

A large, stylized graphic of a tree with thick, light-colored branches and leaves, set against a dark teal background. The graphic is positioned in the upper half of the page.

# SHADE TREE SURVEY

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# LOCATION

## My tree is located...

- on a boulevard
- in a park
- along a street or sidewalk
- on school grounds
- on private property

## Other comments about my tree's location:

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Make sure you've noted enough detail to be able to find your tree again.

# WHO'S WHO?

## Tree Identification

### My tree's shape is most like...



### My tree's trunk is:

- single-stemmed
- multi-stemmed

### My tree's branches are:



- opposite
- alternate
- whorled

### My tree's leaves:

- needle-like or scale-like or broad and flat? \_\_\_\_\_
- simple or compound? \_\_\_\_\_
- markings/colours on top: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- markings/colours on the underside: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- texture: \_\_\_\_\_
- rounded stem or flattened stem? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- rounded tip or pointed tip? \_\_\_\_\_
- margins: serrated (toothed) edges or smooth edges? \_\_\_\_\_

Trees are often categorized as either deciduous or coniferous, but it's not always as simple as that. Some common shade trees, such as dawn redwoods, are both deciduous and coniferous.

Use the table below to help **categorize** your tree.

	<b>Deciduous</b> - drops leaves annually	<b>Evergreen</b> - keeps leaves throughout the year
<b>Has cones (coniferous) and needle- or scale-like leaves.</b>	e.g. larches, dawn redwood	e.g. cedars, pines, firs, spruces
<b>Does not have cones and has broad, flat leaves.</b>	e.g. maples, oaks, beeches	e.g. holly, palm trees

### I think my tree is:

- deciduous conifer
- evergreen conifer
- deciduous without cones
- evergreen without cones

**My tree's seeds:**

- fleshy fruit
- cones
- nuts
- acorns
- pods
- samaras  
(winged seeds)
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe:**

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**Draw:**

**How do you think these seeds are likely dispersed?**

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**My tree's flowers/fruit:**

**Describe:**

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**Draw:**

**My tree's bark:**

**Trunk texture and colour:**

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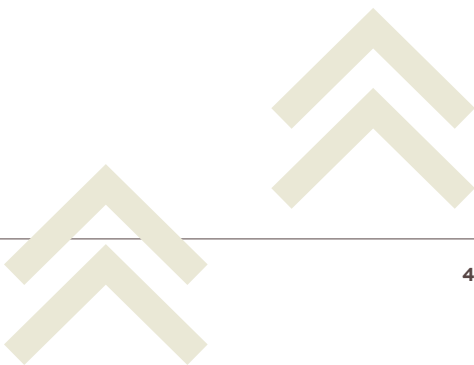
**Branch texture and colour:**

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My tree is a \_\_\_\_\_  
(common name). I can tell because...

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OR

I'm not sure what type my tree is, but it  
might be a \_\_\_\_\_  
I think this because...

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I found my tree on COSMOS (the City of  
Surrey's Mapping Online System):

yes  no

If yes, when was this tree planted?

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Surrey shade trees are often planted when  
they are about seven years old. Estimate  
the age of your tree in years: \_\_\_\_\_

My tree's scientific name:

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My tree's common name:

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What characteristics make my tree a good  
shade tree? Why might an arborist choose  
to plant this specific type of tree?

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Check out **Shade Tree ID** for information about  
common shade trees in Surrey.

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## HOME SWEET HOME

### Shade Trees and Wildlife

Wildlife observed in my tree:

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Signs of wildlife observed or heard (e.g.  
nests, bird calls) in or around my tree:

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Insects, arachnids, or other invertebrates  
observed:

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Other clues that animals are using my tree  
as habitat include:

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Are there other plants or fungi growing on  
my tree?

yes  no

If yes, describe them.

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## BACK TO 'BASE-ICS'

### Tree Wells

A tree well is a grass-free area at the base of a young tree. They help young trees by:

- making it easy for water to reach the tree roots,
- keeping the soil moist,
- keeping weeds from growing, and
- keeping lawn tools away from the trunk.

My tree has exposed roots at the surface:

- yes  no

There are plants or grass growing at the base of my tree:

- yes  no

If yes, describe what is growing there.

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There is mulch at the base of my tree:

- yes  no

If yes, how do you think it helps this tree?

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The soil at the base of my tree is:

- wet, moist, dry or mixed? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ coloured
- covered or uncovered? \_\_\_\_\_



## HOW DOES IT MEASURE UP?

### Tree Measurements

There are many ways to measure a tree.

Approximate the height of your tree using NASA's GLOBE Observer app: \_\_\_\_\_

Calculate the height of your tree.

