How to Plant a Tree

1. Select a location free of overhead and underground utility conflicts with enough space for the mature size of the tree.
2. Dig a hole 2-3 times as wide as the container and as deep as the container itself.
3. Carefully remove the tree from the container. Try to keep the root ball intact.
4. Gently loosen up the outer roots and ensure that they will grow outward. Use scissors/pruners to cut any roots along the side of the root ball. Cut off the bottom 1” of the root ball.
5. Place the tree in the pre-dug hole. Keep the tree trunk at ground level when planted. Step back and make sure the tree is straight.
6. Begin to backfill with soil around the root ball. Fill the hole about halfway and lightly tamp down the soil to remove large air pockets. Continue to backfill and lightly tamp down until the entire hole has been filled.
7. Keep the mulch at least 2” away from the base of the tree, add a 2-3” thick ring of mulch around the tree about 3 feet in diameter.
8. Water your tree around the root ball every week during the growing months (April- November).

Thank you for planting a tree!

Your tree was grown in our Heritage Nursery on the Allegheny River. At Tree Pittsburgh, we’re dedicated to growing and protecting our urban forest through tree planting and care, education, and advocacy. To get involved with Tree Pittsburgh or for more information, visit our website at treepittsburgh.org.

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