



ESPOO
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Stand by your tree

– why you should save your
urban tree and how

Did you know that a fully-grown tree is a real treasure? On hot days, trees provide shade and cool their surroundings, and on rainy days, their roots absorb water effectively. Many people in Espoo appreciate how lush and nature-oriented their local environment is. Trees also provide nourishment and a habitat for numerous birds, insects and fungi.

It takes 40–60 years for a tree to become fully grown. In a city, every large tree matters. It is the shared duty of Espoo residents to take care of nature. The trees we save today will also delight and benefit future Espoo residents.



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Nature-wise Espoo – action and a plan for the biodiversity of Espoo. Read more and take action: www.espoo.fi/en/naturewise

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Your protection from heat and flooding

Trees provide shelter from the consequences of climate change

The climate is changing, and summers are getting increasingly warm. Large trees provide shade for the courtyard or garden they grow in. The leaves of a tree emit water, as a result of which the temperature in the vicinity of the tree can be up to 2 degrees lower than elsewhere in the environment. This makes the courtyard a more pleasant place to stay in the summer heat. Trees providing shade also reduce the need to cool your home.

As a result of climate change, rainfall will also increase. Rain and melt water can cause flooding and moisture damage to buildings. Trees and vegetation provide a natural way to manage stormwater on a plot: the roots of the trees can absorb hundreds of litres of water a day. The roots of the trees bind the soil, which protects the garden from erosion caused by flooding and heavy rainfall.

A tree is a living carbon sink. The larger the foliage of the tree, the more it sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The carbon storage of a tree increases as it ages.

Birch is well adapted to the Finnish climate and is an excellent garden tree. Birch needs a lot of water, and it can absorb hundreds of litres of water a day. It helps keep any stormwater under control.



Trees shade and cool the house and its surroundings.

Trees help in stormwater management: the garden or house will not flood.

Trees break down strong air currents and curb the force of the wind.

Trees store carbon and mitigate climate change.

Trees reduce soil erosion.

Boosting your quality of life

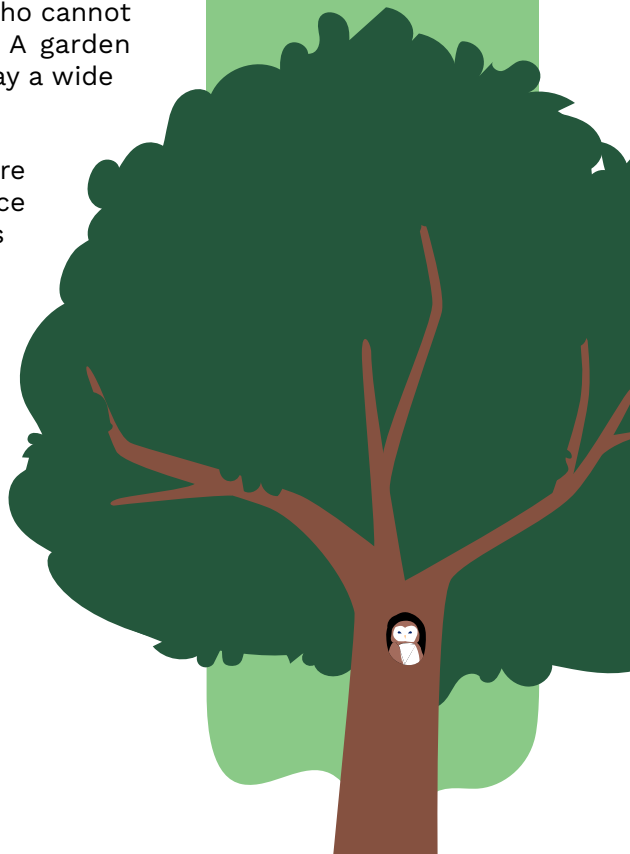
Trees take care of your mind and health

Living in a nature-oriented environment has a positive effect on well-being. In a lush environment, the mind is refreshed, resistance to disease improves and blood pressure decreases. Closeness to nature also encourages people to be physically active.

