

Best Practices – Mulching Specification and Management

Revised 2-7-2021

Best Practices documents serve as the Serrano Park Community Association specifications for projects and area management. These are to be referenced in contracted work orders and used to inspect the completed work orders. These are the agreed upon the industry standards as they apply to Serrano Park.

Background:

Mulching is important to the health of the trees and shrubs, since it helps to simulate the forest environment by providing nutrients and minerals through decomposing woody tree material. Proper mulching improves the appearance of the landscape as well as increasing the carbon sequestering in the soil.

Mulch Quality:

The mulch used in the Serrano Park green areas, must meet the following criteria:

- Composed of leaf, bark, and wood chips from local tree and brush trimmings as the bio-source.
- Cannot contain grass nor conifer needles.
- No chemical additives or dyes.
- Bake using the natural decomposing process to kill weeds and seeds and create active growth of the beneficial micro-organisms.

Tree mulch circle specifications:

- Mulch circle is to be approximately to the dripline of the tree but no smaller than 3 feet in diameter.
- The mulch is kept 3 inches from the trunk.
- The mulch depth is to be 3 to 6 inches deep. Neither dripline nor dirt should ever be exposed.

General mulch specifications:

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- When mulching around the Clubhouse, the mulch must remain well below the Clubhouse floor level.

Mulch maintenance:

- Mulch as needed. Neither dripline nor dirt should ever be exposed in any mulched area.
- Adjust mulching intervals as necessary.

References:

- “*Uniform Voluntary Product Guidelines for Horticultural Mulches, Growing Media and Landscape Soils*”, Mulch & Soil Council, 2015
- “*Caring for New Trees*”, Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program
- “*Tree Planting Best Management Practices*”, 2014. 2nd ed. Champaign, IL: International Society of Arboriculture
- *New Tree Planting*. 2011. International Society of Arboriculture

- *“Arboriculture, Second Edition, Mulches p350-365,”* Richard Harris, 1992
- *“Carbon Sequestering in Soils”*, Ecological Society of America