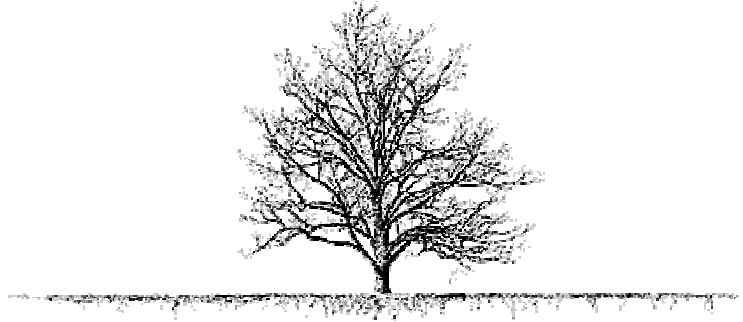


*London wouldn't be London without its **trees** and Richmond wouldn't be its jewel in the crown without its **urban forest**.*

The Tree Section is responsible for the management of some 14,000 street trees, and trees in parks and open spaces, along with this we advise on trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders, those in Conservation Areas and where trees are affected by development. The Council, residents and elected Members have shown a desire to keep the Borough's streets tree lined; they make a huge contribution to the quality of life in the Borough, its setting and overall amenity for those who live, work and visit the Borough.



Trees can cause inconvenience with light, encroachment, roots, leaves, sticky deposits and more, ultimately though it is our belief that the benefits far outweigh any problems:

- **TREES HELP TO KEEP US HEALTHIER**

Air pollution is acknowledged to increase the risk of heart attacks, strokes and cancer. Trees are very effective in filtering out harmful pollutants from vehicle emissions and absorbing harmful gases.

Trees provide shade reducing the risks of skin cancer and the formation of ozone smog.

Trees and green spaces significantly reduce the stress of urban living.

- **TREES REDUCE POLLUTION**

Trees help to lock up carbon emissions and reduce energy consumption (as much as 10% lower in buildings sheltered by trees).

Trees reduce the effects of storm water and the likelihood of flash flooding.

- **TREES ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITIES**

They are essential to our sense of place – landmarks in the city, the community and the personal lives of our citizens.

Street trees provide valuable wildlife 'corridors' connecting areas of green space, a key to maintaining biodiversity within the Borough.

- **TREES INCREASE THE VALUE OF OUR HOMES**

Residential property prices are substantially higher in leafy areas.

**The Tree Section manages our trees in accordance with best practice and best value.
We carry out regular inspections and pruning programmes.**

**We trust this sheet gives you an insight into why trees are so important to us all.
Should you have any queries or want to report a problem please do not hesitate to
contact us.**