

# TREE PLANTING AND PRESERVATION

## Fact Sheet SDM-3

Also known as: Interceptor Trees

### DESCRIPTION

Tree planting and preservation involves planting of new trees and preservation of existing trees to reduce storm water runoff volumes from a new development or redevelopment site. Trees intercept rain water on their leaves and branches before it lands on impervious surface below, allowing rain water to evaporate or run down the branches and trunk of the tree where it readily infiltrates into the soil. Trees absorb infiltrated runoff through their roots and further reduce storm water runoff by means of transpiration. Trees also provide shade over impervious surfaces which reduces the “heat island” effects of urban areas. Tree planting and preservation should be implemented on residential lots, throughout landscape corridors, in commercial and industrial parking lots, and along street frontages.



Tree protection during construction  
Photo Source: CDM Smith

### INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

A maintenance plan shall be provided with the SWQP. The maintenance plan shall include recommended maintenance practices, state the parties responsible for maintenance and upkeep, specify the funding source for ongoing maintenance, and provide a site specific inspection checklist. At a minimum, maintenance shall include the following:

Irrigate as necessary to establish and maintain trees.

Remove fallen leaves and debris annually to prevent materials from being transported in storm water runoff.

Prune dead vegetation from trees on a regular basis.

Minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Maintain lawn and turf at least 24 inches from trunk of tree.

Remove and replace dead trees as needed.

If applicable, contact the proprietary product manufacturer for specific maintenance requirements.

### REFERENCES

Placer County Planning Services Division. 2013. Placer County Landscape Design Guidelines.

Available online at: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/documentlibrary/designguidelines/>

Sacramento County, et al. 2014. Storm water Quality Design Manual for the Sacramento Region. Available online at: <http://www.beriverfriendly.net/newdevelopment/stormwaterqualitydesignmanual/>