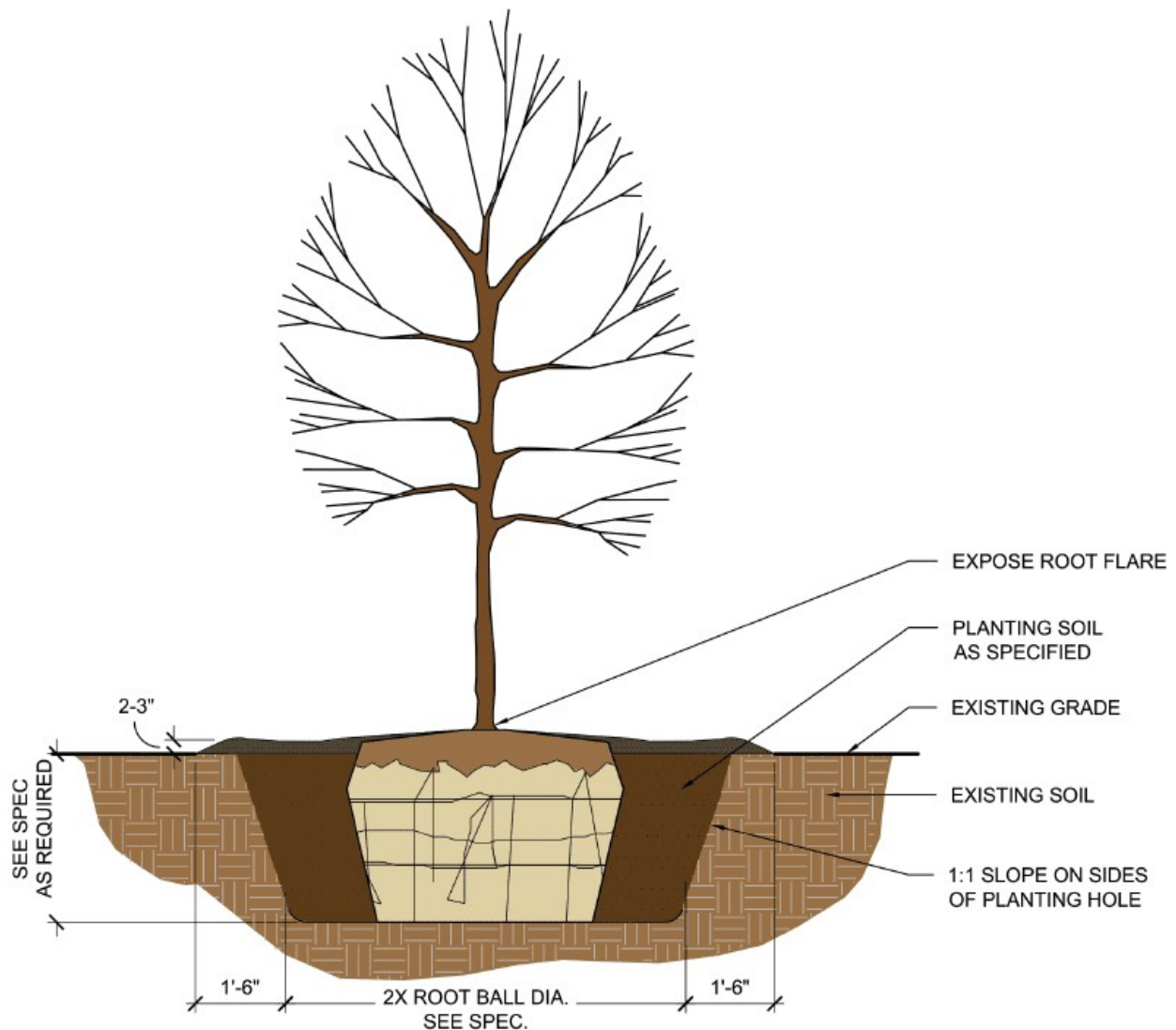


## Proper Tree Planting

Trees provide a multitude of benefits to the residents of Avon Lake, and we enjoy seeing healthy mature trees in our yards and parks. This time of year, from March through early May, is an excellent time to plant most tree species – if you do it correctly.

Tree planting and immediate aftercare is often done incorrectly even by some professionals. Tested methodology exists (ANSI A300 Standards), but it is often not followed. Many times, when young trees are planted improperly, problems occur that can weaken or kill a tree possibly resulting in failure and property damage decades later. Here are steps to remember when you or your contractor plants a tree this spring:

- Most trees should have a single trunk when planted. Shrubs and shrubby trees may have multiple stems. Prune any broken branches – nothing else!
- Roots in containerized or balled and burlapped trees should have good structure – no circling roots (reject the tree), no roots growing toward the trunk (cut and remove these). These defects will eventually cause strangulation. Remember – you often can't see the roots because they've been covered by soil in the process of growing the trees. Dig down to find the 'root collar' where the trunk flares and the first roots appear.
- Dig a hole 1.5 to 2 times the diameter of the root ball or container. Don't go deeper than the bottom of the container or root ball!!! You do not want the soil to settle.
- Our soil is generally rich in nutrients. You don't need additives. Just break it up. A few stones and sticks in the hole won't be a problem.
- Set the tree in the center of the hole, back fill, and firm the soil around the roots. The planted tree should have the root flare exposed. Water the tree generously and add additional soil, if needed. This will close air pockets and ensure the tree roots are moist. (Don't forget to keep the root ball or container moist before planting)
- Mulch the tree to a depth not to exceed 2-3". Mulch should not touch the tree bark. **NO VOLCANO PILES OF MULCH AROUND THE TREE!** Volcano piles invite new roots to strangle the trunk.
- Water deeply once or twice a week if no significant rain occurs. Set a hose on trickle next to the tree for 30 minutes. You need to get the water down into the roots and not let it run off the surface.
- Enjoy the tree for decades to come.



## Ornamental Tree Added to Invasive Plant Species List

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has added all varieties of Callery pear, an ornamental tree -- including Bradford and the Cleveland Pears -- to the invasive plant species list due to their invasive qualities to choke out native species and likelihood to cause economic or environmental harm. While the spring blooms are lovely, the trees do not weather well over time. They become an aggressive spreader that can produce stiff thorns as long as 3 inches that are able to puncture vehicle tires, boots, and lawn equipment. As of January 2023, it is illegal to sell or plant these trees anywhere in the state.

Bradford Pear produces excellent firewood that is dense, heavy, and clean burning once it's dry, providing some benefit when the trees are removed.

This spring consider planting a new ornamental tree in your yard. Listed below are suggested replacements for the invasive Bradford Pear tree:

- Crabapple
- Kousa Dogwood
- Magnolia
- Serviceberry
- Hornbeam
- Redbud
- Cornelian Cherry
- Hydrangea Tree

If you want to plant a tree in the tree lawn, please contact the [City's Service Department](#).