



# Dublin City Council | Parks Service Tree Strategy

2016-2020

**Presentation to Strategic Policy Committee 14.03.16**

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Parks Service



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

# The Tree Strategy



- Aims to provide a co-ordinated approach to the management of the City's trees.

- Promotes a vision of a capital city where our public trees are managed effectively & sustainably to enhance the city environment in which to live, work and visit.*

Dublin City Council | Parks Service

## Tree Strategy

2016-2020



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Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

# Internal Consultation Seminar -1st Dec 2015



- Introduced the Draft Tree Strategy to those professionals within the City Council whose work impacts on trees
- Invited feedback on the draft Tree Strategy. This will be an essential ingredient for its adoption & success by all relevant sections of the City Council.



# Format of today's talk



- Why have a Strategy?
- Benefits of a strategy
- Structure of the Strategy
- Snapshot of Policy & Actions
- Next Steps



# Estimate of 100,000 Public Trees, 60k of which are street trees



Highlights the need for a long term approach

# Benefits of a Strategy



- Clear vision for management
- Proactive & best practice approach
- Rationale for resource allocation
- Demonstrates to Public, trees are being managed to a long term plan
- Highlights Benefits of Urban trees

# Structure

## Three Main Sections:

1. **Trees in Dublin City**
2. **Tree Policy**
3. **Action Plan**

# Urban Trees – Benefits



- Lower stress & illness levels where trees are planted
- Absorb CO<sub>2</sub> – Main green house gas
- Add Beauty & Character to the Urban Landscape
- Large leaf canopies reduce flash flooding by slowing rainfall progress from sky to ground



HEALTH ENVIRONMENT

## Access to parks and trees prolongs life

22 October 2015

by Joanna Roberts and Elizabeth Boorman



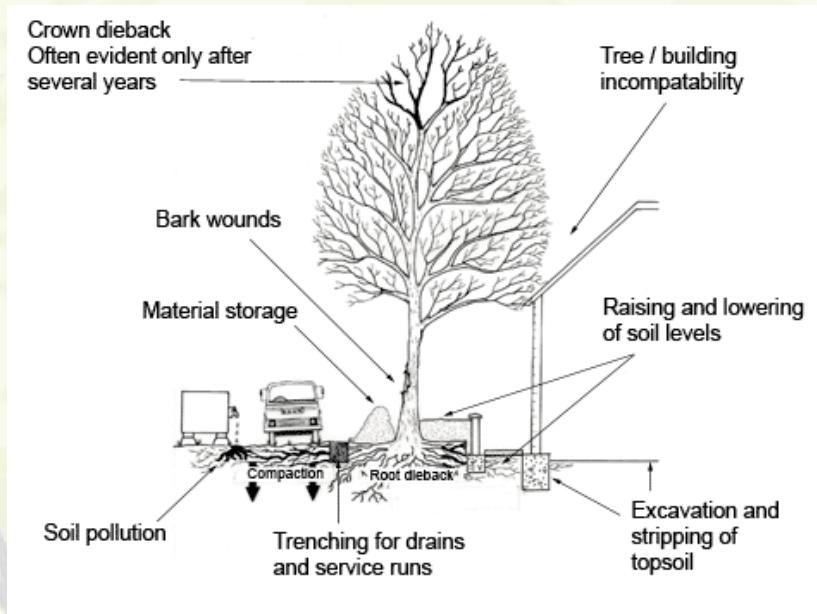
Researchers have found that green spaces in cities are good for city dwellers' health. Image courtesy of GREEN SURGE

**Urban planners should be given guidelines to include a minimum amount of green space in cities, according to researchers who have found that exposure to parks and trees helps to prolong life, improve mental health and even increase the birthweight of babies.**

