



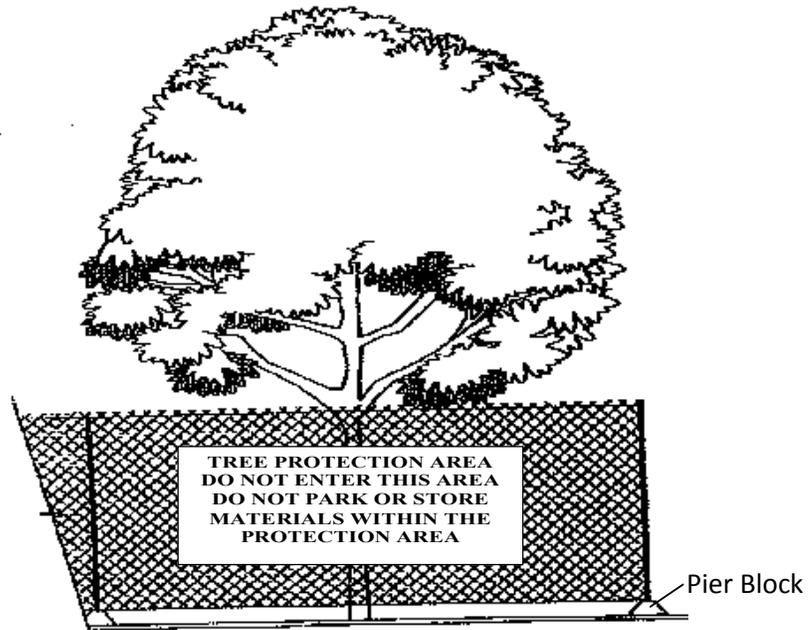
Planning & Community  
Development

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# Tree Protection Guidelines

The City of Shoreline Development Code requires that tree protection measures be employed during construction for those trees that are required to be retained. In addition to the requirements in the Code, the following guidelines are being provided as acceptable measures to help to protect trees from construction impacts:

- Place tree protection fences around each tree or group of trees to be retained. Place four to six-foot high temporary chain link or polyethylene laminar fencing five feet (if possible) outside the drip line(s) of the tree or group of trees. Install fence posts using pier blocks only. Avoid driving posts or stakes into major roots.



Install tree protection fences prior to beginning construction.

- Work within the protection fencing should be done manually. Do not stockpile construction materials, supplies, soils or debris within the tree protection fences, nor allow vehicle parking or equipment storage.
- Cement trucks must not be allowed to deposit waste or wash out materials from their trucks within the tree protection fences.
- The area within the tree protection fencing should be mulched with wood chips, hog fuel, or similar materials to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. The materials should be placed prior to beginning of construction and remain until the fencing is taken down.
- The tree protection fences need to be clearly marked as “Tree Protection Areas” with four-inch or larger letters.

## Hours of Operation:

Monday 8:00 am–5:00 pm  
Tuesday 8:00 am–5:00 pm  
Wednesday 1:00 pm–5:00 pm  
Thursday 8:00 am–5:00 pm  
Friday 8:00 am–5:00 pm

*Permit Processing Ends at 4:00 pm Daily*

Where there is not enough space to erect tree protection fencing, protect the trunks from damage by wrapping them. The protection should extend from the existing grade at the base of the tree to a height of no less than ten feet.

### Examples of Trunk Wrapping

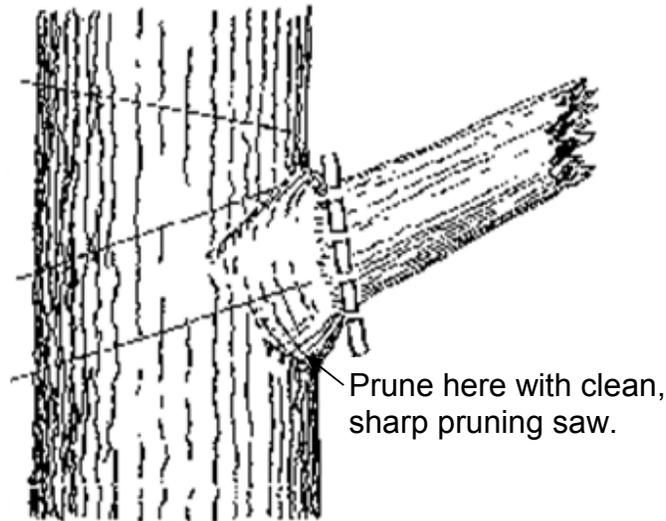


If roots or branches become torn during construction, prune with a sharp pruning saw.

