

Appendix D: Site Preparation

The following activities and their associated costs are eligible expenses to prepare sites for tree planting:

- **Stump removal:** Sometimes a tree pit already exists with a dead tree or stump that must be removed. Costs can be requested for such activities, but the applicant must address why the previous tree did not survive, and why the new tree will.
- **Soil amendment:** Amending soil for a newly planted tree is critical for survivorship in urban areas. Ensure that the soil at your planting site is thoroughly loosened, free and clear of stumps, debris, rocks, and competing vegetation. Aerate the soil to allow air and water to move freely. Consider adding additional nutrients such as soil conditioner and other organic matter to improve root and tree growth. If the soil is compacted with sand and clay, it may be unusable. If this is the case, consider replacing the planting site with fresh soil. When you are ready to plant, dig the hole three times wider than the root ball and mix amendments with the excavated soil. Dig the hole to the exact height of the root ball. If the hole is dug deeper, the tree will settle with the soil resulting in decreasing tree health.
- **Installation of tree guards:** In high activity areas, creating a barrier around your planting site may help protect your tree and its roots from animals, foot traffic, car and bicycle damage.
- **Removal of trash and invasives** to clear the area for planting.