# Policy of DCC regarding trees & tree work



# Development & Trees



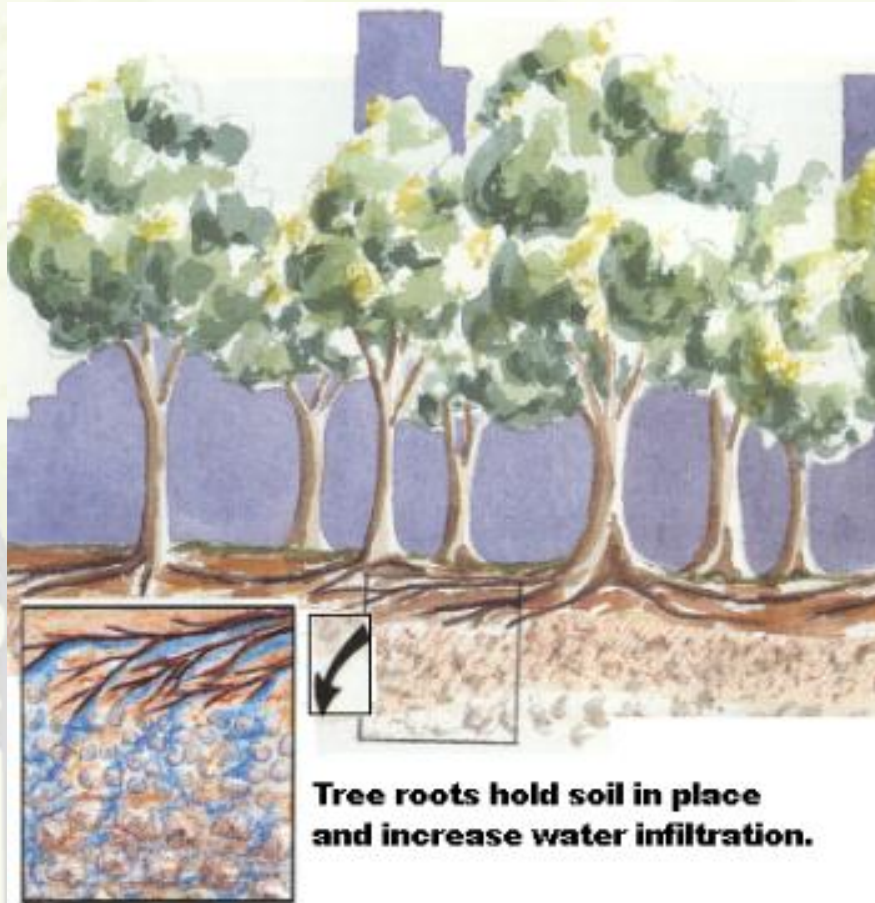
- Ensure trees considered in design & construction phases