Use care not to wound the trunk when pruning.

Branch bark ridge

Collar



Prune here with clean, sharp pruning saw.

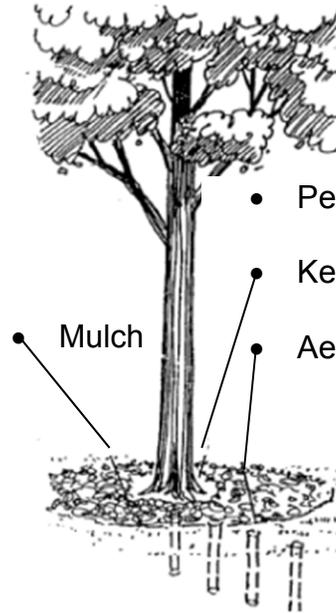
When limbs are accidentally broken by equipment, remove the jagged edge by sawing at the broken limb's junction with the trunk or next larger limb. Cut as close as possible without cutting into the branch collar, and follow other good pruning practices. Do not paint the pruning wound.

During utility construction, do not allow equipment to operate within the tree protection zones. When trenching near protected trees, allow only hand-digging within the tree protection zone. Tunnel under roots greater than one inch in diameter. Torn roots should be cut clean to the edge of the trench. Exposed roots need to be covered and kept moist.

### **Follow-up Care**

Property owners can help trees recover from the “shock” of cut roots by following regular practices of proper, annual tree care. This page can serve as a guide to your recommendations.

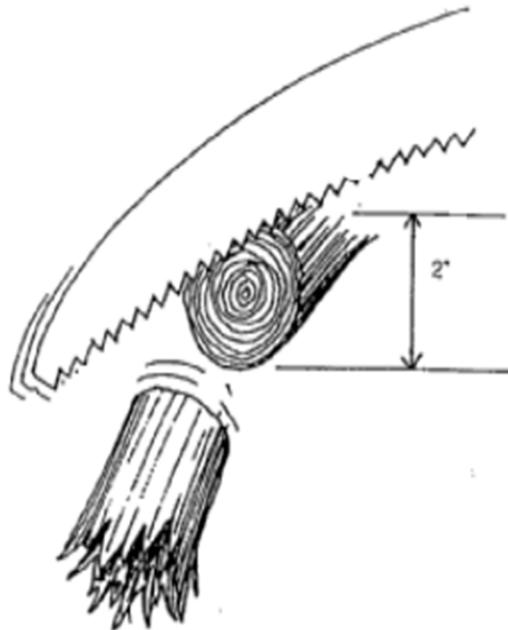
- Aerate the Soil
- Water Deeply (12” – 18” during dry periods)
- Inspect for excessive insect damage and treat, if necessary
- Mulch to prevent compaction and to keep competing weeds under control
- Fertilize young trees with a “complete” fertilizer to stimulate growth. On mature trees, fertilize only if there is an element deficiency in the soil and keep the amount of nitrogen to a minimum.



- Pest management inspection.
- Keep mulch away from trunk.
- Aeration and deep watering.

### **When you must cut, make sharp cuts**

Procedure: When tunneling or avoiding roots is not possible, trench carefully by hand or machine near trees, sawing roots over 2” in diameter. Make the cut flush with the side of the trench closed to the tree. No need to pain or treat the ends.



When roots 2” or larger are accidentally broken, dig out enough of the trench side to saw through an undamaged portion of the root.