

Tree Pit Maintenance

Guidance Note

1. The tree pit must be routinely weeded to prevent the build-up of weeds.
2. The maintained tree pit must be identified with a band of red ribbon wrapped around the base of the tree to clearly identify that the tree pit is being maintained.
3. Every attempt will be made to ensure plants are not damaged due to maintenance being carried out by street environmental services, highways or tree contractors. Loss of any plants during maintenance works will not be subject to compensation. If we have to fell a tree, we may need to remove plants growing in the tree pit.
4. Islington Tree Service regularly inspects street trees and need to clearly see around the stem of a tree.
5. The council will provide no payment towards any costs incurred from maintaining a tree pit.
6. Only hand tools (e.g. a trowel) should be used within the tree pit to avoid damaging tree roots.
7. Do not raise the soil level around the tree stem; this can lead to the death of the tree.
8. Avoid planting woody perennials which will compete with the tree for water and may impede tree inspections.
9. If planting climbing plants, grow annuals rather than perennials e.g. sweetpeas or morning glory.
10. When you water the plants don't forget to give the tree a drink! Please pour water down the black watering tube.
11. If you put an edge around the tree pit, please do not use any materials with hard edges (e.g metal or slate) or loose gravel/stones which are likely to spill into the footpath. Any

modifications constituting a hazard to the public will be removed by the council as a matter of public safety.

12. The Tree Service has details of successful tree pit planting in the borough. If you would like further advice, please email treeservice@islington.gov.uk.

