

than once a week is optimal.

Newly planted young trees take three to five years to recover from transplant shock and develop a new root system deep enough to survive during periods of little rain. A widely accepted minimum watering standard is 1" of rain per week or 5 gallons of water. However, in the first year of transplanting and during high heat and drought trees benefit from more watering.

Adopters should find someone else to water their tree if they are going to be away for more than a week. This is crucial during the hottest summer months.

### **WATER SOURCE**

Lindon City parks usually have at least one water outlet and many use irrigation systems, but they are locked for safety reasons and to prevent theft. The critical thing you need from the Parks and Recreation Division is access to that water source.

### **WATERING EQUIPMENT**

The basic watering equipment used for the Adopt-a-Tree program is simple and inexpensive. (1) 5 gallon water bucket or (2) 2.5 gal water jugs, and a rubber hose with shut-off valve. A short length of hose (3 feet) should be sufficient for transferring water from the outlet to a water jug

(prevents coiling). If you live near enough by your adopted tree, feel free to use a long hose.

### **PRUNING**

Pruning of trees is a delicate and sensitive maintenance issue that needs to be handled by certified Arborists. We ask that participants NOT prune trees. Please let the office know if branches die, crack, fracture or need pruning. A certified arborist will assist in pruning.

### **WHAT'S INVOLVED**

If you love your community and want to give back to a great cause, sign up for the Adopt-A-Tree program, find a tree or trees you want to adopt, and help make our City a great place to live. [www.lindoncity.org](http://www.lindoncity.org) for more info.

Benefits of an Adopt-A- Tree program:

- Trees have a much greater chance of survival
- Adopters become invested in the park and the trees
- Tax dollars are saved because when new trees die, the cost and time invested are wasted
- Healthy young trees will provide the urban canopy for the future

### **Lindon City Parks & Recreation Department**

25 North Main Street  
Phone: 801-769-8636  
E-mail: [hbateman@lindoncity.org](mailto:hbateman@lindoncity.org)

# VIP



## TREE CARE GUIDE

## Adopt-A-Tree

Tel: 801-769-8636



# VIP Adopt-A-Tree Manual

Healthy trees offer amazing environmental benefits while bringing beauty and nature into our communities.

This manual provides a step-by-step guide to the Adopt-a-Tree program.

Adopt-a-Tree is a program where an individual, family or group becomes the caregiver for trees planted in the park. Trees need water; especially in the first few years after planting. Without enough water, young trees are at risk of dying before establishing their root system, which takes three to five years.

With an Adopt-a-Tree program, each tree or group of trees, is adopted by an individual (s) who agrees to regularly water, weed and mulch from May to October for up to five years.

## INDIVIDUAL ADOPT-A-PARK- TREE VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES

Annual removal of grass and other plant material and mulching around the tree's base (this would usually be in the spring when the City brings a pile of mulch). It is important to ensure that the mulch is not piled too high against the tree. Avoid volcano mulching.

Keeping the base of the tree free of weeds.

Weekly watering and ensuring the tree receives 5 gallons of water when there hasn't been a minimum of 1" of rain per 7-days.

Finding a holiday sub to tend the tree if they are away.

## CARING FOR YOUR TREE

### WEEDING

Weeds and grass compete with trees for water and nutrients and are also alleopathic (they produce a chemical which inhibits other plant growth, including trees). Tree weed grass free areas should be the distance and width of the crown. It should extend out as far as the furthest branches. On new our young trees, take a 4' string and make a circle around the tree and clear all grass and plant life away. This will make the area for mulching. Also, weeding and mulching will keep the temperatures cool, retain water and discourage weeds.

### MULCHING

For an annual mulching, you will need:

A pile of mulch, gloves, wheelbarrows, buckets, and shovels

*Mulch rings should look like a Donut*



*Avoid Volcano Mulching*

Proper mulching technique:

1. Use 6 to 8 small buckets of mulch around the tree mulch ring. (fill rings between 2" to 4").

2. Place around the base of the trunk in a doughnut shape, ensuring mulch is not piled up against or touching the base of the tree (this can cause rot of the bark)
3. Make the doughnut hole about 8" in diameter so that water is captured near the base and soak into the roots.

Mulch is important to:

- Capture water and ensure it soaks in rather than runs away
- Prevent water loss from soil through evaporation
- Insulate the fledgling roots during their winter hibernation
- Keep weeds down
- Discourage damage by weed whackers

### ACCESSING MULCH

Mulch is a critical part of the Adopt-a-Tree program. Ask the Parks Department for a free pile of mulch, which can be spread around trees by adopters in the spring.

### WATERING

It is generally best practice for adopters to water NEW trees once a week in order to ensure they get enough. It is not impossible to over-water young trees and in times of high heat and drought, especially in the first year of transplanting when watering more