The greenery of residential areas is particularly beneficial for children and people with limited mobility who cannot enjoy nature far from home. A garden tree can inspire children to play a wide range of different games.

Thanks to trees, Espoo is a more comfortable and healthier place to live. There are old trees growing in many districts, and they are an important part of Espoo's cultural landscape. Having several tree species means that the appearance of the cityscape varies according to season. Deciduous trees' autumn foliage paints the town in reds, browns and yellows. Evergreen conifers are part of the winter landscape.

Maple, oak and lime are hardwood species that are found in Finland and are the ideal choice for garden trees as they are impressive to look at and live for a long time.



Homes and food for other species

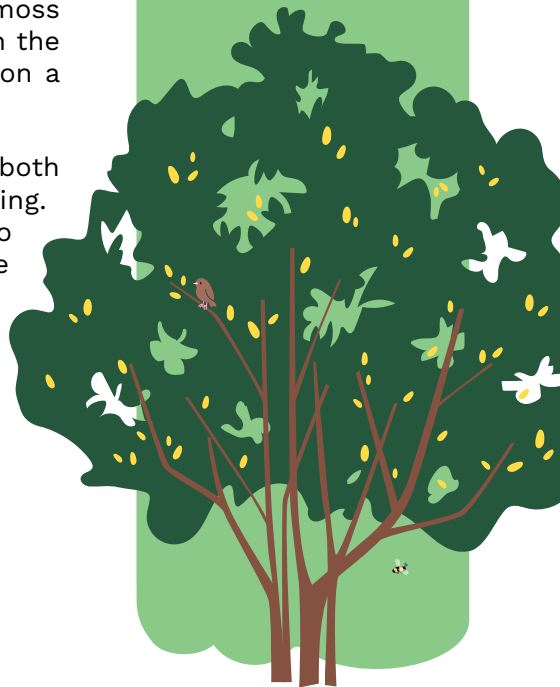
Trees are the lifeblood of organisms living in cities

The city is home not only to humans, but also to many other species. For example, an entire community of organisms may have formed in an old tree whose inhabitants depend on each other and, ultimately, the tree.

The foliage, trunk and root system of a large tree are home to a diverse group of organisms. Birds, squirrels and bats nest under the branches and in the holes in the tree trunk. Trees also provide shelter for dozens or even hundreds of smaller species, such as insects, moss and lichens, that are dependent on the tree. Some of them can only live on a particular tree species.

Even decaying trees are valuable, both felled ones and those still standing. It is estimated that there are up to 5,000 species in Finland that are dependent on decaying wood.

Willows bloom in early spring. Their inflorescences are a vital source of nectar for bumblebees awakening from hibernation and give pollinators a good start to their summer. Many birds also use willow shrubs as hiding spots.



A decaying tree brings a large number of new interesting species to a garden: colourful polypores, funny beetles and useful pollinators.

Trees and shrubs provide shelter and nesting places for birds and insects.

The holes carved by the great spotted woodpecker are home to species such as the European pied flycatcher, the common starling and the flying squirrel.



Decomposing tree leaves improve soil nutrition and the living conditions for micro-organisms.

Hedgehogs and many insects hibernate in piles of leaves.

Trees provide nourishment for pollinators. Without pollinators, there would be no blueberries or apples to pick.

A friend to your wallet

Saving trees is a profitable investment

A green courtyard and trees growing in it offer financial benefits to the developer as well as the owner and residents of flats. The vegetation visible from the window increases the value of the flat.

A tree in the garden also decreases living costs: trees provide shade and cool houses and the surrounding environment, reducing the need for artificial cooling during the summer heat. The roots of the tree absorb rainwater and meltwater and, especially on steep slopes, prevent soil erosion. This also reduces the need for expensive stormwater solutions and erosion protection. Rainwater collected can be utilised as irrigation water.

The benefits of an adult tree are many in relation to small saplings, the benefits of which will only materialise after decades.

Pine is a durable and domestic option that is easy to care for. Pine roots reach deep into the ground, thanks to which they can easily withstand the strain caused by construction.



Thanks to the tree in your garden, you will save on costs such as stormwater treatment, erosion control and cooling your home

Trees also screen you from your neighbours.



