



# Tree Planting Location Standards

**Trees are not planted by citizen request or as part of development projects at locations without sidewalks.**

All sidewalks require a minimum width of 36 inches of clear sidewalk space remaining beyond the space of any tree planting location. Sidewalks less than five feet are too narrow to allow adequate space for new tree wells or planting strips.

The preferred clear sidewalk width is 48 inches and the optimum clear sidewalk width is 60 inches or more. Sixty inches is preferred in locations of high pedestrian use such as: commercial locations, hospitals, schools, and churches.

The *minimum* size for new tree wells, and the *minimum* width of new planting strips are:

Width of sidewalk (examples)	Tree well size (cut in sidewalk)	Planting strip width (from curb to sidewalk)	Tree size (when mature)
Five feet	2 x 4 (8 square feet)	Two feet	Small
Seven feet	3 x 6 (18 square feet)	Three feet	Medium
Nine feet	4 x 8 (32 square feet)	Four feet	Large

*Note:* The length of a continuous planting strip depends on the design and space available.

Tree location is determined by: 1) size of planting space, 2) presence of high voltage lines, 3) tree size at maturity, and 4) minimum distance requirements. No tree shall be planted under HV lines that grows to a height within the required clearance space (regardless of the existing tree species or size of planting space).

## Minimum distances from tree to infrastructure:

- **Five feet:** Water meter; water line; gas line; sewer line; drain line (through curb face); underground electric, cable/TV, or any other conducting utility; residential driveway; any utility vault/meter/box; newspaper box; and parking meters and pay stations.
- **Ten feet:** Crosswalk and flashing signal; commercial driveway; bus shelter and/or bench; and utility and light poles (for small trees).
- **Fifteen feet:** Fire hydrants; and utility and light pole (for medium-sized trees).
- **Twenty feet:** Street corners; stop and yield signs; traffic signals; and utility and light pole (for large-sized trees).

Distances between existing street trees and planting locations shall be the average crown spread of the mature size of the existing tree (S = 20', M = 30', L= 40').

Trees *shall not* be planted under utility pole guy wires anchored to the ground.

Trees *shall not* be planted under the existing canopy of privately-owned trees.

Trees *shall not* be planted where disabled-parking (blue) curbs exist.

*Many regulatory and informational street signs (parking enforcement, speed limit, etc.), waste receptacles, and bike racks may sometimes be moved to allow planting.*