

Sec 101-256 – Tree protection requirements

- (a) Tree protection shall be installed for all trees shown on tree protection plans to be preserved, prior to the start of any site work, including demolition or site preparation, and be maintained continuously throughout the project. Tree protection shall be removed at the end of the project after construction and final grading is complete, but before final inspection. For a construction project involving only or stopping after demolition or site preparation, the tree protection may be removed if the construction fencing is also removed but shall be reinstalled before any further construction activity resumes. Any premature removal or failure of tree protection can lead to root damage, fines and require remedial tree care. Construction impacts, including but not limited to, digging, trenching, or excavating; soil compaction; grade changes; and chemical exposure and spills, are not allowed in the 1/4 CRZ. No litter, material, tool storage nor any cut or fill greater than 4 inches is allowed within the 1/2 CRZ. At least 50% of the full CRZ shall be preserved at natural grade, with natural grade cover and without any construction impact.
- (b) Fencing is the primary method of tree protection and is intended to prevent access to the Critical Root Zone (CRZ). Tree fencing shall have a minimum height of five feet. Fencing shall be chain link installed on steel posts with a maximum spacing of ten feet between posts. Fencing shall be installed around or beyond the 1/2 CRZ of all preserved trees and any natural areas designated for preservation. For definitions of CRZ, 1/2 CRZ, and 1/4 CRZ refer to Ord. Sec 101-1.
- (c) Whenever protected fencing is located closer than five feet to trunk or when fencing cannot be placed around a tree, tree wrapping shall be installed to protect the first 8 ft of tree height. Material for wrapping shall be dimensional lumber, such as 2x4's, which shall be oriented parallel to and continuously around trunk and secured in place by tightening wires run around the outside of the lumber. Wrapping shall never be secured directly to the tree by screws or other means. Wrapping shall be loosened and retightened every six months to prevent tree from damage as it grows. Branch wrapping may be required whenever a major limb is over an access route or close to proposed structure.
- (d) Mulch is required for any section of CRZ that is not protected by fencing or under existing hardscape and has not been approved for impacts (such as building footprint or driveway). Mulch used for tree protection shall be natural wood type. Rough single grind mulch, which resists compaction better than double grind and is usually less expensive is preferred, but any natural wood type is acceptable. Dyed mulch or mulch made from non-biological material such as rubber or stone shall not be used as tree protection.
- (e) Mulch inside fencing shall be installed to a minimum depth of eight inches and maximum of 12 inches. Mulch outside fencing shall be installed to a depth of four inches. Mulch shall be replenished as required and shall not be piled against the tree trunk.
- (f) Landscaping installation within the 1/4 CRZ of preserved trees, including trenching for irrigations, soil and planting shall be prohibited.
- (g) Any pruning of trees shall be in compliance with ANSI A300 Standard for tree care. Not more than twenty-five percent of the foliage shall be removed within an annual growing season.

- (h) Preserved trees experiencing construction impacts within CRZ must receive a minimum of 10 gallons of water per inch of DBH per week during the growing season (March-December, and 5 gallons per inch of DBH per week during the winter (January-February), applied via drip irrigation, water truck or soaker hose, unless soil moisture meters indicate sufficient hydration.
- (i) If the building official or the police department determines that there is a violation of this section, such building official or police officer may issue a ticket, citation or stop work order.
- (j) Additionally, the building official in collaboration with city arborist consultant shall determine the proper tree remedial action. The building official may waive imposing daily fines for proper plant health care treatments including planting replacement trees.
- (k) A violation of this section shall constitute a class C misdemeanor that, upon conviction, may result in a fine not exceeding \$2,000.00 per violation. Each day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. Failure to install tree protection fencing before site work commences shall be a \$2,000 fine.