

GLOSSARY – Is That Tree Safe?

(Appendix A)

Bark – a protective covering over the trunk and branches of a tree. Bark protects trees from injury and disease and keeps the trunk from drying out. A tree has a layer of **inner bark** and a layer of **outer bark**.

Cambium – a cell layer that makes new bark (**phloem**) and new wood (**xylem**) every year. The cambium layer is located between the inner bark (phloem) and the new wood (xylem).

Chlorophyll – pigment that gives leaves and plants their green color. Chlorophyll absorbs the sunlight needed for photosynthesis.

Chloroplast – the place inside a leaf where photosynthesis takes place.

Crown or Canopy – the upper part of a tree that consists of the branches, twigs, and leaves.

Deciduous – trees that lose all their leaves each year at the end of the growing season.

Diameter – the length of a straight line that passes through the center of a circle, from one side to the other. The diameter of a tree trunk is the same as the width of the trunk.

Dormant – in a temporary state of rest or inactivity

Drainage – the movement of water from the surface of the ground down through the soil.

Erosion – the removal of soil, usually caused by wind or water.

Habitat – the place that provides a plant or animal everything it needs to live.

Heartwood – the inner backbone of a tree. Heartwood is not living wood; it supports the tree and is also the place where many waste products from the tree collect.

Inner bark – (**phloem**) the layer of bark that has tubes through which food travels from the leaves down to the branches, stem, and roots. When phloem cells die, they become part of the outer bark.

Leader – the shoot, limb, or trunk that leads all other branches in vertical growth.

New wood – (**xylem**) layer of wood inside a tree that carries minerals dissolved in water upward from the roots.

Nutrients – substances that promote growth.

Outer bark – the “skin” of a tree. Outer bark protects the tree from injury and diseases; it also insulates the tree from winter cold and summer heat.

Parasite – an insect, animal, or plant that lives on or in, and gets food from, another insect, plant, or animal on which the parasite is living.

Pest – a general term for any kind of life form, including insects, animals, other plants, or diseases, that is destructive to trees or plants.

Phloem – inner bark layer that has tubes through which food travels from the leaves down to the branches, stem, and roots. When phloem cells die, they become part of the outer bark.

Photosynthesis – the process by which trees and other plants make food.

Pigment – color.

Respiration – a process in which the food made during photosynthesis is broken down into energy that can be used by a tree. Respiration uses some of the oxygen that trees produce during photosynthesis. Trees take up oxygen and release carbon dioxide during respiration.

Trunk – the thick main stem of a tree that supports the tree, making it tall and strong. The wood of the trunk moves water and nutrients from the roots to the leaves and also transports food from the leaves to the branches and down to the roots.

Xylem – the **new wood** inside a tree that carries minerals dissolved in water upward from the roots.