



# URBAN FOREST TREE PROTECTION

## Tree protection information for events within the City of Melbourne

The protection of trees is vital to retain our city's character and environment. Trees grow in a delicate balance with their environment and any changes to that balance must be minimized if the tree is to remain in a healthy state and fulfil its potential. It is rarely possible to repair stressed or injured trees, so damage needs to be avoided at all times.

This document guides tree protection requirements for any event that may occur in the vicinity of City of Melbourne owned or managed trees to ensure their long-term protection, integrity and overall health.

All events that may occur near public trees must abide by the protection requirements outlined below, in accordance with Council's Tree Policy 2021.

### Tree Protection Requirements

When events encroach on Tree Protection Zones (TPZ) care must be taken to ensure that no damage occurs to public tree trunks, roots, branches or surrounding soil during an event. This requires event planners to have a basic understanding of tree protection requirements to minimise the potential impacts to trees.

#### 1. Tree Protection Zones

A TPZ as defined by AS 4970-2009 *Protection of trees on development sites* shall be established for the duration of any event that may impact a public tree.

The radius of the TPZ is calculated by multiplying the tree's diameter at breast height (DBH) by 12. DBH is measured at 1.4m above ground level and TPZ distance is measured as a radius from the center of the trunk at ground level (see Figure 1). For example, a tree with 40cm DBH requires a TPZ of 4.8m radius (see Table 1). Should the tree canopy extend past the calculated radius then the TPZ will be extended to include all above-ground components of the tree.

Table 1 – Example of TPZ radius based on trunk diameter. \*

Trunk diameter at breast height (DBH)	Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) radius
40cm	4.8m
75cm	9m
100cm	12m

\*The TPZ for all palms is 1m from the edge of the canopy

In some cases a TPZ can be modified or reduced due to site factors such as hard surfaces or surrounding infrastructure. No modification to a TPZ can occur without consent from Council's arborist.

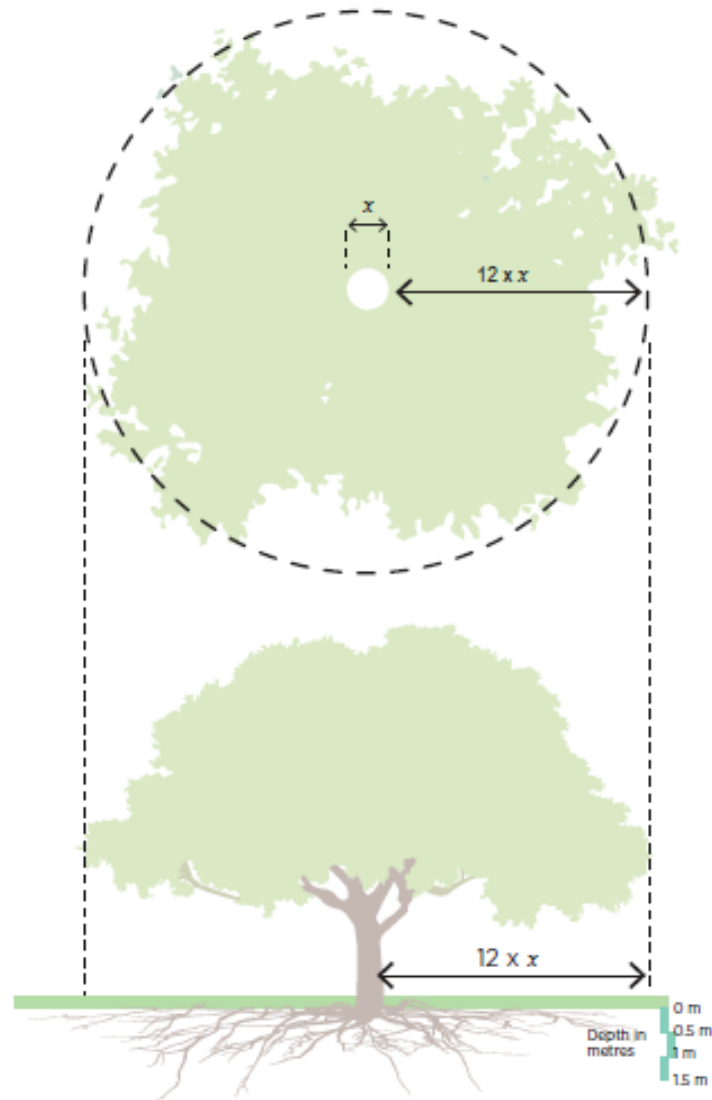


Figure 1: Calculating a TPZ. The TPZ radius is equivalent to the trunk diameter at 1.4m multiplied by 12.

**The following are not permitted within a TPZ:**

- Storing or stockpiling of materials, equipment and tools
- Attaching anything to the branches or trunk of trees
- Vehicular traffic (including parking of vehicles) except on existing paved surfaces or where ground protection has been implemented
- Event infrastructure including marquees, staging, generators, portable toilets, etc.
- Washing or cleaning equipment



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## 2. Pruning

No council tree may be pruned or branches removed by anyone other than those authorised by Council's Urban Forest and Ecology team.

No pruning will be approved unless it falls within the general tree maintenance guidelines indicated on Council's website here: [Tree Management Guidelines](#).

## 3. Tree impacts

Most low impact events will have minimal impact to trees and therefore may not require a formal Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP). In these instances you may instead be required to implement basic tree protection requirements as outlined by Council's Urban Forest and Ecology team. Your allocated Event Operations Coordinator will advise you of this requirement following submission of your site plan and infrastructure list. Any conditions outlined by the Urban Forest and Ecology team will also be included as conditions in your event permit.

### Tree Protection Management Plans

For those events with greater impact to trees we may request a formal Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) be prepared by a suitably qualified (AQF5 Diploma) Arborist. The plan must be developed in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4970- 2009, Protection of Trees on Development Sites.

The TPMP will typically be required 8-12 weeks prior to your event and must be endorsed by Council's Urban Forest and Ecology team prior to bump in. Your Event Operations Coordinator will facilitate this for you.

Once approved, the event permit holder is responsible for ensuring this plan is implemented and must undertake all reasonable steps to minimize any potential impact to public trees to ensure trees are protected throughout the event.

### Questions

If you have any questions about tree protection and event requirements please contact the Event Operations team on 9658 9658 or your Event Operations Coordinator directly.