



Public Works Fact Sheet

Mandatory Tree Protection Specifications

Violations subject to fine

Before permitted activity can begin

Tree and parkway fencing protection must be properly installed prior to work beginning to prevent damage from vehicles, equipment and/or material storage. If you are unsure, as to how and where to install fencing, call 708.358.5700 and request an on-site meeting with a Forestry Division inspector.

Installations requirements

Parkway trees and their root zones are required to be protected during construction under any of the following circumstances:

- Excavation on the parkway.
- Powered wheel or track vehicles or equipment cross the parkway other than on a driveway.
- Material such as shingles, bricks, lumber, construction spoils, piping or ducting is stored on the parkway.
- Refuse dumpster is within 10 feet of a parkway tree.
- Village inspectors deem construction operations have the potential to affect the health and/or safety of a parkway tree.

Installation instructions

Erect a fence around the tree(s) along sidewalk and curb, the width of the parkway. Use steel or wood posts 1" x 2" at maximum eight feet on center. The finished fence must be a minimum of four feet high. Posts must be a minimum six feet in length, set two feet into the ground with a 1" x 2" top rail. Stretch plastic snow fence or similar approved material to posts and secure with a minimum of four nylon locking ties, one at the top corner of each post and evenly spaced down each post and across top rail to form a barrier surrounding the tree the as follows:

- Establish tree diameter at a point 4.5 feet above ground.

- Trees 10 inches or less in diameter must have root zone protection a minimum of five feet from the center of the tree along parkway length, entire width of parkway.
- Trees between 10 inches and 19 inches in diameter must have root zone protection a minimum of 10 feet from center of the tree along the parkway length, entire width of parkway.
- Trees greater than 19 inches in diameter must have a minimum of 15 feet from the center of the tree along the parkway length, entire width of parkway.
- When construction equipment is permitted to cross the parkway outside the root protection area, including dumpster delivery on private property, the parkway must be protected with a maintained six-inch layer of wood mulch or chips, or one-inch sheets of plywood or similar approved material sufficient to protect entire parkway where equipment crosses.
- Prior to removal of root zone protection or prior to any required parkway landscape restoration, a final inspection of the parkway is required. Call 708.358.5700 to schedule.

The fence must be installed prior to beginning construction and remain in place for the duration of the project. Construction material, including excavation spoils, must not be stored within the root protection zone. Construction equipment must not be operated or temporary buildings or work trailers erected within the root zone. The site will be inspected from time to time to ensure compliance. If repair is necessary, the contractor or resident will be notified. Repairs must be made within 24 hours of notification.

Root Pruning

If construction activity is to occur within the root zone of existing parkway trees, root pruning and/or special care may be required. A Certified Arborist approved by the Village must administer or supervise treatments.

All required root zone protection, root pruning and barrier installation must be completed prior to delivery of any material or equipment, excavation or actual work begins. The following specifications apply:

- An approved root pruning mechanical device that cuts to a minimum depth of 18 inches is mandatory for any excavation that occurs in the public right-of-way within the drip line of a public tree. Root pruning minimizes damage to the root system and allows healthy re-growth once construction is completed.
- Root pruning and backfilling must be completed before beginning excavation, construction or delivery of materials.
- Root pruning must occur no more than six inches outside the limits of excavation and be continuous within the drip line of the tree. For excavations bisecting the

parkway such as utility connections, the root pruning cut also must bisect the parkway corresponding to the length of the excavation.

- Root pruning must be to a depth of four inches below the lowest point of excavation up to a maximum depth of 24 inches.
- Once excavation begins, if any roots greater than one inch in diameter are encountered below the 24-inch depth, the root must be trimmed flush with a sharp saw to eliminate any ragged edges.
- Root pruning can occur no earlier than one month prior to excavation beginning.
- Root pruning trench must be backfilled within 48 hours of excavation.

Notice:

Any person who violates any provision of these specifications or fails to comply with any notice issued pursuant to the provisions of the specifications upon being found guilty of violation, shall be subject to a fine as provided in Section 1-1-5 of the Village of Oak Park Code of Ordinances. If, as the result of the violation of any provision of this Article, the injury, mutilation or death of a tree or other plant located on Village owned property is caused, the cost of repair or replacement of such tree or other plant shall be borne by the party in violation. The replacement value of trees shall be determined in accordance with the latest revision the Canopy street tree inventory, based on the trunk formula method, with regional parameters defined by the Illinois Arborist Association.

For more information contact:
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