



Park Meadows  
METRO DISTRICT

# PMMD Tree Maintenance Plan

## 1. Identify trees

For example, Tree 1: Autumn Purple Ash

Age: 1-5 years

Height: 6-12 feet

Location: Full sun in the city right-of-way (ROW)

## 2. Purpose of plan

The purpose of this tree management plan is to define practices that protect and maintain trees on the City of Lone Tree property. Some specific objectives of this plan are:

- First and foremost: the safety of the community living with the trees
- Second: the health of the tree
- Third: the aesthetic appeal of the tree

## 3. Watering plan:

Age	Water (Gallons)	Frequency per week
0 - 6 months	3	7
6 – 12 months	8	4
1 – 2 years	10	4
2 – 5 years	20	2
5 – 8 years	40	1
> 8 years	The tree should now be deep rooted enough to draw from the water table below ground.	Winter watering as necessary during drought or dry winter.

## 4. Pruning schedule for deciduous trees:

Depending on the age of the tree, the pruning schedule will differ. The below timeframes are not hard and fast rules as all trees grow at different rates and require formative pruning more regularly than others. The below is a good

guide if the trees do not need pruning beforehand from encroaching on walking paths.

**a) Objectives** – Clear objectives need to be established before pruning. These objectives might change from one prune to another and should be clearly stated before you start.

See the schedule below for common pruning objectives

<b>Tree age (yrs)</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Common objectives</b>
< 5	annually	Structural, train to single leader
5 – 15	2 - 5 years	Structural, Clearance, thinning
15 – 25	5 years	Thin, deadwood, clearance
25 +	8 years	Dead, dying, diseased or defective branches

**Common objectives of pruning:**

1. Raising the canopy “canopy lift” – This is pruning the lower branches of a tree to allow more light into a building or to grass below. It might also be to allow foot or car traffic to pass more easily.
2. Thinning the tree – Canopy thinning is the practice of removing some inner and/or crossing branches to let more light and airflow to the center of the tree. This reduces potential future fungal issues.
3. Reduction – This refers to the removal of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> order branches to reduce the overall size of the tree.
4. Obstacle clearance – It is common to remove branches that are growing into signs, buildings, power lines, or impeding walking paths.
5. Dead wood removal – This practice routinely removes dead branches on mature trees. Some trees more commonly have branches that die and shed. It is better for the tree and safer for pedestrians to remove these branches before they fall.

**Pine trees:** Park Meadows Metropolitan District generally does not trim pine trees. Most pine trees need their lower branches to provide shade and aid in retaining moisture. Trimming pine trees in this arid desert climate can lead to damage, pest encroachment, and less moisture retention at their base because they dry out from drought. While Ponderosa Pines lose their lower limbs naturally this is not a normal or optimal practice for all pine trees.

## **Common ongoing services:**

**Ground cover:** Mulch area around the tree base and refresh every 2 years. PMMD turns over mulch and replaces mulch on an ongoing schedule every other year.

**Fertilize:** This should be done once every 1 – 2 years no matter the age. Be particularly careful with juvenile trees that can die from been given too much chemical fertilizer. Compost or any type of natural fertilizer is best.

**Mycorrhizae application:** This should be done when planting trees and when trees come out of winter dormancy. PMMD provides this service regularly.

**Soil Flushing:** This should be done when winter street maintenance is complete to flush the magnesium chloride from the soil. PMMD does this regularly.

**Spraying:** Spraying is done on an annual or semi-annual basis to prevent Ash Borer, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), and Ips beetles. Ash trees are sprayed for ash borers, pine and spruce trees are sprayed for Ips beetles.

**Other applications:** PMMD provides aphid and mite applications as needed in the summer months for all trees. PMMD provides a winter watering program when irrigation is off in winter months.