

Landscaping chores....

On-going maintenance is important in order to create a street garden that will become a beautiful focal point for the neighborhood.

MULCH – Maintain mulch at a depth of 3" or so. This will help reduce the growth of weeds and help retain moisture. Free mulch is available at Magnuson Park (find a map at <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/freemulch.htm>) or through local tree care companies.

WEED – Remember, "One year of seeds means seven years of weeds!" Weeds should be removed on a regular basis and never allowed to seed. Your persistence will go far to eliminate these aggressive plants and allow groundcovers to fill the empty spaces of your garden.

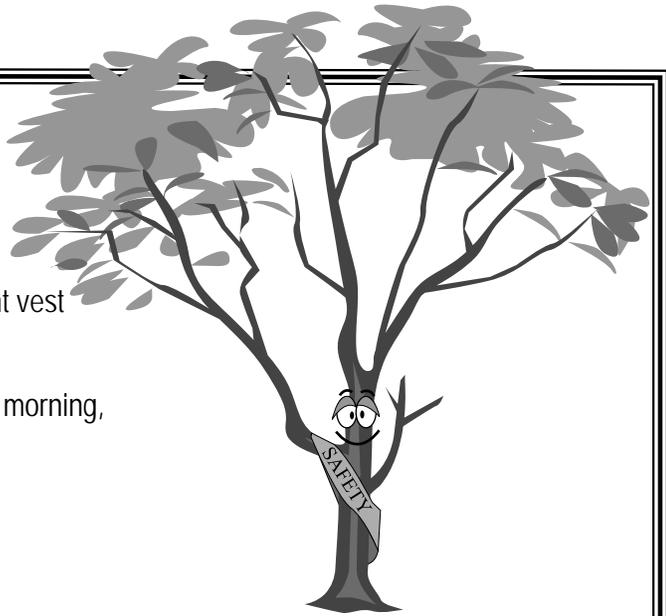
WATER – It is important to water plants consistently and deeply for the first 2 to 3 years following planting. This will help them re-grow roots damaged during transplanting, and become established at their new site. Once established, and if well-mulched, plants will usually get by with a good long/slow once-a-week watering.

TRIM – Visibility is important for safety! Seattle Municipal code requires that plants (other than trees) remain 24" or lower in traffic circles and that they do not over-grow into the street. Select plants that mature at 2-feet or less and if they do, make sure they are maintained at that height. Trees, once mature, should be pruned so the lower branches are at least 8' above the ground.

Safety First

By definition, traffic circles are built on streets that are busy with traffic. It is important to think of safety when gardening in a traffic circle. Here are a few points to consider:

- Make yourself visible to traffic; wear highly visible clothing or a bright vest when working in the circle.
- Work at a time of day when there is a lower volume of traffic – early morning, early evening, weekends, etc.
- Keep an eye out and ears open for approaching cars.
- Look before crossing the street.
- Wear gloves when working with sharp tools, especially pruners!
- Work with a partner(s) – two sets of eyes and ears are better than one, and it's much more fun!
- Please do not place anything in the circle, except approved landscape plants, and an approved tree. Large rocks, posts, etc. may impede emergency vehicles, if they need to access a street quickly.



Hit & Run!

Occasionally a circle is the victim of a run-over which damages trees, plant materials or signs. If possible, try to get a vehicle license plate number and file a police report. The city of Seattle may be able to collect damages, which will help SDOT help you re-vegetate the circle. Report a tree damaged or broken. There is a good chance that surplus trees will be available following fall planting season, and your tree will be replaced.

SIGH...NS

If signs are broken or damaged, please report the accident to SDOT's sign shop: 206-368-1206. If signs have been tagged with graffiti, you can report the incident directly to the graffiti hot line: 206-684-7587.

Check it out!

The **Traffic Circle Listserv** is an electronic mailing/discussion group where you can post questions, find answers, and discuss issues and challenges related to street gardening. You may even be able to share your extra plants or find extra plants that others are sharing. It is easy to sign up. Just send a message to: Listserv@talk2.seattle.gov and type "SUBSCRIBE Circles" into the body of the email.

Check out the SDOT Urban Forestry website for more information about planting, care, and maintenance of trees. <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/forestry.htm>

Take advantage of Seattle Public Utilities Spring Clean program and spruce up your traffic circle. When you register your public clean-up project, the City provides participants with special litter pick up bags, waste disposal permits, tools, and support materials for media outreach, FREE of charge!

More information may be found at: http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Garbage/Reduce_Garbage_Litter/Spring_Clean/index.asp or call the Spring Clean hotline at (206) 233-7187

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Plan on attending the Fall Plant Exchange! Why you ask?

-  If you are thinning annuals or splitting perennials, your extra plants may be just what a fellow traffic steward is looking for!
-  It's a great way to use up those old pots that you have been saving! Fill them up with your "extras" and share with others.
-  Meet fellow circle gardeners.
-  Share ideas, tips, and tricks about gardening in the round.
-  Get some new plants to revitalize your garden.
-  Get a beautiful new safety vest to wear while gardening! (to the first 100 area representatives)

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You're invited!

Join us for a
TRAFFIC CIRCLE STEWARD PLANT EXCHANGE

WHEN: Saturday, October 18th
10am - noon

WHERE: Miller Community Center
330 19th Ave E, 98112

directions may be found at:
<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/centers/Miller/directions.htm>

Bus Service:

Routes 8, 12 and 43 stop at the Miller Center

For specific route information, visit the King County Metro online:

http://tripplanner.metrokc.gov/cgi-bin/itin_page.pl?resptype=U&destloc=330%2019TH%20AVE%20E

*Please RSVP by October 14th so we know how many folks to expect.
Call 684-8733 and leave a message or email us at trafficcircle@seattle.gov*

