A stylized landscape illustration at the bottom of the page. It features a green grassy foreground, a row of dark green evergreen trees, and a light green hill on the right with a few smaller trees. The background consists of light blue and white clouds.

Our trees and forests support life and we need to support them! Here's how you can show Oakville's trees some TLC.

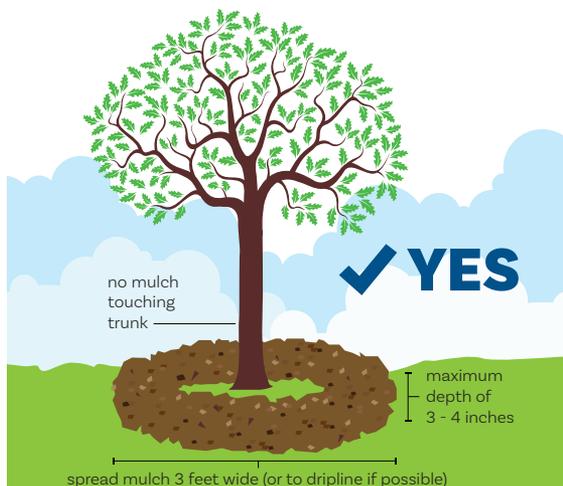
# How to respect a tree?

- 1 Don't attach anything to trees – tags, ties and decorations can cause trunk and branch damage.
- 2 Stakes and ties are rarely needed. Never use wire or rope to tie a tree straight. Ties should be made of wide, soft material and all stakes and ties should be removed one year after planting.
- 3 Pruning is best done by a qualified professional. Dead or crossing branches and branches that compete with the leader may need to be pruned out to establish a healthy tree.
- 4 Don't till around the base of a tree or raise the soil around a tree for a flower or vegetable garden. Pavers and asphalt should be kept well away from the critical root zone.
- 5 Trees need watering too! During the first few growing seasons, a young tree should be watered 1-2 times per week using a hose on a very low trickle for 15 min. Older trees will benefit from a deep soaking once per week. A soaker hose can be coiled under the canopy and left to drip for a few hours.
- 6 Don't use chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Compost and well-rotted manure can be sprinkled on the soil or mulch surface around a tree at any time of the year.
- 7 Keep weedwhackers, lawnmowers, and other tools away from the delicate trunk.
- 8 Mulch placed around the base of a tree is useful to hold moisture, improve soil conditions, prevent compaction and guard against mechanical damage, but please mulch responsibly!

## HOW TO MULCH RESPONSIBLY?



*Mulch volcano*



*Loose donut*

Planting a native tree NOW is one of the best things you can do for our urban forest! The right tree in the right place will...

- Beautify your home and neighbourhood
- Improve the air you breath
- Provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other biodiversity



## How to plant a tree?

1

Choose a native tree! Native trees are adapted to our region, so they handle climate extremes and other stressors better. Native trees also support biodiversity, including many threatened species. Native trees won't become invasive and disrupt local ecosystems. Purchase native trees using their Latin names at a reputable native plant nursery or check out Oakvillegreen's tree sale in March.

2

Select your site, select your tree. Selecting your planting site and your tree should go hand in hand. There's a tree for almost every location. Take some time to research soil conditions, space requirements and sun and water needs, so trees you select have all they need to thrive. Make sure to account for a tree's full height and canopy width and avoid planting trees under overhead wires, or too close to buildings and paved surfaces. If space is limited, consider a large shrub instead.

3

Not too deep, and not too high. Dig a hole as deep as the container (or root mass of the tree) and 2 to 3 times wider with sloping sides, like a saucer. Loosen roots and make 4 vertical cuts along the side of the root ball if the tree is root-bound in the container. Once the tree is seated in the hole, the tree's root collar should be in line with the level of the soil. Hold the tree upright, and back fill with the original soil, tamping down gently with your feet to make sure there are no air pockets and the tree is secure. In heavy clay soils, the back filled soil can be amended with potting soil but maintain a ratio of 1 part potting soil and 3 parts existing soil. Filling in the planting hole with a higher ratio of compost or potting soil will kill a tree.

