

Tree Preservation During Construction

A dense, healthy and diverse forest exists in the City of Highland Park, providing ample shade and year-round beauty to residents and employees alike. Trees serve many important functions such as supporting wildlife, stabilizing the soils of our ravines, reducing noise, moderating temperature and cleaning our air. Studies have shown that trees on private property dramatically increase the value of the residence and are considered more visually appealing than open lots. For all of these reasons, it is vital that we protect trees during the process of constructing, renovating or otherwise updating a property.

When work requires changes on a substantial portion of your property, the needs of your trees should be considered before, during, and after the construction phase of the project. There are several steps which you can take to alleviate stress or damage which may lead to the severe dieback or death of trees in the years following construction.

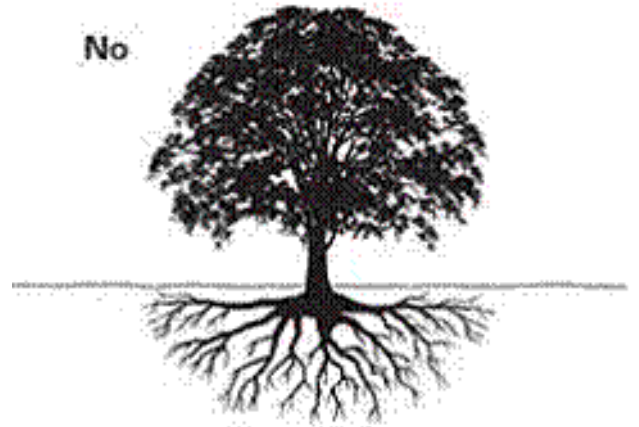
Before, During & After Construction:

- Remove unwanted dead, diseased or hazardous trees
- Prune & improve trees you wish to save
- Fertilize, water & aerate trees before construction
- Have a landscaper root prune outside of protection zone before construction
- Lay down mulch in heavy-traffic areas during construction
- Fertilize, water & mulch saved trees after construction
- Have a tree expert advise you on steps you can take to protect & save trees

The General Contractor is in charge of erecting tree fencing and taking steps to otherwise protect trees during a construction project. As a landowner, you have an invested interest in how the project proceeds. When planning for construction with a contractor, making a tree-protection plan outlining the “rules of conduct” concerning your trees can establish acceptable practices and encourage responsible workmanship.

How a Tree Grows

No



Yes



Fatal root damage due to trenching within root zone

Establish Rules With Your Contractor:

- Erect protective tree fencing prior to any work being done
- Do not change the grade (soil level) around trees
- Use permeable surfaces whenever possible
- Attempt to run all utilities in one single trench
- Build boardwalks to establish pathways
- Minimize or eliminate all traffic within tree protection fencing
- Never store soil, building materials or equipment under trees
- Control storm water runoff to prevent flooding, erosion etc.



Soil compaction results from storing materials under a tree

Many of these practices are in the City's tree preservation ordinance. Familiarizing yourself with this ordinance is a good way to understand your legal rights. Notify the Forestry Department of any violations in order to correct them and prevent problems in the future.

If you have any questions about tree preservation, please contact Keith O'Herrin, City Forester, at koherrin@cityhpil.com, or by calling 847.432.0807