

9.1.11 Tree Protection Requirements

- A. Disturbance of up to 20% of the tree protection zone may be allowed with an approved land disturbance permit, building permit or tree conservation plan. Tree disturbance activities encroaching more than 20% of the critical root zone are prohibited without an arboricultural tree prescription and approval of the City Arborist.
- B. Land disturbance and grading on single-family residential properties (e.g., R-85, R- 60, R-50) shall be limited to no more than 125% of the total lot coverage permitted by zoning regulations.
- C. Damage to be avoided within the tree protection zone shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 1) Land disturbance and grading;
 - 2) Soil compaction;
 - 3) Gas, liquid, or solid contamination of the soil;
 - 4) Application of toxic chemicals to tree roots, trunk, or crown;
 - 5) Crushing or cutting of tree roots;
 - 6) Damage resulting from grading for or installation of sod, turf, or irrigation systems;
 - 7) Attachment of ropes, wires, chains, nails, screws, advertising, posters, or any other objects to tree trunks or scaffold limbs of public trees;
 - 8) Wounding of tree roots, trunk, and scaffold limbs;
 - 9) Improper pruning, including topping;
 - 10) Trenching for pipes, conduit, underground utilities, or silt fence;
 - 11) Excessive heat or desiccation causing bark, wood, limb, or large-scale bud or leaf injury.

- D. During land disturbance and land development, active protection shall be required for protected trees in accordance current American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations, ANSI Z133 Safety Standards, industry best management practices, and the Administrative Standards that accompany this Section.
- E. Active tree protection measures shall consist of the following:
- a. **Erection of tree protection fencing around the outer limits of the critical root zone** to include temporary chain link fence or four foot orange tree protection fencing and staked hay bales;
 - b. **Posting of tree protection signs in both English and Spanish** stating "Tree Protection Zone – Keep Out";
 - c. **Removal of invasive weeds by non-mechanical means that do not damage soil and tree roots and placement of a 2 inch layer of mulch within the critical root zone;**
 - d. **Preconstruction limb pruning on any tree within the construction zone using ANSI Standard A300** at an appropriate height to avoid damage from construction equipment;
 - e. **Root pruning using ANSI Standard A300 for any non-structural roots that may be exposed during construction;** cutting or damage to the structural root plate is prohibited.
 - f. **Installation of a temporary bridge over the root system** for any tree within the tree protection zone;
 - g. **Avoidance of any soil disturbance or land development activities within the tree protection zone.**
- F. The City Arborist may require the expansion of the critical root zone up to 20%. **In no case shall land disturbance activities be conducted within 10 feet of the trunk of a protected tree.**
- G. **All tree protection measures shall be installed prior to land disturbance and shall be maintained until after final inspection.** The City Arborist or their designated representative shall be contacted for an on-site inspection after tree protection measures are installed and prior to final landscape installation.
- H. When the City Arborist determines that significant damage has occurred to any protected tree due to either permitted or non-permitted land disturbance activities, the City Arborist shall require that the tree be treated according to professional standards to mitigate the damage.
- I. If the City Arborist determines that the tree is irreparably damaged due to land disturbance activities, the City Arborist may require that the tree be removed.

