

Cabling

Cables are installed in trees to provide extra support or to limit the movement of limbs.

Types of Tree Support Systems

The type of support system used depends on tree age, species, and on the structure and condition of the tree that needs support.

Static Cabling - Involves the use of steel cable and eye-bolts that are drilled directly into the tree.

Dynamic Cabling - Involves the use of synthetic, rope-like cable that is wrapped around the stem and grows with the diameter of the tree. It is less rigid and allows the tree to move with the wind.



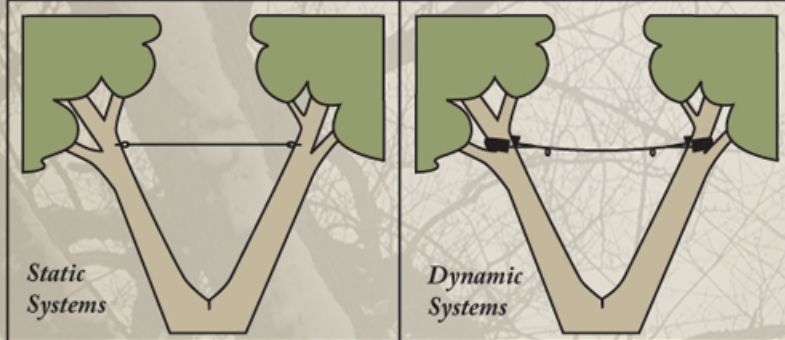
A Word of Warning

Support systems are not a solution to all defects and are not recommended for all trees. Trees with excessive decay in the trunk and branches are not considered for support. Trees with root rot and structural defects at their base are also not considered. There is also a limit to the amount of weight that a support system can hold, therefore, trees with massive limbs need special consideration.

In addition to the concerns listed above, it is important to note that even trees that have been braced and cabled may fail. There is no guarantee that trees that have been given a support system will provide total tree safety. Support systems are NOT intended to eliminate risk and are not considered permanent remedies to structural weaknesses.

It is important that our arborists inspect your support system annually. Hardware entry areas should be inspected for decay and strength. Dynamic systems should be inspected for photo-degradation and stretching.

Static vs. Dynamic Cabling Systems



The Pros:

- Static cabling has a proven track record for many cases
- Materials last longer
- Can support larger limbs

The Cons:

- Requires drilling into the tree, which causes wounding
- Requires special tools
- Static systems are rigid, meaning the tree cannot move on its own, sometimes making weak branch attachments even weaker

The Pros:

- There is no wounding of the trees
- Lightweight and easy to install
- The tree is able to move in the wind, increasing the strength of the stem and branches

The Cons:

- Cables may stretch over time
- Possibility of photo-degradation
- Breaking strength is less

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