

City of Westminster Tree Preservation Specifications

Tree Preservation Plan

An existing conditions plan must be submitted to and approved by the City of Westminster prior to any site activity or disturbance. The plan shall identify all existing trees 4" caliper and larger on the site and within 50' of the site boundaries. The plan shall include a chart specifying size, species, condition and disposition for each existing tree. The plan shall also identify all Plant Protection Zones. No development or building permit shall be issued until the Tree Preservation Plan is reviewed and approved by the City of Westminster's Planning Division.

Additional protection may be required for areas warranted by the City of Westminster or Colorado Parks and Wildlife to add aesthetic value, protect wildlife, or present desirable qualities or natural features.

Plant Protection Zone

Prior to and during all phases of construction, all trees and plant material to be preserved shall be contained in a Plant Protection Zone. The Plant Protection Zone shall be enclosed with a continuous protective barrier consisting of chain link type fencing 4' in height. The fencing shall extend from drip line to drip line or 1' for every caliper inch in diameter of the tree, whichever is greater. For groupings of trees, the fencing shall enclose the critical root zone of the entire stand of trees. Fencing may be required to extend outside of the critical root zone in order to preserve natural vegetation that might support or protect the health of an existing tree.

Access within the Protection Zone shall be restricted. Any trespass must have prior approval from the City of Westminster Forester.

Grading or disturbance of any of the natural groundcover and understory vegetation is prohibited within the Protection Zone.

Supplemental irrigation is required for all trees and vegetation within the Protection Zone and shall be used to sustain typical pre-disturbance soil moisture conditions.

All possible erosion into the Protection Zone must be prevented with silt fencing installed outside of the Protection Zone.

No storage or gathering of materials shall be permitted in the Protection Zone. No equipment or vehicle trespass is allowed in the Protective zone.

No grading, trespass, pruning, erosion or storage of any material is allowed in Protection Zones being preserved as Public Land.

Work Within the Plant Protection Zone

Access within the Protection Zone is restricted and any trespass into the zone must have prior approval from the City of Westminster Planning Division.

Cut or fill in the drip line of protected trees is limited to 3" and shall be performed by handwork only.

In the event that any work must be performed within the Protection Zone, all tree trunks in the zone shall be protected with wood slats. The trees shall be wrapped in burlap and then the slats shall be horizontally attached without damage to the tree and with gaps between the slats no larger than 2". Protective slats shall be no smaller than 2" x 4".

If machinery or heavy traffic is permitted in the Protection Zone, the contractor shall provide a 12" layer of wood mulch over the root zone during the access period. Supplemental re-seeding may also be required. All low hanging limbs must be protected, and overhead clearance for all machinery must be maintained during the access period. All limb tying and pruning must be approved by the City of Westminster Forester.

All tree care and pruning must follow current ISA and ANSI Standards.

Root protection

Avoid cutting any roots.

If roots are encountered and exceed 3" in diameter, they shall be tunneled under with minimum damage to the surrounding roots, or if absolutely necessary, properly pruned by a certified or licensed arborist only.

No substance that might cause damage to existing or future vegetation shall be allowed in the Protective Zone. Any introduction of harmful foreign substances into the Protection Zone shall be reported to the City Landscape Architect and immediately removed and disposed.