

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP - TREE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

Street Trees

The City of Port Phillip and its local community place a high value on street trees and consider their protection extremely important. The following procedures should be observed at all times when working near trees.

Planning

All existing street trees within the vicinity of a proposed construction site must be marked on a plan and forwarded to the City of Port Phillip Street Tree Co-ordinator for comment prior to commencement of any works.

Timing

Where possible, any works close to street trees should be scheduled to occur between April and September when trees are generally dormant and better able to cope with disturbance close to their roots.

Tree Protection

A tree protection zone of 3 metres around specific trees should be established to avoid compaction and mechanical injury. This zone will need to be clearly defined using star posts and barrier tape or similar methods. No stockpiling, loading of building materials, disposal of waste or driving of vehicles should occur within this zone. If it is not practical to establish a tree protection zone contact the City of Port Phillip Street Tree Co-ordinator to discuss suitable alternatives.

Roots

Exposed tree roots must be protected from drying out, especially during hot weather conditions. If tree roots are to remain exposed for more than one day they should be covered with wet hessian or mulch.

Branches

Where erection of a gantry is required close to tree canopies developers will need to plan around existing tree branches. Some minor pruning may be permissible, however major branches need to be worked around and protected during the construction period.

Tree Pruning or Removal

Street trees within the City of Port Phillip must only be pruned or removed by Citywide Service Solutions, Council's nominated tree maintenance contractor, unless otherwise agreed with the Street Tree Co-ordinator. Upon agreement of any proposed works, developers may be required to deal directly with Council's tree maintenance contractor.

Trenching near Trees

Any excavation to occur within 3 metres of a tree should be done by underground boring as opposed to open trenching. This technology is now widely available and is often more economical as less reinstatement is required. Where boring is not possible, digging must be done by hand and any exposed tree roots must be pruned with secateurs or a sharp saw. Tree roots over 50mm in diameter should not be cut wherever possible.

Damage to trees

Where any accidental damage occurs to trees during construction, the Street Tree Co-ordinator should be contacted immediately. Costs associated with any corrective pruning required must be borne directly by the responsible party. These works can only be carried out by Council's tree maintenance contractor. If the Street Tree Co-ordinator deems that a tree requires removal due to damage, the responsible party may be required to pay the amenity value of the tree, plus removal and replacement costs.

Reinstatement

All lawns and naturestrips disturbed during excavation works must be reinstated to their former condition as soon as possible to the satisfaction of the Street Tree Co-ordinator.

For more information contact the City of Port Phillip Street Tree Co-ordinator on 9209 6475.