

# Tree and Landscaping Guidelines

## Local Planning Scheme No. 3

The City's Trees and Landscaping Guidelines have been prepared to support and be read in conjunction with Local Planning Policy 6.6 Trees and Landscaping and the City Trees Policy. These guidelines provide guidance for tree selection in terms of location, appropriate species and deep soil area (DSA) treatments to ensure that planted trees are afforded the opportunity to thrive and mature.

Trees help shade and cool our City, influence health and wellbeing, and improve the look, feel, and liveability, of our neighbourhoods.

The retention of established trees is encouraged as trees are a highly valued asset and an essential resource. It is therefore essential to ensure that when planting trees, consideration is given to the appropriateness of the tree for the location.

### Tree Planting and Maintenance

Where a development requires tree(s) to be planted, these are to be planted once construction is complete and the landowner is responsible for maintaining the tree(s) to ensure they grow to maturity.

For Commercial Developments a site inspection will be undertaken prior to an occupancy permit being issued, to ensure that the required landscaping and tree planting is completed accordance with an approved and conditioned Landscaping Plan.

For Residential Development, a periodic review of all development approvals and building permits will be undertaken to ensure trees have been planted. This is done through a combination of methods such as aerial imagery, landowner verification via photographic evidence, and site inspections, and the City will contact landowners in order to track tree planting and growth.

### Tree Location and Treatment

Trees are to be planted within the lot boundaries, a minimum of 2m from a building, wall, fence or property boundary (including the front boundary) and a minimum distance of 5m from any other tree on site and 10m from a City Tree to prevent a conflict between

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the canopies.

Trees need space to grow with a tree's root system being roughly the same size as its canopy. For a tree to be healthy, the roots need access to good quality uncompacted soil with sufficient water and oxygen (i.e. uncovered and open to the air).

Acceptable ground treatments in the DSA of existing and newly planted trees include:

- Lawn
- Garden beds
- Organic mulch
- Raised decking – Should be modifiable to allow for continual thickening of the tree stem. Where decking is proposed around a new or existing tree, the construction details of the decking shall be submitted to the City for approval prior to implementation.

Concrete, brick paving, asphalt, synthetic lawn and any other impermeable, compacted surfaces are not permitted within the DSA. The DSA shall also be free of buildings and other fixed structures such as pergolas, swimming pools, footings, fixtures, underground services (except irrigation for the tree), soakwells etc.

Trees in the right location can provide shade to cool your property and help to reduce wind speed. Consider planting your tree where it will provide the most benefit.

- Deciduous trees planted to the **north** of your home can provide shade in summer but let winter sunlight through to warm your home.
- Evergreen trees planted to the **west** of your home and garden can help reduce the speed of stormy winter winds.
- Trees planted to the **east** of your garden will help to reduce hot summer winds which are drying and stressful for many garden plants.
- Other considerations include solar access and impact on solar panels, location of underground services and the proximity to building and wall footings.

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## Suggested Species List

The following link is provided to assist Landowners, developers and home-owners with selecting tree species that may be suitable for planting within private properties: [Select-the-right-tree.pdf](#)

The City will not accept 'Palms', 'Cactus' or Frangipani (Plumeria) species as significant trees for retention or new advanced trees required under LPP6.6.



*Example images of tree planting in decked areas.*