

Trees for Tribs Maintenance Information



Paxton Creek Watershed
and Education Association

The first several years after planting young trees are the most critical toward their long-term success. In order to give the trees the best chance for survival; the following maintenance activities should be undertaken.

MONITORING: Doing a visual assessment of the trees is a good practice to ensure tree success. Look for tree damage, disease, erosion, invasive plants, vandalism, drought, or damaged shelters.

- Deep regular watering during the first growing season.
- After one full growing season, water only during times of drought.
- Replace dead trees as needed.
- Complete Tree Shelters & Stakes Checklist and Invasive Species & Weeds Checklist.

New trees should be monitored four times annually for the first three years after installation, and then twice annually in years four and five.

Check shelters and stakes quarterly. Ensure the bottom edge of shelter is pressed one inch into the ground.

TREE SHELTERS & STAKES: Tree tubes minimum damage from wasps, birds, rodents, and other wildlife. Stakes help maintain the direction the tree is growing.

- Fix any downed, damaged or leaning shelters.
- Re-drive loose stakes, replace any broken or rotten stakes.
- Remove any wasp nests.
- Remove shelter in late winter, if tree diameter = 1.5"-2".

INVASION SPECIES & WEEDS: Controlling invasive weeds and other competing vegetation leaves more soil moisture and other resources for seedlings. Early detection and treatment of noxious and invasive plants can avoid major infestations and treatment costs.

- Mowing is a useful tool vs. voles and weeds (years 2-3), but can prevent natural tree regeneration.
- A mulch of wood and/or geotextile fabric should be placed in a 3'-4' diameter circle around trees. Do not place directly against trunk or mound the mulch. Do not mulch if area floods frequently.
- Apply broad-spectrum herbicide only to control perennial noxious plants (3' strips along shelters or 4' circles). NOTE: PA highly regulates herbicides and application should be supervised by a certified applicator.

More information on the best care for riparian buffers and a schedule for care can be found in the [Landowner Guide to Buffer Success](#) prepared by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.