Parking Lot Tree Site Checklist

What to evaluate before and after planting near pavement

Before you plant a new tree

1. **Measure the actual planting island size**
   Compare the usable soil width and depth against what the chosen species typically needs to establish well.
2. **Check for structural soil or root path options**
   Ask whether a suspended pavement or structural soil system is practical for the site before installation begins.
3. **Discuss species tolerance with your arborist**
   Some species handle compaction and salt exposure noticeably better than others.

For a tree already in the ground

1. **Compare growth to a similar tree nearby**
   A side by side comparison with a tree planted around the same time is often the clearest early signal.
2. **Note winter salt and plow pile locations**
   Trees near salted walkways or snow piles face an added seasonal stress worth tracking.
3. **Check drainage after a heavy rain**
   Note whether water pools in the island or drains away quickly, since either extreme can stress roots.

Before you decide on treatment or replacement

1. **Ask for a full site evaluation, not just the tree**
   Soil volume and drainage around the site matter as much as the tree's visible condition.
2. **Ask what changed if a healthy tree starts declining**
   New construction, regrading, or changed traffic patterns nearby can shift conditions over time.
3. **Weigh species change against site limits**
   A better suited species in the same spot sometimes outperforms treating the current tree.

Measure the site, compare the growth, then decide with both in view.

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This guide is general information, not professional advice. Requirements, products, and site conditions vary by property and change over time. Confirm the details that apply to your project with a qualified professional before you decide. Dragonetti Green Leaf Tree Care is not responsible for decisions made solely on the basis of this guide.