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Tree Protection Specifications for Development in the City of Spokane

1. General

The City of Spokane's Municipal Code requires that tree pruning, planting, or removal work within the public right-of-way and on public property must be performed by a person or entity with a commercial tree license. (SMC 10.25.010)

Additionally, all tree pruning (crown or root) and tree removal work must be performed by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist or certified tree worker. Tree planting must be directly supervised by an ISA certified arborist or certified tree worker.

The term "Contracted Arborist" shall be used in the remainder of this document to refer to the licensed tree company.

All equipment to be used and all work to be performed must be in full compliance with the most current revision of the American National Standards Institute Z-133-2017, or as amended.

2. Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)

For the purpose of protecting trees in the right of way during development, the contractor/developer may install the TPZ in accordance with the standards below.

The tree protection zone (TPZ) will either be determined in the field by Urban Forestry staff or established by the Contracted Arborist for approval by Urban Forestry staff prior to any excavation or work by the following method. The minimum TPZ shall be equal to the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) as defined by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA): an area equal to 1 foot radius from the base of the tree's trunk for each 1 inch of the tree's diameter at 4.5 feet above grade (referred to as diameter at breast height or dbh). TPZ modifications may be made due to construction objectives and site infrastructure only with prior authorization by Urban Forestry staff.

Mulch: The area within the TPZ shall be mulched with 1-2 inches of untreated wood chips, leaving a 1 foot radius from the trunk free of mulching materials, unless otherwise pre-approved by Urban Forestry staff.

Water: All trees designated for protection shall receive 5-10 gallons of water per caliper inch every seven days throughout the construction period. The amount and frequency of irrigation may be adjusted as needed due to temperature fluctuations and site conditions.



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Temporary Fencing: Install temporary fencing, 3' tall minimum, orange plastic construction fencing per manufacturer's specifications, located as indicated or outside the TPZ of trees to protect remaining vegetation from construction damage. Fencing must be maintained at all times during construction. Alternative or modified fencing material may be permitted with prior authorization by Urban Forestry staff.

Removal of Hardscapes: Where equipment is necessary to remove hardscapes in proximity of a protected tree, construction personnel must exhibit due care to ensure no damage occurs to the existing roots. If roots are encountered in the demo area, consultation with Urban Forestry staff or a Contracted Arborist is required to determine best management practice to meet construction and tree preservation objectives.

Protect tree root systems from damage due to noxious materials caused by runoff or spillage while mixing, placing, or storing construction materials. Protect root systems from flooding, eroding, or excessive wetting caused by dewatering operations.

Do not store construction materials, debris, or excavated material within the TPZ of remaining trees. Do not permit vehicles or foot traffic within the TPZ; prevent soil compaction over root systems.