A green courtyard and trees visible from the windows add value to any flat.

Tree felling is expensive. If you chop down the old trees in your garden and plant new ones, the saplings will cost you money. Saplings also require constant care and watering. It takes decades for a sapling to grow into a fully-grown tree.

Let your trees stand tall!

Whether you are a builder, property manager or an Espoo resident, you can, through your own actions, contribute to ensuring that Espoo will remain a lush and nature-oriented place in the future. Often, saving trees does not require any action on your part.

Any of us can share information about the importance of trees with the people around us. Start by giving this brochure to the chair of your housing company's board, your property manager, your colleague or your neighbour!



How to preserve any trees growing on your plot during construction

Pioneer works for nature

Consumers are calling on companies to take action to combat the loss of biodiversity and mitigate climate change. Make environmental sustainability part of your company's strategy and practices. At the same time, you act as a trendsetter for the whole industry.



Client has influence

The owner of the plot has the power to decide the fate of the trees growing on the plot. Trees should be taken into account right at the beginning of the planning. The client can direct the construction so that as many of the fully-grown trees growing on the plot as possible are saved.



Protect trees during construction

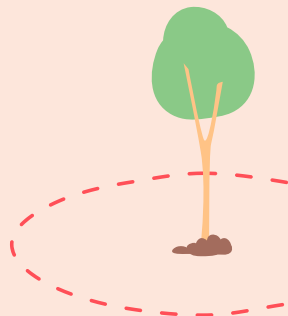
Saving trees during construction requires a systematic approach. Trees must be taken into consideration when planning on-site arrangements. Ensure that the trunk and roots of the tree are adequately protected so that it is not damaged by working machinery and the storage of building materials. Be sure to also instruct subcontractors!



Tip! The RT Building Information File has good instructions for protecting trees during construction.

Choose the right tree for the right place

Some trees grow bigger than others. Some tree species require lush soil while others require something drier. When planting new trees on the plot, choose a domestic tree species suitable for the site. Remember to also make sure the sapling has room to grow to its full size. That way, there will be no need to cut down the tree in the future.



Installing solar panels does not necessarily require felling trees



Shade cast by trees may reduce the electricity production of nearby solar panels, but not always. A large part of the electricity production of solar panels consists of indirect light. The sun can shine through things like pine needles. Deciduous trees are also without leaves for the majority of the year. Explore different options before purchasing solar panels.

How to speak for trees

Suggest, question, negotiate

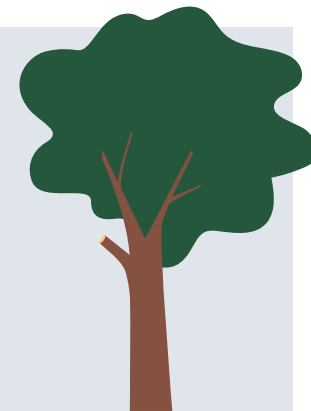
Change starts with small steps. Not everyone knows the importance of urban trees yet. Boldly highlight the benefits that trees offer to people and nature. Find out and suggest other ways to increase the comfort of courtyards and gardens.



How to care for trees in your garden

Ask professional for help

Sometimes a tree that seems to be in poor condition or rotten can still be full of life. If you are not sure whether a tree poses a risk to people or buildings, ask a professional such as an arborist or forest officer to assess the situation. Sometimes the tree can be fully or partially saved. Often, a simple management cutting is enough.



Maintain circulation of nutrients

Do not bother raking leaves – you will remove vital nutrients from the soil! Shred the leaves with a lawnmower, put them in compost or pile them up to protect plantings. There are many different insects that hibernate among fallen leaves.



Long live the decay garden!

In the urban area of Espoo, you always need a permit before felling a tree. If a tree needs to be cut down, part of the trunk can be left in the garden either standing or lying on the ground. A dead tree can be a decoration for the garden. Decaying wood is still part of the nutrient cycle and an interesting research site for children.



Stand by your tree! This brochure contains information about the benefits of having trees grow on your plot. At the end, you will find tips for keeping your trees during things like construction and yard maintenance.



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