

## **Chattanooga, Tennessee Finds Success with Both BioBarrier® Root Control System and BioBarrier® Weed Control System**

Chattanooga, Tennessee, the fourth largest city in the state, once had problems controlling tree roots and weed growth in its public spaces. That has changed since the city began using BioBarrier® Root Control Fabric and BioBarrier® Weed Control Fabric.



*Before BioBarrier, weeds were a perpetual problem.*



*After using BioBarrier, the tree pits were attractive and weed-free.*

With a population of approximately 170,000, Chattanooga is set on the Tennessee River and surrounded by mountains. It is picturesque, with many trees greening the hills around the city and incorporated into its urban center. City Forester Gene Hyde has been an integral part of keeping the city green and has worked for the Chattanooga Department of Public Works since 1990. He first used the BioBarrier System in 1991.

“Chattanooga covers about 135 square miles,” Hyde points out. “The department of urban forestry maintains the trees along 1200 miles of roads, plus 55 miles of alleys. With only seven people in the department, plus three work crews, we have scant resources to do our job.”

Hyde has used the BioBarrier System in three types of applications in Chattanooga.

First, it has been used on suburban city sidewalks to prevent roots from heaving the four inch thick concrete walks. The trees are valued for their shade and beauty, but the cost of repairing or replacing sidewalks had become prohibitive, as had the potential liability from injuries. In this application, the BioBarrier Weed Control Fabric is placed horizontally under the compacted base before the concrete is poured.

Second, the Biobarrier System has been used as root control along the edges of urban tree pits, again, to keep tree roots away from the sidewalk. Biobarrier Root Control Fabric offers a long-term solution in root control because it is guaranteed for 15 years. In this application, the fabric is placed vertically in the pit and runs parallel with the sidewalk.

A final use has been for weed control in those same pits. "There were a tremendous number of weeds around the trees," Hyde says. "We took everything out, placed Biobarrier Weed Control Fabric on the soil and put precast blocks of pervious concrete over it. That took care of the weed problem." Biobarrier Weed Control Fabric is guaranteed for 10 years.

Reducing maintenance costs, while keeping the city green, has been Hyde's goal, and the Biobarrier System has helped him achieve it.

"We have to operate in a way that's sustainable, that gives us the biggest bang for our bucks," Hyde says. "The Biobarrier System fits into that mix for us."