



City of Port Moody Street Tree Care Guide

About Adopt a Tree Port Moody

The aim of the Adopt a Tree program is to increase tree canopy on public boulevards. Residents request to adopt a tree, which the City then plants. Participating households help support the tree's early care, including watering and monitoring, with materials provided by the City such as a watering bag and protective tree guard.

With a focus on neighbourhoods with lower canopy cover, this partnership helps grow Port Moody's urban forest, improve neighbourhood livability, and strengthen our community's resilience to climate change.

Do you need more information?

-  604.469.4574
-  urbanforestry@portmoody.ca
-  portmoody.ca/trees

Residents participating in the Adopt a Tree program make a commitment to care for a City-owned street tree on a public boulevard near their property. This guide provides instructions on watering and monitoring a street tree to support its healthy establishment.

1. Water your tree regularly

Watering is the most important thing you can do for your tree, especially in the first three years of its growth. The City provides a slow-release watering bag to make the process easier.

Start using your watering bag in late spring, and remove it in the fall. During fall and winter, the watering bag is not necessary, and can create conditions that are harmful to the tree.

When to water

- Once a week from May to September
- Twice a week during hot or dry weather
- Skip watering during the rainy season or when the ground is frozen

How to fill the watering bag

1. Place the back of the bag against the tree trunk and wrap both sides around the trunk until the zippers meet. Zip the bag from bottom to top.
2. Lift the top flap to access the fill opening and insert a hose (up to 3" wide) and fill about one-quarter full. If no hose is available, use a watering can or bucket to fill gradually.
3. Gently lift the two black straps to expand the bottom and fill the bag completely (~40 L).
4. Ensure the bag is zipped and sitting flat against the trunk and check that the drain holes are unobstructed to allow slow release.
5. The bag will empty over five to nine hours.



► Scan to find
step-by-step images.

2. Remove weeds and protect the base

- Keep weeds and grass away from the trunk to reduce competition for water.
- Leave the protective tree guard in place to help prevent damage from lawn equipment.
- Use small hand tools and avoid string trimmers or lawnmowers near the base to prevent bark damage.
- Do not dig or edge around the base – tree roots are shallow and easily damaged.

3. Maintain the watering bag and tree guard

- The watering bag and tree guard help protect your tree from heat stress and physical damage.
- Ensure both are upright, secure, and not rubbing against the trunk.
- Each fall, remove the watering bag in November to prevent damage from freezing temperatures.
- Reinstall the watering bag in May each year and use it throughout the dry season.
- Plan to use the watering bag for three to five years, or until the tree is well established.
- Contact us at urbanforestry@portmoody.ca or 604.469.4574 if the bag or guard is missing or damaged.

4. Leave pruning and maintenance to the City

- Do not prune your street tree. City staff will manage structural pruning, pest control, and other maintenance. The City will also remove the support stakes after approximately two years, once the tree is well established.

5. Let us know if you need help

- If you notice pests, wilting leaves, storm damage, or if you're no longer able to water your tree, contact us so we can help.



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Why plant trees?

Street trees provide benefits such as:

- improved water and air quality from filtering out pollutants;
- added wildlife habitat which helps support increased biodiversity;
- strengthened connection to nature, which helps reduce stress;
- shade which helps cool the surrounding area; and
- reduced costs associated with heating and cooling nearby buildings



Street trees work hard

Street trees grow in some of the toughest conditions. They face compacted soil, heat from pavement, limited root space, and exposure to road salt, pollution, and physical damage. Unlike forest trees, they don't benefit from natural leaf litter, shade, or shared root networks.

That's why their early care – especially watering and keeping the base clear – is so important. A little support in the first few years can make the difference between struggling and thriving.

Want to share your tree story?

Your participation is what makes the Adopt a Street program possible. If you'd be open to sharing your experience or being featured in a future social media post, we'd love to connect. Email us at urbanforestry@portmoody.ca or 604.469.4574