Tree pits are used to promote the healthy growth of trees located in paved areas. Tree pits used in combination with structural soils, or soil reinforcing systems, increase the soil volume available for healthy tree root growth in areas of poor soil or areas of high compaction, either existing or anticipated.

Structural soils, or soil reinforcing systems should not be used when trees have sufficient access to good quality existing site soils.

When structural soils, or soil reinforcing systems are required, each tree should have access to a minimum 15m² of soil. Soil must be provided to an approximate depth of 1m and in a suitable distribution to ensure that the tree can readily access it.

The volume of topsoil provided as part of the standard tree pit construction can be included in the minimum 15m² of media.

For structural soil specifications, and tree planting details, refer to City of Melbourne, Urban Landscapes Branch.