



Tree Preservation Guidelines

From Town of Atherton Standards and Specifications Feb 2004
Notes to be on Demo, New Residence and Grading & Drainage plans

Heritage Tree means a tree 48 inches or more in circumference (15.2 inches dbh), measured at 48 inches above natural grade, located outside of the Buildable Area on the parcel AND any native oak (*Quercus agrifolia*, *Q. lobata*, *Q. kelloggii*) greater than 48 inches in circumference located anywhere on the parcel.

All heritage trees with canopy, size in dbh, species and tree protection are to be shown on each set of plans.

Protective Tree Fencing for Heritage Trees or Street Trees: Fenced enclosures shall be erected around all heritage trees to be protected to establish the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) in which no soil disturbance is permitted and activities are restricted.

All trees to be preserved shall be protected with 6 foot high, minimum 12 gauge chain link fence. Fences are to be mounted on 2-inch diameter galvanized iron posts, driven into the ground to a depth of at least 2-feet at no more than 10-foot spacing. This detail shall appear on grading, demolition and building permit plans.

Fencing to be placed at dripline or 6 x diameter whichever is greater.

Required tree protection shall remain in place until all construction activities are completed. No changes to tree protection can be made until a revised tree protection plan is submitted and approved by the Town Arborist. Tree fencing shall be erected before any demolition, grading or construction begins and remain in place until the Town Arborist approves the removal.

Failure to install and maintain required tree protection will result in issuance of a stop work order and implementation of a corrective action plan

A weather resistant **warning sign** shall be prominently displayed on each fence. The signs are available at the Building Department. Town approved tree protection warning signs are required to be installed and maintained at all times until all construction activities are completed

Mulch is required to be applied within TPZ protection area prior to approval of permits.

No water loving plants, lawn or spray irrigation to be located under any native Oak trees.

Activities prohibited within the TPZ include:

1. Storage or parking vehicles, building materials, refuse, excavated spoils or dumping of poisonous materials, including but not limited to, paint, petroleum products, concrete, stucco mix or dirty water
2. The use of tree trunks as a winch support, anchorage, as a temporary power pole, sign posts or other similar function
3. Cutting of tree roots by utility trenching, foundation digging, placement of curbs and trenches and other miscellaneous excavation
4. Soil Disturbance, Soil Compaction or grade changes
5. Drainage changes

Tree Removal Procedure

When Heritage Trees are removed, tree removal practices apply:

1. A permit is required to remove any Heritage Tree.
2. Any tree to be removed that may impact a Heritage Tree shall be done under the supervision of a certified arborist.
3. The removal of trees that extend into the branches or roots of Heritage Trees shall not be attempted by demolition or construction personnel, grading or other heavy equipment. A certified arborist or certified tree worker shall remove, or oversee the removal of the tree in a manner that causes no damage above or below ground to trees that remain.

Irrigation Program

Irrigate to wet the soil within the **TPZ** during the dry season as specified by the Project Arborist.

Soil Compaction Damage

Compaction of the soil is the largest killer of trees on construction sites due to suffocation of roots. If compaction to the upper 12-inch soil within the **TPZ** has occurred, then one or more of the following mitigation measures shall be implemented as recommended by the Project Arborist or the Town Arborist.

Root injury

If trenches are cut and tree roots 2-inches or larger are encountered they must be cleanly cut back to a sound wood lateral root under the supervision of the Project Arborist. The end of the root shall be sealed and kept moist. All exposed root areas within the **TPZ** shall be backfilled or covered within one hour. Exposed roots may be kept from drying out by temporarily covering the roots and draping layered burlap or carpeting over the upper 3-feet of trench walls. The materials must be kept wet until backfilled to reduce evaporation from the trench walls.

Scaffold branch or leaf canopy injury

Remove broken or torn branches back to an appropriate branch capable of resuming terminal growth within five days. If leaves are heat scorched from equipment exhaust pipes, consult the Project Arborist within 6 hours.