

A GUIDE TO: PLANTING STREET TREES

This guide gives you more information on how we plant street trees, in both urban centres and residential streets, and the range of innovative techniques we use to ensure the long-term vitality of the trees.

Before planting a street tree

We take into account the location of street signs, traffic lights, road junctions, CCTV, parking spaces and underground services as well as the requirements of pedestrians and wheelchair users. We also engage with residents and businesses on where the trees will be planted.

We liaise with the local authorities, tree unit, highways, traffic, and CCTV departments to agree tree species, locations and planting specifications.

A high specification

Planting a street tree on a hard surface is not like planting a young tree in a garden, park or field. Much more work is needed to give the tree a good chance of growing sustainably into a healthy, mature specimen. Our specification includes:

- *A large tree pit* - we aim for a width of around 1,200mm, a length of 3,000mm and a depth between 750mm and 1,000mm (the bigger the better)
- *Contractors* - we undertake a competitive tender process and use professional people with the appropriate insurance and permissions
- *A good quality soil* - with a high nutrient content to provide the tree with a source of food
- *Root barriers* - to protect underground pipes and cables, paving and adjacent buildings
- *A permeable pavement surface* and/or an irrigation system allowing water and oxygen to get to the tree's roots, while providing a safe surface with no potential trip hazards



Trees planted on Medlock Street, and below Stevenson Square, Manchester



Benefits of trees



Help combat climate change and the urban heat island effect



Improve our health and wellbeing



Reduce surface water flooding and clean polluted water



Boost biodiversity and encourage urban wildlife

Our team has **over 25 years** experience and has retrofitted **over 5,000 street trees** across Greater Manchester

- *A good drainage layer* – of crushed stone at the base of the tree pit to help stop waterlogging which will starve the roots of oxygen
- *A tree guard and underground guys or stakes* to hold the tree in position making it less vulnerable to vandalism, accidental car damage and strong winds
- *A modular system* – a bit like a milk crate – installed in the ground alongside aeration and irrigation pipes to provide support, avoid damage to the pavement and prevent soil compaction, to ensure that water, oxygen and nutrients can find their way to the tree roots
- *Restoration works* – additional construction work to restore the pavement to its previous condition
- *Maintenance* – at least 3 – 5 years watering, feeding and pruning to ensure the tree has what it needs to grow and flourish in its new home.

The tree planting specifications we recommend are by no means a re-creation of a tree’s natural growing environment. However, in streets where space is restricted and where there are many hurdles to overcome such as underground services, this planting arrangement will give the tree a good chance of surviving and flourishing.

Cost-effective solution

These measures mean the cost of planting the tree can be significant. However by adopting such techniques it creates a more cost-effective solution in the long run by not having to pay for replacing the tree should it die or repairing the pavement from damage caused by tree roots. In addition, the growing space and supporting materials will help to establish a mature, healthy tree which will allow a greater range of benefits to be realised for both people and wildlife.



Street trees on Higher Swan Lane, Bolton and below on Chepstow Street, Manchester City Centre



For more information on street tree planting please contact us on:

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GREEN STREETS