- Detail Information to accompany planning applications

- Promote retention of suitable trees as a benchmark of sustainable development



# Green Infrastructure

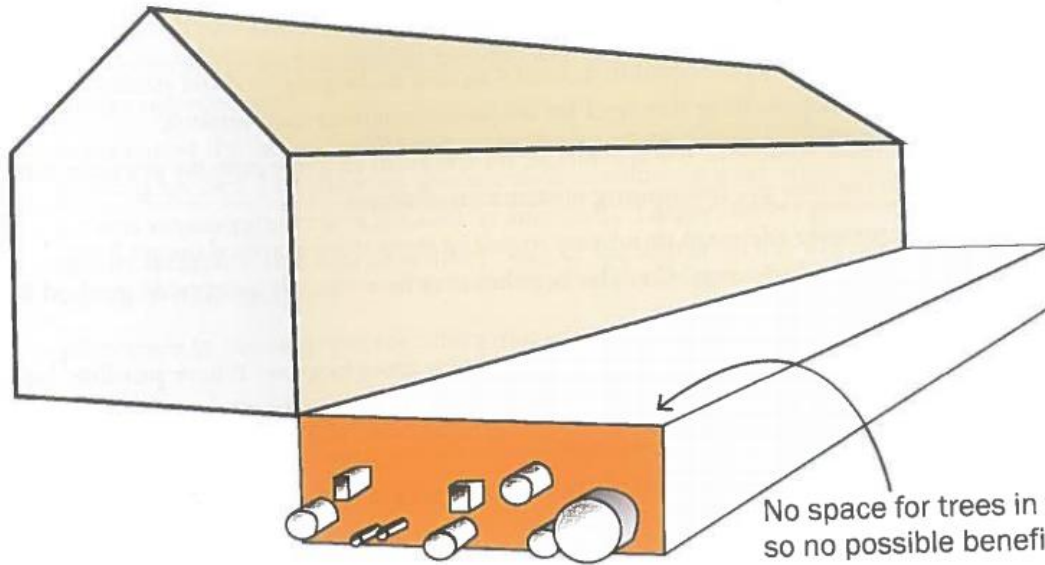


- Identify Areas for new tree planting
- Promote Trees as a component of SUDS -- *Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems*
- Leaves can slow water from reaching the ground, water can be diverted to rootzone

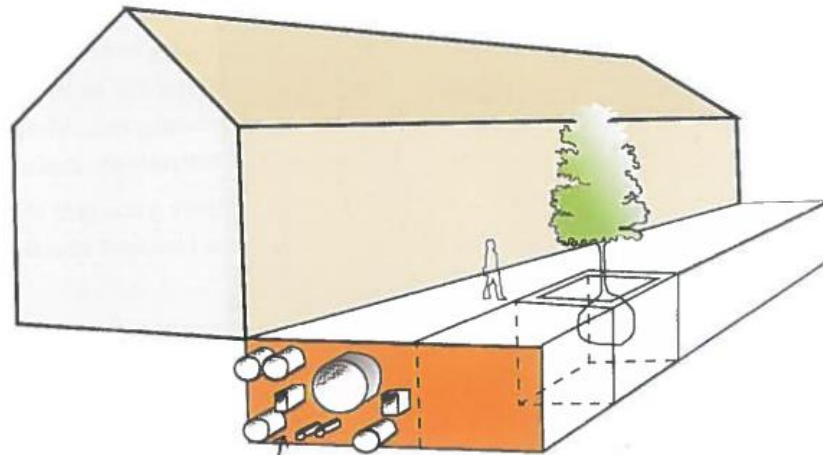
# Trees & Utilities



- Consultation with Parks Service prior to works that may affect trees
- Requirement for service providers to adhere to best practice guidelines as per proposed 'Trees and Utilities/Trench Works' protocol.



No space for trees in the footway,  
so no possible benefits



Some utility diversions would allow  
space to establish small trees leading  
to benefits on the urban landscape

