

Athens-Clarke County

***Tree Management Plan – CO Inspection Checklist***

***Planning-Arborist***



	Yes	No	NA
<b>Site preparation standards</b>			
The soil within the open soil surface area should be well aerated to a depth of eight inches, except that in tree planting islands surrounded by pavement it should be well aerated to a depth of 18 inches			
The soil should contain at least five percent organic matter.			
Soil pH should be within a range of 5.8 to 7.0			
An approved chamber system of structural soil mix containing 80 percent rock aggregate, 15 percent mineral soil, and a sticking agent may be used within parking lots and other paved areas to increase the rooting volume available to trees.			
<b>Tree planting standards</b>			
In undisturbed soils and prepared soils the planting hole should be at least two times as wide and no deeper than the root ball of the tree, shall have sides sloping inward from the top, and the bottom shall be firm soil.			
In compacted soils, the planting hole should be at least three times as wide and no deeper than the root ball of the tree, have sides sloping inward toward the bottom, and have firm soil on the bottom			
The tree should be planted no deeper than it was growing in the container or field and the trunk flare should be visible above the ground			
All strapping, webbing, twine, strings, and other such material should be removed from the root ball.			
The burlap and wire basket, if present, should be removed to a minimum depth of 12 inches and to a greater extent if possible.			
In no case should any burlap be located above the soil surface.			
Tree staking is not required, but if installed it should be removed no later than one year after planting.			

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	Yes	No	NA
<b>Mulching standards</b>			
Trees should be mulched immediately after planting			
Mulch should be composed of organic materials only and may include, but is not limited to, pine straw, leaves, wood chips aged at least three months, compost, and pine bark			
Grass clippings, plastic sheeting, and rocks or gravel should not be used as mulch and shall not be applied within the tree protection zone.			
For all trees the critical root zone should be mulched out from the trunk at least one-third the distance to the outer edge of the critical root zone, except that no mulch ring shall have a radius less than 2.5 feet or shall be required to be greater than ten feet.			
Mulch should be three to four inches in depth, and shall be spread in an even layer from six inches out from the trunk to outer extent of the mulched area.			
Mulch is not allowed closer than six inches to the tree trunk			
Mulch should be applied at least annually, preferably in the late winter or early spring			

**\*The above is not an all-inclusive list but was created to help guide an applicant through the utility line extension process. Project specific details may vary.\***