(search online to learn different methods):

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Measure the circumference of the trunk at chest height (approx. 1.37m from the ground): \_\_\_\_\_

Calculate the diameter of the trunk at chest height (circumference at chest height divided by 3.14): \_\_\_\_\_

Measure the circumference of the crown.

Hint: Look up! Imagine measuring the tree's dripline. \_\_\_\_\_

Measure the diameter of the crown from north (N) to south (S) \_\_\_\_\_ and east (E) to west (W) \_\_\_\_\_.

Calculate the average crown spread.

$$\frac{\text{diameter N to S} + \text{diameter E to W}}{2} =$$

Estimate the crown transparency. Look up through the canopy, how much sky do you see compared to leaves?

- 0-25%  50-75%  
 25-50%  75-100%



Shade trees play an important role in growing Surrey's tree canopy cover.

# THINK LIKE AN ARBORIST

## Tree Assessment

Do I see any nicks or cuts at the base of my tree?

yes  no

These can be caused by lawnmowers or other equipment getting too close.

If yes, describe the size and location of the damage.

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Do I see any loose or hanging branches?

yes  no

Do I see any signs that this tree has been pruned?

yes  no

Do I see anything that looks unusual on the tree (e.g. visible rotting or large numbers of insects)?

yes  no

If you notice any other evidence of damage to the tree, describe it here. What might have caused it?

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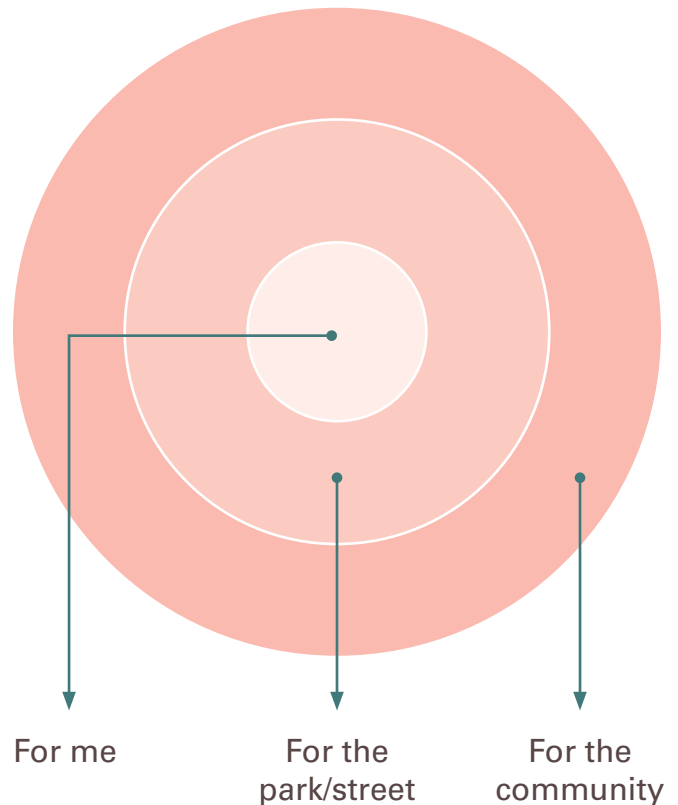


# TREE-MENDOUS!

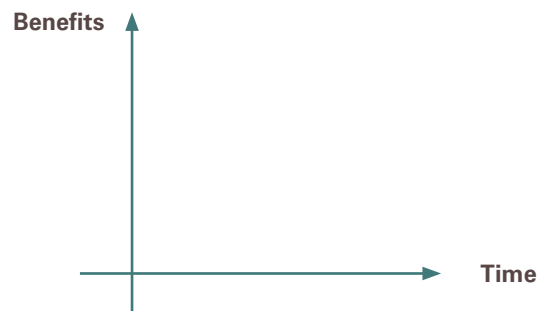
## Benefits of Shade Trees

Shade trees provide environmental, social, psychological and economic benefits.

Think about what benefits this tree is providing to the community, to the park/street and to you. Add examples of benefits to each layer of the circle.



Over time, how will these benefits increase? Draw a graph to show the trend.



# **SPEAK FOR THE TREES**

## **Tree Care**

**MONITOR TREES | STUDY TREES**

**WATER TREES**

**BE GENTLE WITH TREES**

**TEACH OTHERS ABOUT TREES**

**LEARN ABOUT TREES | PROTECT TREES**

**PLANT | RESPECT TREES**

**TREES | LET TREES GROW**

**CELEBRATE TREES | APPRECIATE TREES**

**SPEND TIME NEAR TREES**

**READ ABOUT TREES**

**SHARE STORIES ABOUT TREES**

**I will** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**to show I care for trees.**

