

Play roots

Often large windblown trees are quickly cleared up and root plates lifted back into their holes. Roots not only look amazing once the soil has been washed away; they provide play opportunities or an interesting place for people to hang objects or art work found in – or made from – the forest.

HOW TO BUILD



- Retain windblown trees with impressive root plates. Ensure that these trees are cut safely and left in a manner that does not pose a risk of them moving, rocking or falling back into place.
- Pressure wash soil away.
- With careful cutting and lifting (possibly with a forwarder) tree stems could be planted upside down; the elevated roots create a strange canopy structure.

Ensure that the planted length of the stem is at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total length, that the bark is removed and that backfill material is well consolidated in layers of 150 mm; concrete might be necessary in soils where good compaction is not possible. Replanting a butt with its root plate at a lower level (less than 1 metre) will produce a nest-like structure.

- Over time, sections in contact with the ground may begin to rot. These will require regular inspection and possible removal to ensure stability.



Safety issues

- Stability of root plate. Many potential traps (slippery when wet and eye hazards).
- Careful cutting necessary. Contact a play specialist to help trim roots that might cause entrapment.
- Refer to fall heights, falling space and entrapment in safety section of appendix.