

RootCells and vandal-resistant grilles protect young trees in Sydney streetscape

Tree planting and footpath widening on a Sydney inner city thoroughfare has been aided by underground RootCells from Arborgreen Landscape Products, designed to protect new footpath surfaces and help the growing trees.

RootCells are set into the sub-soil beneath the trees, providing quality aerated soil and plenty of room for the developing root systems.

Burwood Council has used RootCell systems in three projects now, the latest being in Strathfield's Mosely Street near the railway station.

The project includes street paving, four Evergreen Ash trees, underground RootCells and root deflectors to direct the growing roots into the cells. Heel-safe Tree Grilles prevent the surface soil becoming compacted while allowing water and air get to the tree roots, and vertical Tree Guards protect the trees from damage.

“The root systems of trees on city streets can lift pavements and kerbs in their search for water and air,” said a spokesperson for Arborgreen Landscape Products.

“The RootCell system is intended to resolve this problem, ensuring room for tree growth and providing air and moisture for the root area, since growing roots need oxygen just as much as they need water. The cells also provide a structural base for the footpath above the tree roots.”

Tree Guards and Tree Grilles have been installed around the four trees, with associated components including air vents and watering facilities.

The guards inhibit casual vandalism, sometimes caused by younger people playing in the street or coming home after an evening of drinking. The guards protect the growing trees until they are high and strong enough to resist such activity.

Arborgreen's RootCells allow trees growing in an urban environment to have large, healthy root systems sustained in quality uncompacted soil.

Each cell is modular and can be stacked to provide a generous layer of available root zone, relevant to the type and size of the tree. The cells are made from recycled material with extremely high structural integrity.

Their skeletal load-bearing structure prevents soil compaction between high-traffic roadways and footpaths. The open space (95 per cent) within the RootCell structure is filled with quality soil to create a premium growing space.

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