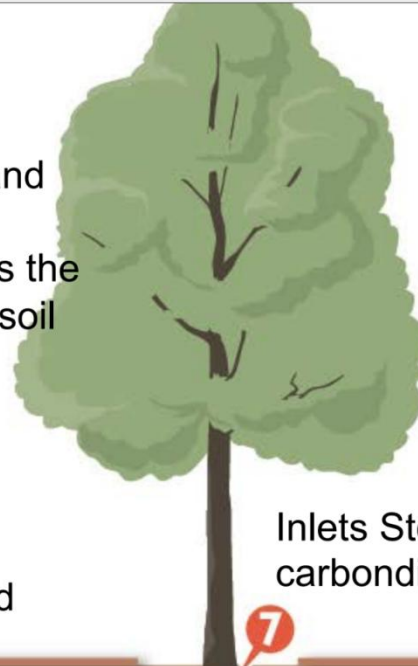
# Trees & Pavement Lift



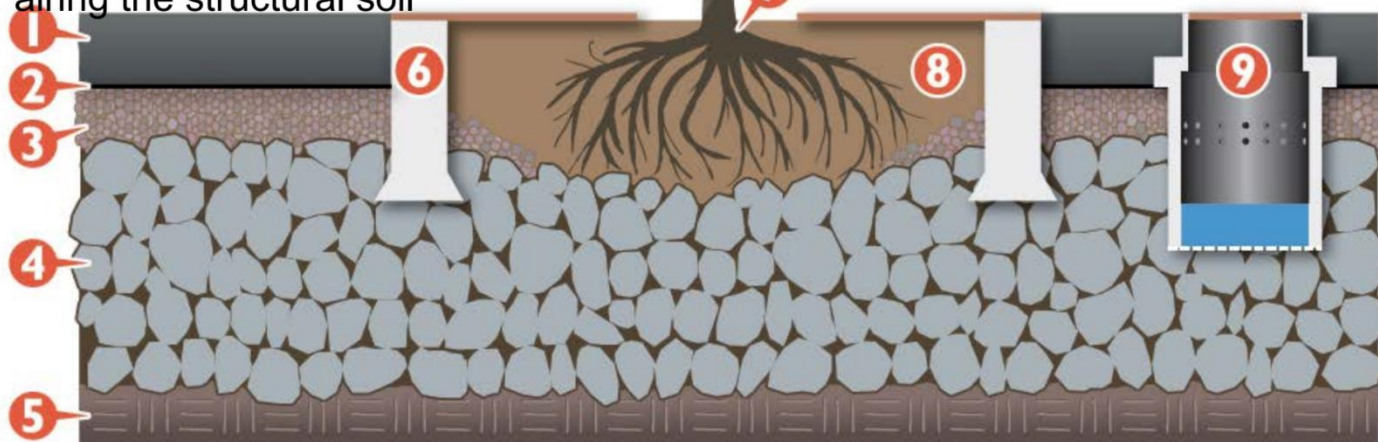
# Stockholm Planting System

How to create good growing conditions and taking care of the storm water

1. Pavement, bearing layer
2. Geotextile
3. Layer of crushed rock for infiltration of surface water and airing of the soil
4. Structure of granite stones the space between is filled with soil
5. Terrace or construction
6. Plant box of concrete
7. Tree
8. Planting soil
9. Catchment chamber for infiltration of storm water and airing the structural soil



Inlets Storm water down  
carbondioxide up





# Trees & Pavement Lift



- Explore engineering options – consultation with Public Realm and Roads Maintenance
- Modify the structure to allow for future root expansion
- Avoid Root pruning as this may introduce disease and/or make the tree unstable

