



## NEWS RELEASE

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# ***Help Save Newly planted Trees in Minneapolis***

**Aug. 4, 2005 (MINNEAPOLIS)** Due to dry soil conditions the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Forestry Section is encouraging residents of Minneapolis to water newly planted boulevard trees as part of its "Adopt A Tree" program. Trees throughout Minneapolis are showing severe signs of stress and many are dying due to lack of moisture.

**What needs water?** Please help by watering newly planted boulevard trees.

**How often?** It's very important to water newly planted trees once every seven to ten days during the growing season when dry soil conditions exist.

**Why are trees in trouble?** If the small feeder roots dry out the tree will die. *It would take a three-inch rainfall to bring the soil moisture back to good growing conditions so keep watering even if it rains.*

### **How you should water:**

- Newly planted trees; water by placing your hose under the crown of the tree, turn the water on at a slow rate and water for two (2) hours. If a garden hose is not available, apply at least 20 gallons (4-5 gallon pails of water) slowly around each young tree.
- For established trees both evergreen and deciduous; run your sprinkler so that each time you water you are applying two inches of water. How do you know when you have put down 2" of water? Place several tin cans in the radius of your lawn sprinkler. When the average depth in the cans is 2 inches you have provided enough water to moisturize soil to a depth of 10-12 inches. Currently our soils are very dry down at least 15-18 inches. Once established a trees roots will grow out three times as wide as the crown of the tree so it's a good idea to water this whole area.

### **How can you help keep the soil moist around tree roots?**

Mulch! Mulch! Mulch! It is best to maintain a 4-inch layer of mulch (such as wood chips) around your trees. Young or newly planted trees should have at least a two foot radius of mulch placed around the trunk of the tree. For older trees, a 6-foot or larger radius of mulch is effective and attractive. However, do not heap mulch around the tree trunk. Place the mulch so that it is kept a few inches away from the trunk of the tree.

### **Where can I obtain 'Free' mulch?**

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Forestry Section makes woodchips available to anyone who can use them. There are currently 16 neighborhood sites located throughout the city. The sites are listed on the MPRB Web site.

For questions or comments, please call the Forestry Section at 612-370-4900 and check the MPRB Web site for wood chip locations at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)