Irrigation Management for Urban Trees

Get Ahead or Get Parched Workshop
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The ABCs ~

-- Long-range objectives
-- Site attributes
-- Tree species selection
-- Water source
-- Irrigation method

Greening only makes [great] sense when the right tree graces the right place for the right purpose.
The Building Blocks ~

Provenance?
No native or commonly used urban tree is drought-resistant until it becomes established.

The Building Blocks ~

Young Trees:
The roots of younger trees are less established and need easier access to water to establish deep root systems.

Older Trees: Mature trees require MORE water when growing near heat traps such as roadways, driveways, and house foundations.
Exposed Trees:
Water loss is greater where trees are exposed to hot afternoon sun and strong or constant wind.

Deciduous Trees:
The critical time for water is during bud-break in spring and bud formation in the summer.
The Right Amount:
Water young trees twice weekly and mature trees once a week.
In The Right Place:
Water the tree’s drip zone – the area directly under the foliage and shaded by the tree. Add mulch to lower soil temperature and reduce evaporation.

At The Right Time: Water early in the morning or after sunset. Less water is lost to evaporation at these times.
The Right Choice: Plant native or drought-resistant tree species which require less water. Choose trees over lawns as trees are a long-term, high-yield investment.