

Guidelines for Tree Planting Projects

► Care for existing trees!

Before planting more trees think about how you might involve students in learning about and caring for the trees already on their school ground. Mulching trees annually to protect them and watering during drought conditions can help to build the culture of stewardship that will be needed to care for trees. See the seasonal stewardship plan template on pages 161-162 for seasonal tree care activities.

► Large and small trees

Both large and small trees can be planted on Board property, but who plants them depends on their size and location. Large trees (suitable for planting in active play areas in the turf or in asphalt) have a 70-75mm trunk diameter and weigh 250-350kg. These must be planted by Board staff. Small trees typically come as bare root stock, in a pot, or wrapped in burlap and are more vulnerable to the rigours of play. These can be planted by students. They must be planted in protected areas of the school ground (e.g., naturalized areas where lawn care equipment is prohibited and/or at the front of the school with enough tub ground mulch to protect the trees from mowers).

► Choose native species!

Native species of trees and shrubs are hardier and more likely to survive the tough growing conditions of school grounds. Native species also increase our city's biodiversity, provide habitat for wildlife, and give students a chance to study plants that are part of our

natural heritage. Sometimes non-native species are required to fulfill a particular goal (e.g., maintaining clear access routes).

► Recommended species

Tree species recommended for TDSB schools are listed in the Native Plant Database on the Evergreen website: http://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/lists/view-list.php?list_ID=00150. To help you assess different species' UVR protection, see the Canopy Density Guide, page 45 of *Designing for Shade and Energy Conservation* (2007).

► Recommended size and prices

Trees need to meet minimum size requirements of 70-75mm diameter trunk width for deciduous and 2.5-3m in height for evergreens to improve their chances of survival in areas of active play. Trees purchased through the TDSB will meet these size requirements. See page 82 of this guide for details on pricing.

► Tree locations: Designing your project for shade and energy conservation

For help with placing your trees where they will provide the greatest benefits, see pages 47-60 of *Designing for Shade and Energy Conservation* (2007).

Note: See also Shade and Energy Conservation Questionnaires (page 154); the EcoReview Site Assessment for Shade and Energy Conservation (pages 155-156); and Sample Letter to Announce Your Shade Project (page 157).

Guidelines for Tree Planting Projects (cont'd)

FACT SHEETS

Keeping Trees Healthy

www.evergreen.ca/docs/res/Planting-Trees-4-Keeping-Healthy.pdf

Tree Planting Do's and Don'ts

www.evergreen.ca/docs/res/Planting-Trees-5-Do-Dont.pdf



▶ **Tree planting specifications and standard practices**

See pages 71-75 of *Designing for Shade and Energy Conservation* (2007) for detailed illustrated guidelines for successful planting under different conditions (e.g., in turf, in poorly drained soils, in asphalt, and near salt runoff).

▶ **Plan for tree care!**

Think ahead! The more you plan for tree care in the beginning, the less work there will be later on, and the healthier the trees! Especially in the first 2 to 3 years, your new trees and shrubs will need special care. This is a wonderful opportunity for student stewardship.

Watering: See pages 96-97 of this guide for a helpful watering technique. From May to August for the first 2 to 3 years, every tree needs 30 gallons of water every week. From September to mid-October, each tree requires 30 gallons of water every 2 weeks. See page 160 for a Watering Schedule Sign-Up Sheet.

Mulching: See pages 94-95 of this guide. Top up the mulch around trees as needed to a 6" (15 cm) depth.

Protection strategy: New trees need protection! See pages 79-82 in *Designing for Shade and Energy Conservation* (2007). Appoint a school "tree advocate" to ensure that your tree care plan is carried out.