

PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT VARIOUS WORKS ON YOUR PROPEERTY

How to carry out your work while preserving the urban forest and minimizing damage to trees

The hidden part of trees : their roots

Imagine the tree as an iceberg. What you see above ground (the trunk, branches, leaves) is only part of the overall tree. The other part, which lies beneath the surface, is the root system. It is every bit as extensive, developed and important as the above-ground parts.

The roots serve to stabilize the tree in the ground and nourish it. They also stabilize the ground, absorb surface water, and store atmospheric carbon (reserves).

Experts agree that the root system as a whole (anchor and feeder roots) is located near the surface of the ground. In fact, 70% of roots are located within the first 30 cm below the surface and 99% of the roots are no more than 100 cm deep.



*L'étendue du système racinaire sous la pelouse

Landscaping work can include the installation of a pool, a structure such as a porch or veranda, the expansion or construction of a driveway, a reprofiling of slopes, the installation of a drain, sewer repairs or the laying of sod. To ensure that these projects can be carried out while preserving the health and safety of trees, work must be carefully planned (type of equipment, distances to respect, precautions to be taken).

How landscaping works can damage your trees?

- equipment injuring the trunk and breaking branches.
- excavating too close to the trunk, thereby damaging the tree's anchoring system.
- storing materials or running equipment over the roots, resulting in their compaction and asphyxiation (loss of oxygen in the soil).
- ripping the roots with a power shovel, thereby reducing their ability to absorb water and minerals.
- putting an overly thick layer of fill over the root and around the collar.
- stripping the soil and surface roots.

All these forms of damage can weaken the tree and lead to its death in just a few years.

Furthermore, when anchor roots are disturbed by improper excavation, the safety of surrounding areas is threatened, since the stability of the tree is affected, possibly causing its uprooting.

Protective fencing



Root pruning

How to properly plan your landscaping works

The following steps can be helpful:

1. Determine your needs, what you want to do, and check urban planning standards with the Town.
2. Have your trees and site inspected before going ahead with detailed planning of the work, as this will tell you what you're dealing with. We can help you identify the trees that you should protect, those that must be cut down, alternative solutions, protective measures to implement and other advice of a general nature. Simply complete the cutting/inspection form, attaching as much detailed information as possible (ex: a sketch) to your application.
3. Develop plans for your project (taking into account standards, trees, and protection zones).
4. Find a qualified contractor to carry out your project.
5. Install protections for the trees (fences, root pruning, etc.).
6. Carry out the work.

7. Follow up once the project has been completed. What measures should be taken to minimize impacts after the work? This follow-up can extend over a few years, as you check if the tree responds well or is dying off.

True or false?

- If you don't dig too deeply into the ground, the tree's roots will remain intact.

FALSE: Most of the roots are located within the first 30 cm from the surface. A 10-cm excavation is enough to cause permanent damage to the tree.

- If you add soil (fill) over the roots following the excavation, the damage will repair itself.

FALSE: Damage to the roots is irreparable. Injuries to the roots can cause the base of the tree to rot and deteriorate. Furthermore, landfill is not enough to stabilize the tree if its anchor roots have been disturbed.

- If the tree shows no sign of deterioration in the days following the work, its chances of survival are good.

FALSE: Signs of the tree's deterioration can appear even 10 years after the work!



*Injury to the bark caused by equipment

CHECKLIST

- Do you need a permit from Urban Planning?
- Do you need a tree-cutting permit?
- Do you know where to find the required application forms? <https://www.ville.rosemere.qc.ca/forms>
- Are there trees in the equipment's path?
- Where are the trees located on your property?
- Do some trees need protection?
- Is any excavation work planned?
- What is the projected width of the excavation?
Do you have the measurements? A sketch?
- Do you need to stockpile the soil?
- Are there neighbours' trees near the work (within a minimum 3 m radius)?

Before starting the work, we suggest that you check with the urban forestry team, even if you don't need a tree-cutting permit. The team can advise you on how to keep your trees safe and reduce the risk of deterioration.

- Public works
T. 450 621-3500, poste 3300
100, Charbonneau, street, Rosemère
travauxpublics@ville.rosemere.qc.ca
- To complete the tree cutting form FREE
www.ville.rosemere.qc.ca/certificat-autorisation-coupe-arbres
- Refer to landscaping standards (Normes du BNQ) <https://bnq.qc.ca>

