



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE
318 E. SECOND AVENUE
TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA 15084
724.224.1818

APRIL 10, 2021

Re: Tree Pittsburgh Adoption Event

These are a few helpful tips to be sure you find a planting location that complies with the Tree Ordinance for the Borough of Tarentum and assures that your tree(s) can survive and thrive where they are planted.

1. First and foremost, you should call PA-One Call (Call Before You Dig) 1-800-242-1776 at least 2 weeks before planting your tree(s) so that the various utility companies can mark any buried utility lines. It is a free service. This way, any buried utilities on your property will be marked with spray paint so that you can avoid hitting them while digging. This will help you to avoid injury, avoid costly repair or replacement of buried gas, water, or electric lines, and it will help you to plant trees so that their roots do not eventually damage underground lines. If you follow the procedure, and the lines are marked and there is damage, you will not be held liable for the damage. This gives the homeowner some legal protection.
2. Please do not plant trees directly under power lines. This includes the main power lines that run along the Borough right-of-way, usually along sidewalks and alleyways, and the electric service drop that runs from the utility pole to your house. When these trees mature, they can grow tall enough that their branches can interfere with the power lines and then the tree must be aggressively pruned or removed entirely.
3. If you have only a narrow strip of grass along your front sidewalk (This is a Borough Right-of-Way), this may not be enough space for the tree to thrive, and its roots will eventually be too large for the space and will lift and crack the curb and sidewalk. This repair would be the responsibility of the homeowner. We also ask that trees be planted at least 10 feet from fire hydrants and streetlights.
4. And finally, although these may not be marked by the One Call, please avoid planting above or near sewer lines. These typically run in a straight line from the house to the street or alley. Often there is a cleanout cap visible in the yard. If there is any doubt, the Borough's Public Works Department may be able to assist in generally locating these sewer lines.
5. If you have a desired location picked out, you can mark the spot with white spray paint or some other means, and Borough Code Enforcement can inspect to see if it is a suitable location.
6. Be sure to water your new trees daily during the first few weeks of planting and during the summer months if there is not adequate rainfall!

Very truly yours,

Anthony Bruni,
Tarentum Code Enforcement Officer