Trees and turf are both important parts of our landscapes. Turf is a great place to play and socialize. Trees provide shade to relax in and give structure to a landscape.

To get the most from our landscapes we need to consider the maintenance and health of each component both separately and together.
**How Trees Function**

- **Bark** protects the cambium from damage, drying out, insects, and diseases.
- **Cambium** transports water and nutrients up from roots and sugars from the leaves to all parts of the tree.
- **Wood** provides structural support to the tree but does not transport water or nutrients.
- **Root Flare** transitions from trunk to root tissue and provides structural support.

**Potential Conflicts Between Trees and Turf and Practical Solutions**

**String Trimmer and Mower Damage**
Mowing and trimming are necessary maintenance activities, but equipment can easily and very quickly damage a tree.

- Loss of bark exposes the cambium and wood to decay fungi which can rot the structural support of the tree creating a hazard.
- Exposure of the cambium stops the flow of water and nutrients. This can lead to the slow decline or death of branches or the whole tree.

**Solution**
Keep equipment away from the tree:
- mulch
- trunk guards
- no turf zone

When using herbicides to control turf around trees be careful not to spray suckers or any other part of the tree.

**Mulch Volcano (Too Much Mulch)**
Too much mulch can rot the bark on the tree or lead to girdling roots.

**Correct Mulching**
- less than 4 inches
- does not touch trunk of tree