

## **Tree Protection Plan Information**

City Ordinance allows construction to take place on a lot where trees are located or adjacent to trees on other lots, **including in the Tree Save Area**. Construction activities may only take place with an approved Tree Protection Plan as part of an approved Tree Permit. The Tree Warden may add conditions to the issued Tree Permit that prescribes certain techniques that insure protection of trees to remain. Any time trees are to remain a Certified Arborist must be consulted prior and must provide a Tree Protection Plan as part of the Tree Permit process. **All protective measures must be in place prior to the start of any exterior site work, including tree removal work.**

**A Tree Protection Plan is only required if construction is to take place on a lot that contains trees 6" in trunk diameter and larger or there are abutting trees close to the lot where construction will take place.** If all trees are to be removed or if no trees are present a Tree Protection Plan is not required.

If no construction, site work, equipment movement, and material storage is to take place within a Tree Save Area we will not require a comprehensive Tree Protection Plan but will require a letter or statement from a certified arborist indicating they have reviewed the project and there is no anticipated impacts to any trees or a Tree Save Area.

## **Tree Protection Plan Components**

The following are the **minimum** required elements that must be addressed in the plan. These minimums do not preclude the plan from containing additional elements, requirements, or information. It is expected that the plan will utilize industry accepted standards and follow the most current ANSI A300 Standard Practices. It does not preclude the Tree Warden from adding additional requirements as deemed appropriate.

*Narrative, Project Scope and Objective* – This section should contain the name of the Arborist completing the Tree Protection Plan; project address/location; arborist's understanding of the Project; objective of the Tree Protection Plan.

*List of Trees on Site* – Provide list of each tree on the site 6 inches in trunk diameter (DBH) and larger. List should indicate each tree's species, size, and if the tree is to be remove or remain; each tree must have unique tree identification number.

*Map showing each tree* – Map to show the location of each tree 6 inches in trunk diameter (DBH) and larger; each tree on the plan must be identified with a unique identification number that matches the number on the tree list; map should include approximate location, size, and species information for tree on neighboring properties where the tree's critical root zone\* extends onto the applicant's lot; contain building footprint(s); show Tree Save Area; show protective fence location(s).

*Procedures, Details, and Specifications for tree protection* – Section should address root protection method\*; fence requirements\*; notification signs; branch and trunk protection; branch pruning; root pruning; qualifications of individuals working on and around trees.

*Site monitoring* – Plan shall include requirements and guidelines for inspections to insure proper tree protection is in place prior to work starting; periodic inspections to insure tree protection remains in place and damage to trees has/is not occurring; oversight of any excavation or grade changes in the Tree Save Area.

*Post Project Review* – Plan shall contain provisions for an assessment of the trees to remain following the completion of the project; a requirement to provide this report to the Tree Warden as part of close out; plan should make recommendations to the clients on how to mitigate any stress on the trees from construction; if planting replacement trees was a requirement of the project the Post Project Review shall include a statement from the arborist that the plantings depicted in the final as-built drawings match the proposed planting plan.

*\*At a minimum, any time work is to take place in a Tree Save Area the roots must be protected from damage and there must be steps taken to mitigate work in this area. Root protective measures must follow ANSI A300 Standard Practices. At a minimum there must be a protective fence around the most critical root zone of the tree(s). The fence at minimum should be orange construction fencing staked in a way that keeps it taught and upright, temporary chain link fencing is preferred. The critical root zone is the minimum volume of roots considered critical to the structural stability and health of the tree. The critical root zone for a tree must have protective fencing that prohibits access to the area during construction. Our recommended minimum distances the fence is to be placed from the tree trunk is as follows; trees w/DBH of 6" to 15" fence placed 8 feet from trunk, trees w/ DBH of 16" to 24" fence placed 10 feet from trunk, trees w/DBH of 25" to 39" fence placed 15 feet from trunk, trees with a DBH of 40" to 55" fence placed 20 feet from trunk, trees with a DBH of 56"+ fence placed 25 feet from trunk. If the arborist reviewing the site finds critical roots outside of these areas the critical root zone fencing should be adjusted. If the arborist finds there will be no impact to critical roots zone inside the above listed areas the critical root zone can be altered under the observation of the arborist and with a clear plan to insure critical roots are not damaged.*

**If you would like Tree Warden to review draft of protection plan prior to submitting with tree permit please email it to [urbanforestry@newtonma.gov](mailto:urbanforestry@newtonma.gov)**