

SECTION 26

TREE PROTECTION

26-1 GENERAL

- A. Tree protection has three primary functions:
 - 1. To keep the foliage canopy and branching structure clear from contact by equipment, materials and activities;
 - 2. To preserve roots and soil conditions in an intact and non-compacted state and:
 - 3. To identify the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) in which no soil disturbance is permitted and activities are restricted, unless otherwise approved.
- B. The Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is a restricted area around the base of the tree with a radius of ten-times the diameter of the tree's trunk or ten (10) feet; whichever is greater, enclosed by approved fencing type.
- C. All types of tree protection shall first be approved by the Public Works Department – Urban Forestry.

26-2 RELATED WORK

- A. Standard Drawing 605 – Illustration of tree protection types described below.
- B. City of Palo Alto Tree Technical Manual (TTM)
 - 1. Trenching Restriction Zones (TTM, Section 2.20(C))
 - 2. Arborist Reporting Protocol (TTM, Section 6.30)
 - 3. Site Plan Requirements (TTM, Section 6.35)
 - 4. Tree Disclosure Statement (TTM, Appendix I)
- C. Street Tree Verification (STV) of Protection (Form)

26-3 PRODUCTS

- A. Six (6) feet high galvanized chain link fence or approved equal.
- B. Two (2) inch galvanized posts.

- C. Wood, two (2) inches thick
- D. Orange plastic fencing.

26-4 EXECUTION

A. Type I Tree Protection

1. The fence shall enclose the entire TPZ of the tree(s) to be protected throughout the life of the construction project.
2. In parking areas, if fencing is located on paving or concrete that will not be demolished, then the posts may be supported by an appropriate grade level concrete base, if approved by Public Works Department – Urban Forestry.
3. All trees to be preserved shall be protected with six (6) foot high chain link fences.
4. Fences are to be mounted on two-inch diameter galvanized steel posts driving into the ground a minimum depth of two (2) feet. Spacing between posts shall not exceed ten (10) feet. Fencing shall extend to the outer branching, unless specifically approved on STV form.

B. Type II Tree Protection

1. For trees situated within a planting strip, only the planting strip and yard side of the TPZ shall be enclosed with the required chain link protective fencing in order to keep the sidewalk and street open for public use.
2. All trees to be preserved shall be protected with six (6) foot high chain link fences.
3. Fences are to be mounted on two (2) inch diameter galvanized steel posts driven into the ground a minimum depth of two (2) feet. Spacing between posts shall not exceed ten (10) feet. Fencing shall extend to the outer branching, unless specifically approved on STV form.

C. Type III Tree Protection

1. To be used only with approval by the Public Works Department. Trees situated in a tree well or sidewalk planter pit, shall be wrapped with two (2) inches of orange plastic fencing from the ground to the first branch and

overlaid with two (2) inch thick wooden slats bound securely (slats shall not be allowed to dig into the bark).

2. During installation of the plastic fencing, caution shall be used to avoid damaging any branches. Major limbs may also require plastic fencing as directed by the City Arborist.

D. 'Warning' sign.

1. A warning sign shall be weather proof and prominently displayed on each fence at twenty (20) foot intervals.
2. The sign shall be a minimum 8.5-inches x 11-inches and clearly state in half (1/2) inch tall letters: "WARNING - Tree Protection Zone - This fence shall not be removed and is subject to a fine according to PAMC Section 8.10.110."

E. Duration.

1. Tree fencing shall be erected before demolition, grading or construction begins and remain in place until final inspection of the project, except for work specifically allowed in the TPZ.
2. Work or soil disturbance in the TPZ requires approval by the City Arborist. Excavations within the public right of way require a Street Work Permit from the Public Works Department.

F. All neighbors' trees that overhang the project site shall be protected from impact of any kind.

G. The applicant shall be responsible for the repair or replacement plus penalty of any publicly owned trees that are damaged during the course of construction, pursuant to Section 8.04.070 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code.

H. The following tree preservation measures apply to all trees to be retained:

1. No storage of material, topsoil, vehicles or equipment shall be permitted within the TPZ.
2. The ground under and around the tree canopy area shall not be altered.
3. Trees to be retained shall be irrigated, aerated and maintained as necessary to ensure survival.

END OF SECTION