

## Planting a snag in a demonstration habitat

**First, consult an arborist trained in risk assessment and management.**

**It is important that before planting a snag, the prospective site should be investigated carefully so the snag will not pose risk to people or property if it were to fall.**

### **Select a snag that:**

- Is relocated from within the park
- Has a trunk at least 12" in diameter and has most of its bark intact. (Due to risk of falling, trees in advance stages of decay are not suitable to be positioned upright when relocated.)
- Is sufficiently tall so that after burying one third of it in the ground, it is at least 10 feet, preferably 15' tall. (A stump as short as 6' above ground may still be of value.)
- Dig the hole deep enough to bury one-third of the snag. Adjust the snag so its branches are easily visible from preferable vantage points.
- Consider the visibility of any cavities that birds may use for nesting or roosting. These should be positioned to allow park visitor viewing.
- After the snag is properly aligned, fill the hole with fine gravel, firm dirt or concrete to hold it securely in place. It may be necessary to brace the snag with poles or wires at first until it has settled well.

**Every snag should be monitored regularly for risk.**

If they do not already exist, it is recommended that shrubs and trees be planted nearby to create additional shelter and to encourage birds to take advantage of the snag. The addition of downed wood and brush piles in the area is also recommended.