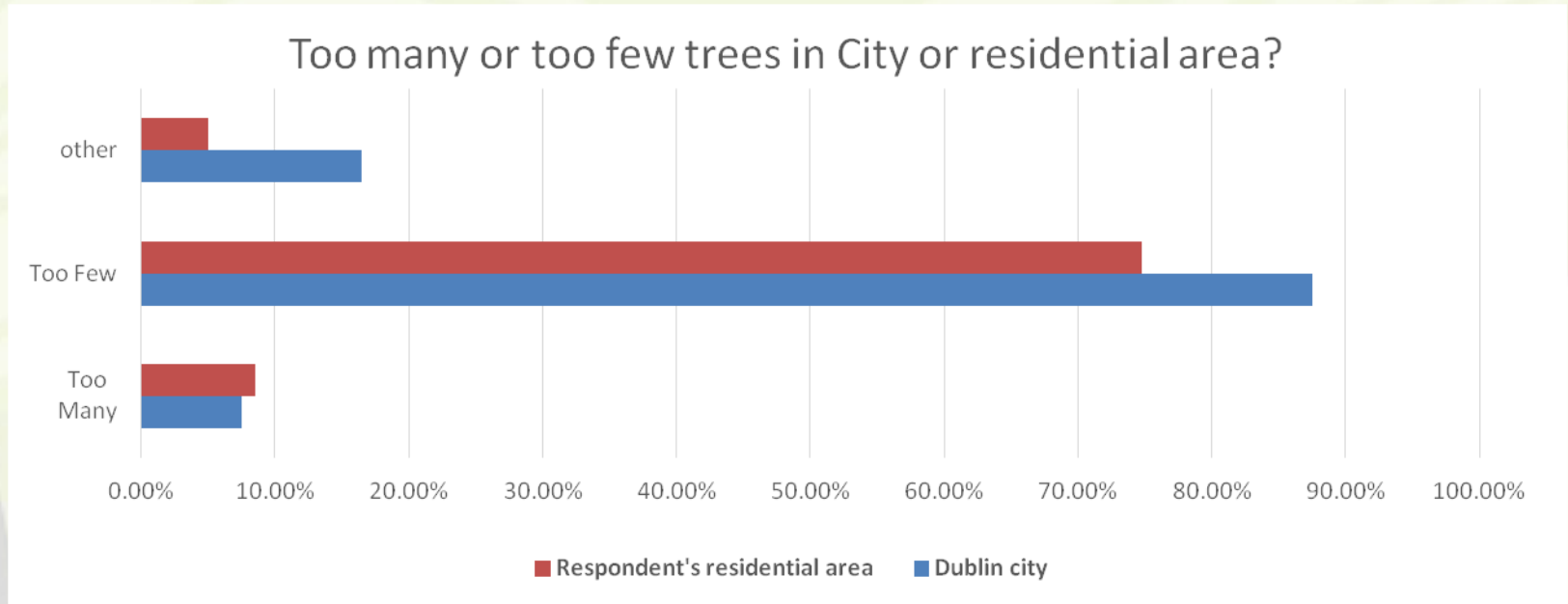
# Living with trees



- People rarely contact the council to state they are happy about the presence of local trees
- Distorted picture of public perception of trees can develop
- Strategy promotes an approach which is acceptable to the community at large.
- Safeguard the tree population for the future within available resources.



A survey of 200 pedestrians at six locations in Dublin (Sheridan and Ningal, 2015)

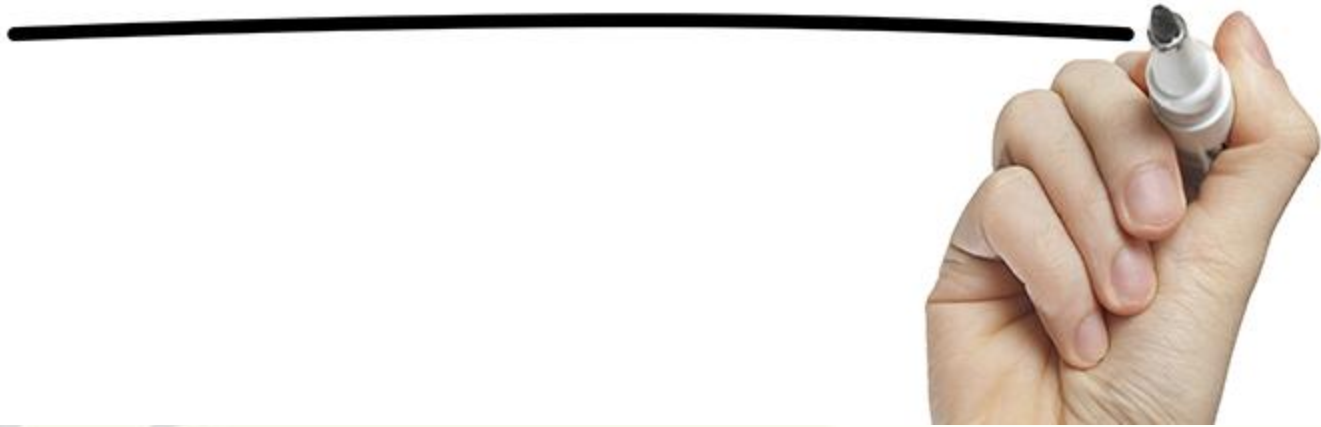


# Right Tree – Right Place



- Taking account of the context where a tree is to be planted
- Plant appropriate species for the location
- Also as important to **create the right place *for* the right tree.**

