Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Our trees need water now

Our yard and boulevard trees need watering now and weekly throughout the spring, summer and fall. Minneapolis had the driest fall on record, the 10th lowest snowfall in more than 100 years, and nine years of drought. Years of high temperatures and drought conditions are a problem even for otherwise healthy trees and put them at serious risk of long-term damage.

Extended drought conditions can make trees vulnerable to insects and disease and cause permanent damage to young and old trees alike. Young trees three to five years old are especially susceptible.

The ground is thawed enough now in the metro area to begin watering weekly. An effective way for residents to water the trees in their yards and along the boulevard is to turn on a slow trickle of water for a few hours. Watering in the evening is most effective since it minimizes evaporation, and trees tend to take most of their water during the night. If it rains any less than one inch in a week, trees need to be watered to help them recover from the last years of drought. Watering one tree weekly for five months costs only about $3.

If it's easy to lose track of when you last watered a tree, try watering it on the day your trash is picked up and make trash day also water-the-tree day.

For information on tree care and the urban forest, call the Park Board's Forestry Division at 612-313-7710, email forestry@minneapolisparks.org or visit www.minneapolisparks.org.

Research has proven that trees are valuable and improve our quality of life. Healthy trees are beautiful, increase property values, help improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide, save energy, keep the city cooler, provide homes for wildlife and help manage stormwater.