



into the root flare of the tree which can lead to decreased vigor and eventually death [1]. It is because of these facts that tree grates are no longer permitted to be placed in trees in Jersey City. In place of grates, tree guards can provide more benefits than the grates had without any of the drawbacks.



Tree growing into tree grate, restricting growth and will almost certainly lead to mortality of the tree (photo taken from [The Case For Big Tree Openings | DeepRoot Blog](#))

### **Why would you want to install a tree guard?**

Tree guards protect the City's tree resource investment and improve storm water management by mitigating compaction of the soil within the tree bed from people, pets, and vehicles. A study by Columbia University found that trees with tree guards increased runoff water absorption by six times compared to trees without guards [2]. Increased water absorption performed by Trees with tree guards reduces the burden off of the City sewer system and can help lessen the impact of flooding associated with storm events [2]. Tree guards also help protect trees from physical damage from vehicles and pet waste, which extends the lifespan of the tree and reduces mortality among newly planted trees [3]. Tree beds with guards can also potentially offer a protected space for flower gardening [3].



Google image of a tree guard installed at 351 Marin Boulevard – tree is thriving and there is protected space for gardening in the bed

Tree guards are recommended for City tree beds whenever possible, especially in commercial areas and areas of high foot and vehicular traffic [1].

**Sources:**

- 1) [Forestry Standards 021518 final.pdf \(civiclive.com\)](#)
- 2) [So Much Depends on a Tree Guard \(columbia.edu\)](#)
- 3) [Tree Guards : NYC Parks \(nycgovparks.org\)](#)