# ACTION PLAN

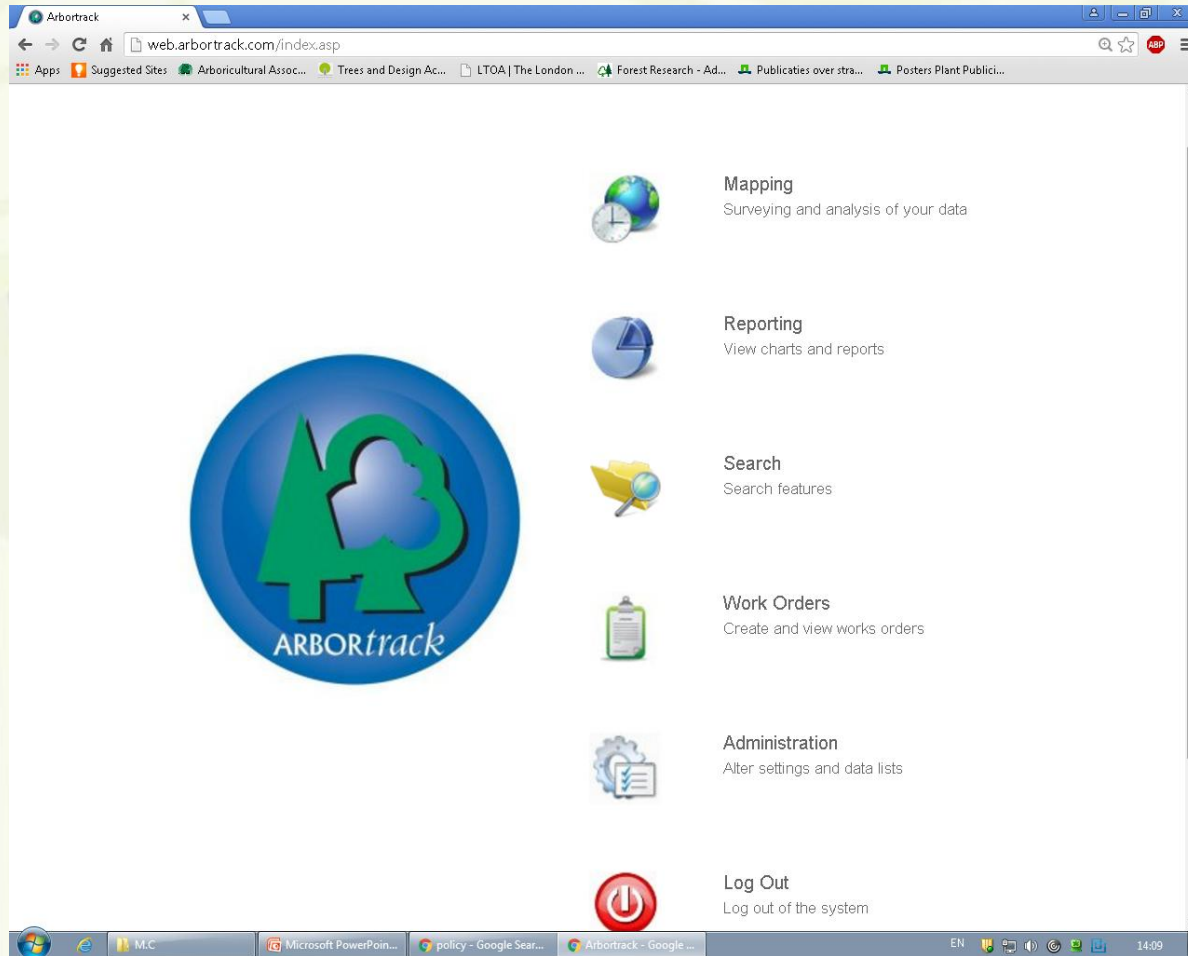


## ***Four Themes:***

- **Protect** the trees we have
- **Care** for trees to promote healthy growth
- **Plant more** – to ensure a sustainable urban canopy
- **Communicate** effectively with Public & Stakeholders

