

“Mulch Volcanoes”

Never heard of a mulch volcano? It's a term applied to the pile of mulch around the base of a tree to form what looks like a volcano as it angles up the tree trunk.



Example of a mulch volcano

The Problem: Mulch volcanoes are most injurious to young trees, and, unfortunately, that is where they are seen most often. Such trees may struggle to become established and often die within five years of planting. Other problems include:



Example of root girdling

- Root girdling: Roots begin to grow around the main stem of the tree and cut off or restrict the movement of water, plant nutrients and stored food reserves
- Rain cannot easily penetrate through thick mulch
- Growth of fungi is promoted
- Failure to develop a normal root flare, which means lack of stabilization



Brennan Woods street tree pruning crew (2008).

Interested in helping?

This service is FREE to neighborhoods who would like to participate.

This program includes a work shop and two work days a year that typically occur in the Spring and Fall. The town will provide all necessary equipment and expertise.

Town staff would be happy to speak with your Homeowners Association upon request.

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“Promoting and Maintaining the Health and Vitality of Williston’s Street Trees”





Pruning Initiative for Neighborhood Trees (PINT)

Williston's Urban Forest

The Town of Williston has seen a marked expansion in its urban forest over the past several decades, due in



Brennan Woods Street Tree Pruning Workday (2008).

large part to significant commercial and residential growth in the municipality. In 2005,

the Town completed a street tree inventory with

the help of TLC (*Trees for Local Communities*) grant funding, which indicated that 77% of public trees in

Williston are very small and over 96% of all public trees would benefit from one or more types of routine

pruning. With help from TLC, a Community Forestry Plan was developed in 2007, which established struc-

tural pruning of Williston's young trees as a priority, and recommended the establishment and training of

volunteer citizen pruning crews to accomplish some of this work.

Program Objectives

The goal of this project is to organize and develop self-sustaining citizen volunteer pruning crews interested in maintaining street trees within their own neighborhood. The volunteer pruning crews will achieve several goals of Williston's urban forestry program, which include:

- *Supplementing the tree maintenance activities of the Public Works Department which, in isolation, is not able to conduct the volume of preventative maintenance needed.*
- *Increasing awareness and support for the fledgling urban forestry program in Williston.*
- *Engaging with neighbors, the community, and the suburban landscape while caring for the large number of very young trees in Williston.*

If these young trees are encouraged via structural pruning to develop a strong form, they will be healthier, longer-lived street trees and will provide the benefits of a healthy urban forest to all.

What is a Street Tree?

A street tree is a tree along the road and within the town Right-Of-Way (ROW). The ROW extends out approximately 32 feet from the center of the road on both sides. The town is responsible for the health and maintenance of all trees within the ROW but does not have the manpower to tend to all of Williston's street trees. *This is why we need your help!*

Why prune the trees?

The most critical time to prune trees is when they are young. Young trees are easier to prune because they are small and heal quickly. There are three main reasons why we prune trees:

- **Safety:** Pruning will remove branches that could fall and cause injury or property damage and could interfere with utility lines, snow plows, and lines of sight from streets or driveways.
- **Health:** Pruning will eliminate diseased or insect-infested wood, thin the crown to increase airflow, and remove crossing and rubbing branches. This will encourage trees to develop a strong structure and reduce the likelihood of damage during severe weather.
- **Aesthetics:** Pruning will enhance the natural form and character of the trees.