

City Of Portsmouth Tree Protection Plan

Definition: Practices to preserve and protect desirable trees from damage during project development.

Purpose: To preserve and protect trees which have present or future value in protection from erosion, landscape and aesthetic value, or for other environmental benefits.

- I. The tree canopy/root zones of trees to be preserved shall be protected during the entire construction process.
- II. Prior to the start of any site work, the contractor will erect semi- permanent fencing around tree root zones which are to be protected within the construction site. The fence shall be placed around the trees to be protected with a radius determined by the City Arborist, typically one foot of protected area for each inch of trunk diameter. This ratio can be increased or decreased per the City Arborist's discretion to further protect specimen or historic trees. The location of the fencing will be marked by the City Arborist prior to fence installation.
- III. The Contractor shall be responsible for installation and maintenance of all tree protection fencing.
- IV. Protective fencing shall remain undisturbed until ALL site work has been completed. The Contractor shall remove fencing at completion of project. If protective fencing is damaged, the Contractor shall immediately execute the necessary repairs to re-establish the protective fencing to original configurations.
- V. All work conducted in the ground within the protection zone of any protected tree should be accomplished with hand tools only. An air excavation tool (i.e. an Airspade) shall be used for root pruning prior to machine excavation where digging abuts the dripline of specimen or historic trees.
- VI. The Contractor shall be held liable for any damages to protected trees and root zones caused by unauthorized intrusions into the protected areas during construction activity. Additionally, the Contractor shall be held liable for damages incurred to any tree branches that extend over protective fencing and to any trees or other plant material located on the site and indicted on the plan to remain. The Contractor shall be held liable for all remedial measures required to treat broken limbs, or damaged trees and roots, or for unauthorized removal of existing trees or plant material, etc. All tree surgery and remedial treatments will be accomplished by the City of Portsmouth's arborists.

- VII. The Contractor shall notify the City Arborist when any overhanging branches or other plant materials interfering with or risks damage due to construction activity.
- VIII. No removal or encroachment into Tree Protection Enclosures shall be permitted unless coordinated with the City Arborist.
- IX. Any grading, construction, demolition, remedial measures or other work that is expected to encounter tree roots shall be made in consultation with the City Arborist.
- X. No machine digging shall take place within a radius of one and one-half foot for each 1-inch diameter at breast height (DBH) of any tree with a historic or specimen designation unless an air excavation tool has been used to prune roots along dripline beforehand.
- XI. Any pruning of protected trees that may be required during the course of construction shall be performed by the City of Portsmouth Arborists. Coordinate pruning requests with the City Arborist.
- XII. For construction projects requiring access or haul roads that must pass over the root area of trees to be retained, a roadbed shall be installed using 4 inches (minimum) of mulch or wood chips covered with approved logging mats. The roadbed shall be replenished and maintained as necessary to provide desired root zone protection. For projects requiring materials storage within the root area of trees to be retained or protected, this area shall be constructed using an approved Geotextile base covered with 4 inches (minimum) of coarse wood mulch or chips. The area shall be replenished as necessary to maintain a 4 inch (minimum) depth.
- XIII. There shall be no vehicular traffic, parking, or stock piling of materials permitted under the drip line/canopy of ANY tree to be retained or protected within the construction site, unless approved tree root protection measures have been installed. Foot traffic shall be kept to a minimum under the drip line/canopy. If temporary foot traffic must be directed over the root zone of trees to be retained or protected, a pathway shall be installed using an approved Geotextile base covered with 3 inches (minimum) or mulch or wood chips. The pathway material shall be replenished as necessary to maintain a 3-inch (minimum) depth.
- XIV. "Natural" or pre-construction grade should be maintained for as great a distance from the trunk of each tree as construction permits. At no time during or after construction should soil be in contact with the trunk of the tree above natural grade.
- XV. When removing pavement, as little disruption of soil as necessary should be attempted.

XVI. Any required trenching which has options for trench path location should be routed in such a manner as to minimize root damage. Radial trenching (radial to the tree trunk) is less harmful than tangential trenching because it runs parallel to tree roots rather than diagonal or perpendicular to them. If roots can be worked around, cutting of roots should be avoided (i.e. place pipes and cables below uncut roots whenever possible). When possible, utilize the same trench for as many utilities as possible.

XVII. Plans must be reviewed by the City Arborist and/or the City of Portsmouth Trees and Greenery Committee, and signed off before commencement of work. Protective fencing must be approved in place before any construction will be allowed to begin.