# Procure Tree Management Software

- Facilitate pro-active & cost effective management





**ARBORtrack**  
Advanced Tree Management

Add Feature

Feature Type: Tree Inventory | Symbol: | Add Feature

Tree Inventory

Inventory | Maintenance | Comments

Move Symbol | Delete Feature

Unique Reference: 0005 | Colour: Unknown

Surveyor: Charles Clark

Inspection Date: 27-Feb-2014

Next Inspection: 27-Feb-2015

Trunk Type: Single

Age: Established

Condition: Reasonable

Proximity:

Building Number:

Street: Camden

Area: Moor View

Sub Area:

Tag:

Stem Diameter: 150-300mm

Spread: 00 to 05m

Height: 00 to 05m

Risk:

Category:

Committee: Housing

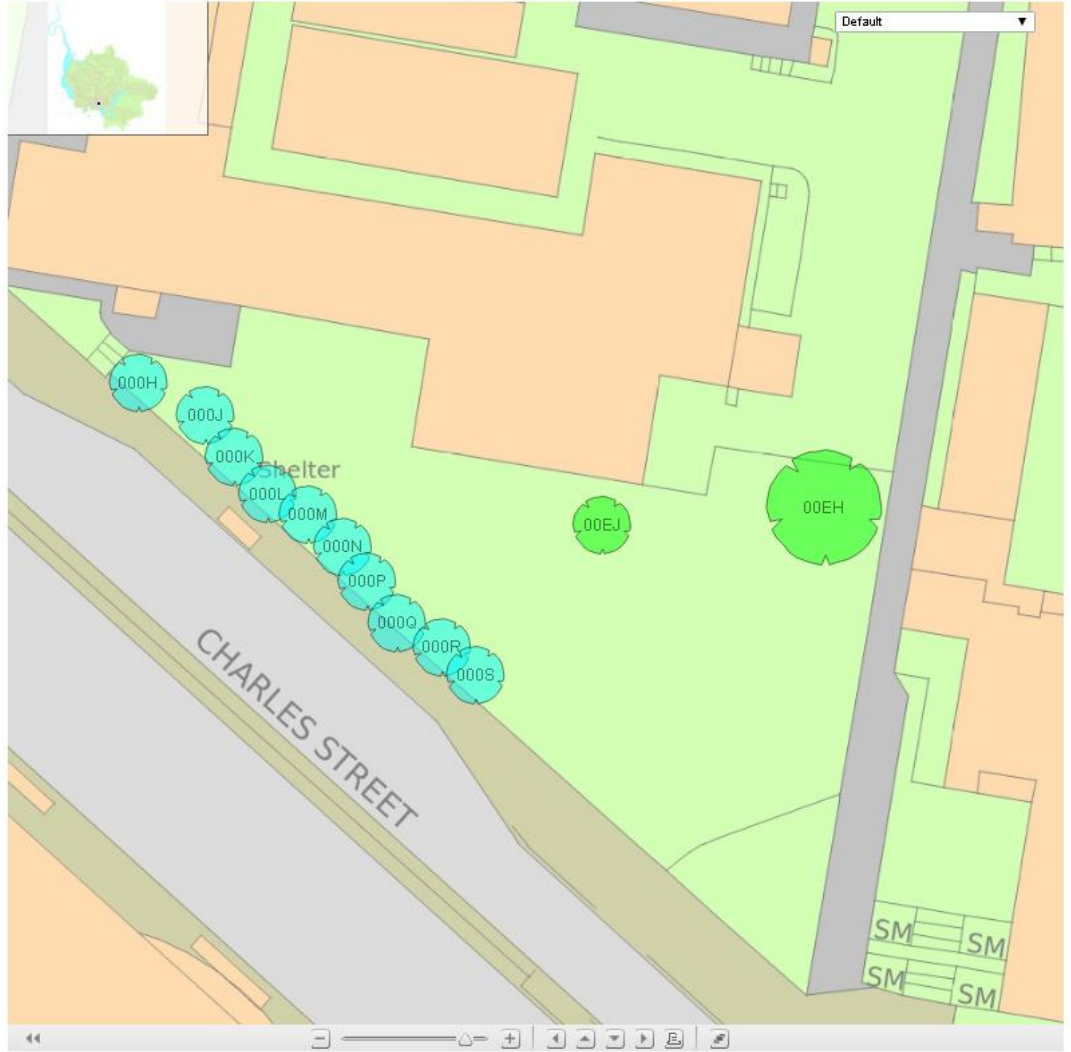
Site: PAVING STONES

Species: Add New

Count: 1

Vegetation Type: Broadleaf

Species: Sorbus aucuparia





# Develop a Tree Safety Management Policy



- Ensure public trees are inspected & managed in accordance with best practice

