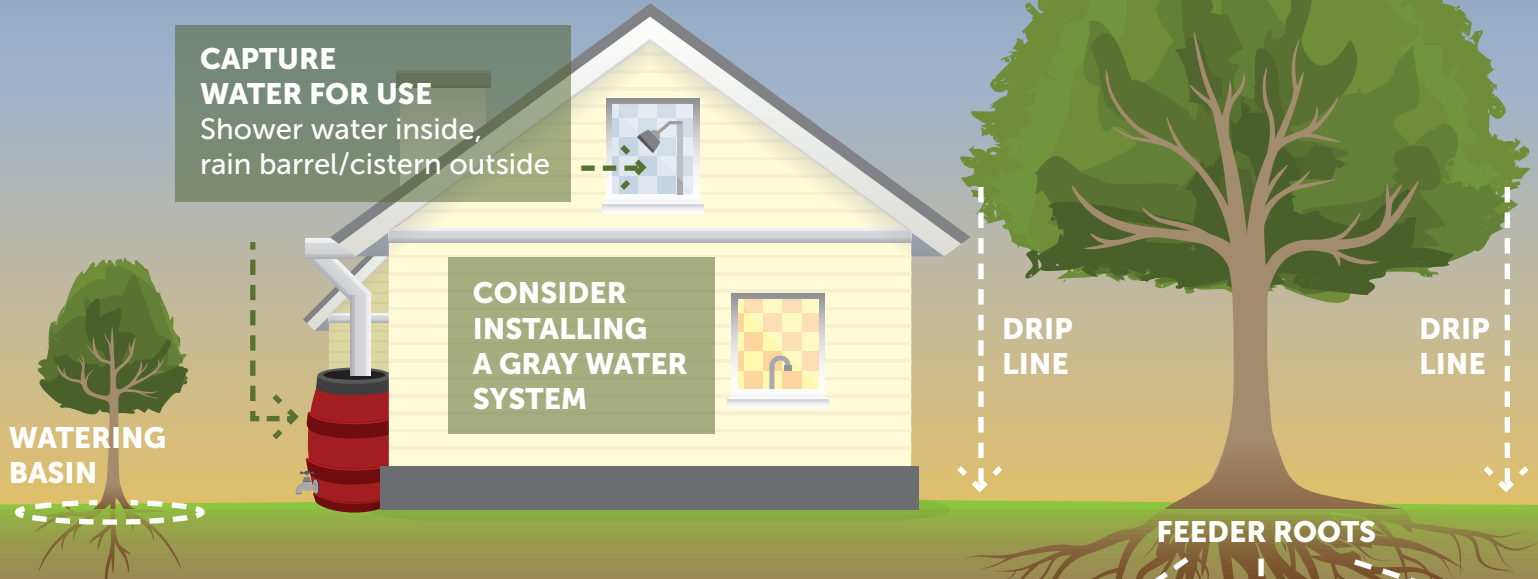# HOW TO KEEP TREES ALIVE IN THE DROUGHT

In times of drought, our city's trees need our help. When we cut down on watering our landscapes, our trees suffer. A tree may look healthy, but without regular watering it can become stressed and die. Look around your neighborhood. Stressed trees are everywhere: dry and sparse leaf coverage, dead and dying branches. When it comes to sharing our water, trees should be our priority!

CAPTURE WATER FOR USE
Shower water inside, rain barrel/cistern outside

CONSIDER INSTALLING A GRAY WATER SYSTEM

WATERING BASIN

DRIP LINE

DRIP LINE

FEEDER ROOTS

WATERING YOUNG TREES

How often: About once a week.

How much: About 15-20 gallons of water (3 or 4 5-gallon buckets).

How to do it: Create a 3–4 foot wide basin around the tree to hold the water. Use a bucket to deliver water slowly into the basin.

CHECK FIRST!
Dig your finger down into the soil at least four inches and check for moisture. If the soil below ground is still wet, don't water. If it is dry, give the tree water.

USE CAPTURED WATER!
Collect excess water from indoor use – put a bucket in the shower while it warms up! Or install a series of rain barrels or a cistern to collect rain water.

MULCH!
Add a four inch layer of mulch or wood chips covering the soil around the tree. If used, cover the in-line emitter hose as well.

WATERING MATURE TREES

How often: About once or twice a month.

How much: Water needs to soak down at least 18". Measure using a "soil probe" available at home improvement stores. The size of the tree and kind of soil will determine how much water is needed.

How to do it: If you can, use "in-line emitter tubing hose" found at home improvement stores. Start about 9" from the trunk. Spiral it outward, forming concentric circles out to the drip line. Consult the store specialist for how to connect to your water source. Run it until the water depth is at least 18" (this could take 1 or more hours).

Start 9" from the tree
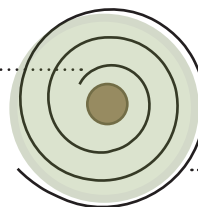
End at edge of outer branches

WHAT ELSE?
Visit www.TreePeople.org for more resources including workshops, tours, project toolkits, volunteering opportunities and more!