Banyule's Urban Forest
The greening of Banyule

Our tree care and bushland crews look after:

- 60,000 street trees
- 160,000 trees in parks and reserves.

Our trees are managed by qualified staff who:

- Inspect each tree for safety once every two years.
- Remove dead trees as required.
- Routinely prune each tree to improve its structure once every two years.
- Ensure our trees are pruned to avoid power lines as per legislative requirements.

- Inspect and manage, as a priority, trees suspected of being a hazard.
- Respond to over 3,000 service requests from residents each year.
- Manage tree related pest and disease issues.
- Provide a 24-hour emergency service, particularly during and following storms.
- Identify vacant sites suitable for tree planting.
- Ensure that trees are protected from construction and civil works.

Trees bring many benefits

Trees within Banyule provide significant economic, social, health, environmental and ecological benefits, both direct and indirect, to the community.

Trees play a significant role in providing a sense of place, community, neighbourhood character and social interaction.

Tree lined streets and access to treed landscapes bring many benefits including:

- Increasing property values.
- Increasing physical activity and helping improve mental health.
- Reducing risks associated with skin cancer and heat stress.
- Storing carbon.
- Removing pollutants from stormwater and reducing the rate of stormwater flow.
- Providing habitat, food and corridors for wildlife.
- Reducing urban heat retention in summer.
- Reducing the use of and costs related to cooling buildings in summer.
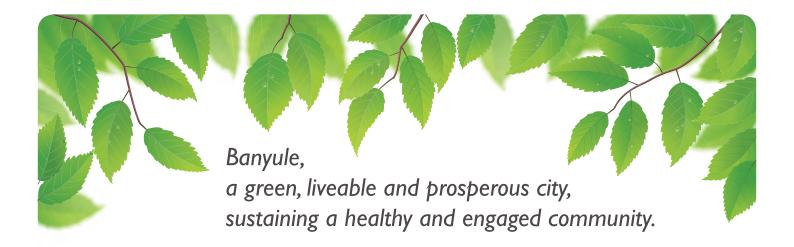
What is an urban forest?

An urban forest is a managed population of trees, both planted and naturally occurring, which provides economic, social, environmental and ecological benefits to communities within an urban setting.

Within Banyule, these trees are located within streets, parks, sports reserves, on private property, along railway verges and waterways. The urban forest also comprises green roofs, vertical walls, and community gardens.

Through their economic, environmental and social impacts, urban forests are a key component of building ecological resilience in our urban areas by providing basic elements such as clean air and water, shelter and a sense of place and wellbeing.

Banyule
CITY COUNCIL

Banyule,
a green, liveable and prosperous city,
sustaining a healthy and engaged community.

Fast facts about planting or removing street trees

- We plant our street trees from March to September, so they get the best start possible.
- Trees are planted to either replace damaged trees, trees that have been removed, or in places where trees were previously not planted.
- Follow-up watering occurs in the warmer months but we rely on additional watering by the community and encourage people to nurture the tree on their nature strip.
- Every effort is made to select the most appropriate species for a particular streetscape.
- Trees are only removed if they are dead, diseased, significantly damaging footpaths, roads or buildings, or are a risk to the public.
- If residents request the removal of a street tree and are not satisfied with the decision made by the arborist who inspects the tree, we have a tree disputation process. Details are available on our website at www.banyule.vic.gov.au.
- We don't generally prune or remove trees for the following reasons:
  - To improve the performance of solar panels.
  - To provide clearance for antennas.
  - Because of leaf, twig or fruit drop.
  - Because a tree provides too much shade.
  - Tree size.
  - A person's dislike of a certain tree species or where it is planted.
  - Property clearance.

In a year, a large tree can:

- ~ Reduce summer temperatures, equivalent to 10 air conditioners.
- ~ Intercept and absorb 2,500 litres of stormwater.
- ~ Filter 30 kilograms of pollutants from the air.