# Staff Training & Development:



- **Tree Inspection**
- **Tree Works Specification**
- **Practical Management Skills**



# Develop a Framework for Tree Work Contracts



- Ensure works carried out as per 'Best Practice'
- +  
• By competent personnel



# Produce Guidance on Suitable Species of Urban Trees

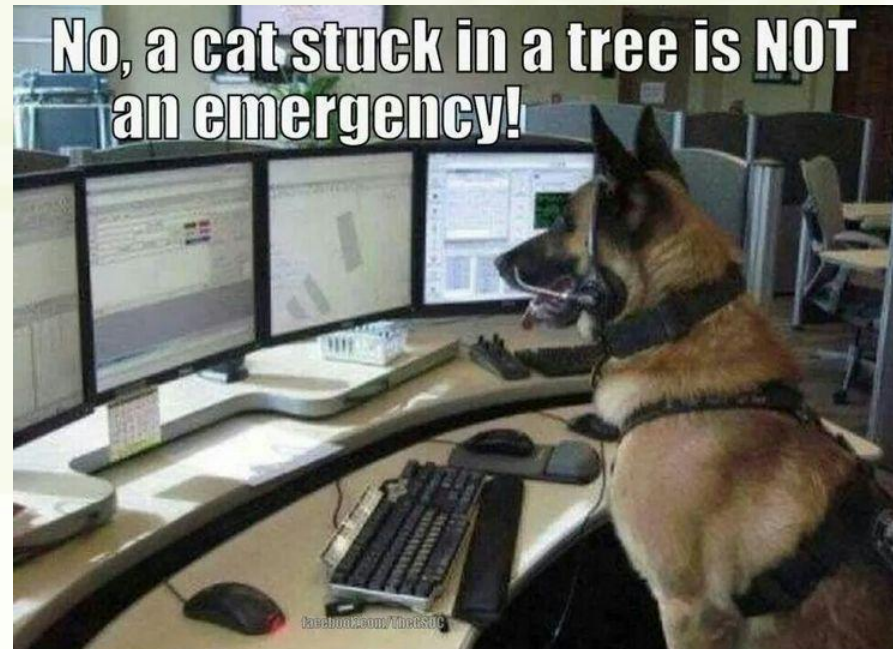


**Promote Tree Planting as part of infrastructure projects**

# Develop *Frequently Asked Questions* FAQs



**Questions?**  
We have answers!



# Continue to promote Tree Week + Volunteer Opportunities



# Next Steps



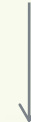
**Strategic Policy Committee**



**Public/Stakeholder Consultation**



**Strategic Policy Committee (July)**



**City Council (Sept)**

# Feedback



- Please email observations/submissions to [treestrategy@dublincity.ie](mailto:treestrategy@dublincity.ie)
- Closing date Fri 29<sup>th</sup> April





Thanks for listening