

STREET TREE PROTECTION SPECIFICATIONS

31-1 General – Tree protection has three primary functions, 1) to keep the foliage canopy and branching structure clear from contact by equipment, materials and activities; 2) to preserve roots and soil conditions in an intact and non-compacted state and 3) to identify the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) in which no soil disturbance is permitted and activities are restricted, unless otherwise approved.

31-2 Reference Documents

- a. **Detail 505** – Illustration of situations described below.
- b. **Tree Technical Manual** (www.cityofpaloalto.org/trees/)
 - 1. Trenching Restriction Zones (Section 2.20(C))
 - 2. Arborist Reporting Protocol (Section 6.30)
 - 3. Site Plan Requirements (Section 6.35)

31-3 Materials

- a. **The Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)** is an restricted area around the base of the tree with a radius of 10 times the diameter of the tree's trunk or ten feet, whichever is greater, enclosed by fencing.
- b. **Type I Tree Protection:** The fence shall enclose the entire area under the canopy dripline or TPZ (whichever is greater) of the tree(s) to be protected throughout the life of the construction project. In some parking areas, if fencing is located on paving or concrete that will not be demolished, then the posts may be supported by an appropriate grade level concrete base, if approved.
- c. **Type II Tree Protection:** For trees situated within a planting strip, only the planting strip and yard side of the TPZ shall be enclosed with the required chain link protective fencing in order to keep the sidewalk and street open for public use.
- d. **Type III Tree Protection:** Trees situated in a tree well or sidewalk planter pit, shall be wrapped with 2-inches of orange plastic fencing from the ground to the first branch and overlaid with 2-inch thick wooden slats bound securely (slats shall not be allowed to dig into the bark). During installation of the plastic fencing, caution shall be used to avoid damaging any branches. Major scaffold limbs may also require plastic fencing as directed by the City Arborist.
- e. **Size, type and area to be fenced.** All trees to be preserved shall be protected with six (6') foot high chain link fences. Fences are to be mounted on two-inch diameter galvanized iron posts, driven into the ground to a depth of at least 2-feet at no more than 10-foot spacing.

- f. **‘Warning’ sign.** A warning sign shall be prominently displayed on each fence at 20-foot intervals. The sign shall be a minimum 8.5-inches x 11-inches and clearly state: “WARNING - Tree Protection Zone - This fence shall not be removed and is subject to a fine according to PAMC Section 8.10.110.”

31-4 Execution

- a. **Duration.** Tree fencing shall be erected before demolition, grading or construction begins and remain in place until final inspection of the project, except for work specifically allowed in the TPZ. Work or soil disturbance in the TPZ requires approval by the project arborist or City Arborist (in the case of work around Street Trees). Excavations within the public ROW require a Street Work Permit from Public Works.

- b. **During construction**
 - 1. All neighbors' trees that overhang the project site shall be protected from impact of any kind.
 - 2. The applicant shall be responsible for the repair or replacement plus penalty of any publicly owned trees that are damaged during the course of construction, pursuant to Section 8.04.070 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code.
 - 3. The following tree preservation measures apply to all trees to be retained:
 - a. No storage of material, topsoil, vehicles or equipment shall be permitted within the TPZ.
 - b. The ground under and around the tree canopy area shall not be altered.
 - c. Trees to be retained shall be irrigated, aerated and maintained as necessary to ensure survival.

END OF SECTION