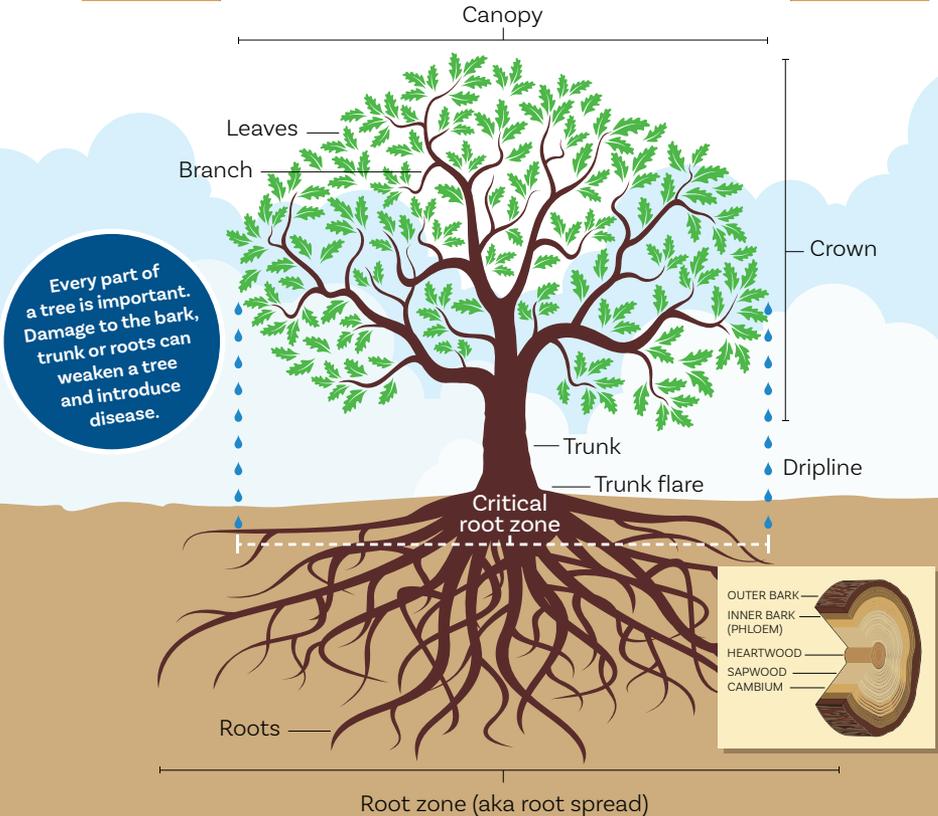
4

Create a water-holding basin around the hole and give the tree a good watering. The soil around your trees should be kept moist but not soggy.

5

Mulch responsibly. Coarse or composted woodchips (un-dyed!), leaves, or shredding bark can be placed around your tree. However, improper mulching may actually cause harm. Mulch should be placed in a donut shape with no mulch touching the trunk of the tree and at a depth of no more than 2-4 inches. **Say no to mulch volcanoes!**

# GET TO KNOW A TREE



## BECOME AN OAKVILLE TREEKEEPER!

**Oakville TreeKeepers** are urban forest stewards dedicated to caring for their urban trees and greenspaces. TreeKeepers are involved in activities such as planting, invasive species removal, inventory and seed collection. **Oakvillegreen** provides training, support and trees!

Call us: (289) 813-1568

Email: [programs@oakvillegreen.org](mailto:programs@oakvillegreen.org) Or visit: [www.oakvillegreen.org](http://www.oakvillegreen.org)



**Oakvillegreen** is a non-profit environmental organization working towards protecting & enhancing nature where you live.

### SUPPORTED BY:



Ontario  
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium  
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario