

## TAKE CARE OF YOUR TREES

**WE ARE LOSING OUR BEATIFUL TREE CANOPY! WE NEED YOUR HELP!** The trees that make Takoma Park ‘Tree City U.S.A.’ are under siege. Although 60% of our fair city is covered with tree canopy, many of our beautiful old trees are nearing the end of their lifespan, and all are stressed, from recurrent drought, rising temperatures, air pollution and development. But YOU can make a difference! Nurture the trees you have, and plant new ones. Trees cool your property, reduce storm water runoff and take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Remember, only YOU can prevent global warming, by planting and nurturing your trees.

Become a Takoma Park Tree Steward today. Take the following steps to nurture your trees and download a certificate from: <http://takomaparkmd.gov/committees/tree/index.html>

- (1) I water my trees regularly, especially during droughts and hot weather (approximately 25 gallons per week, regardless of size or age).
- (2) I lay no more than 2inches of leaf or wood mulch annually around, but not against, the base of my trees (no mulch volcanoes!)
- (3) I don’t allow vines such as English ivy, porcelain-berry, kudzu and wisteria to grow on my trees.
- (4) I avoid compacting the soil around my tree roots (with heavy machinery or lots of foot traffic, for example).
- (5) I don’t cut into the root zone of my trees.
- (6) I plant native or non-invasive introduced species in my yard. Native trees commonly grown in Takoma Park include white oak, northern and southern red oak, willow oak, pin oak, American beech, tulip tree, red maple, sycamore, among many others. Desirable non-native species include ginkgo and dawn redwood.
- (7) I avoid planting invasive, exotic trees such as Norway maple, Bradford pear, mimosa and Princess tree. I remove invasive trees that volunteer in my yard, such as tree-of-heaven.
- (8) I encourage a mix of young, middle-aged and mature trees in my yard, and plant new trees to ensure a future generation of mature trees for our children and grandchildren.

For more tips on tree care, go to Casey Trees: <http://caseytrees.org/resources/basic-tree-care/index.php>. Another good tree resource is the Arbor Day Foundation: <http://www.arborday.org/trees/index.cfm>

For a list of desirable and undesirable trees for the Washington area, see the following link: <http://caseytrees.org/resources/tree-types/index.php>

If you have an iphone, try leafsnap (<http://leafsnap.com/>) to identify your trees!