

Tree Protection Zone and Barrier Construction

The Tree Protection Zone is the area of a tree's environment that must be protected to ensure its preservation. Within this zone, access is restricted and all materials related to construction must be kept outside of the area.

The limits of a minimum Tree Protection Zone and dimensions of the barrier are identified in the Tree Protection By-law T-600:

"Where work is undertaken within the dripline or root zone of a public tree, whichever is greater, the person doing the work shall protect the tree with a barrier not less than 1.3 metres high and 2 metres or at a distance of .5 metres for every 45 mm in diameter at the breast height of the trunk, whichever is greater and where possible."

Tree Protection Zone Calculation Table

Trunk Diameter (DBH)	Minimum Protection Distance Required (measure from the outside edge of tree trunk)
10cm & under	1.2 meters
11–30cm	2.0 meters
31–40cm	3.4 meters
41–50cm	4.6 meters
51–60cm	6.0 meters
61–70cm	7.0 meters
71–80cm	8.0 meters
>80cm	9.0 meters

HALIFAX

For further information on tree protection requirements and construction, and the tree protection By-law T-600, please call 311 or email contact@halifax.ca

halifax.ca/trees

Tree Protection



March 15, 2019

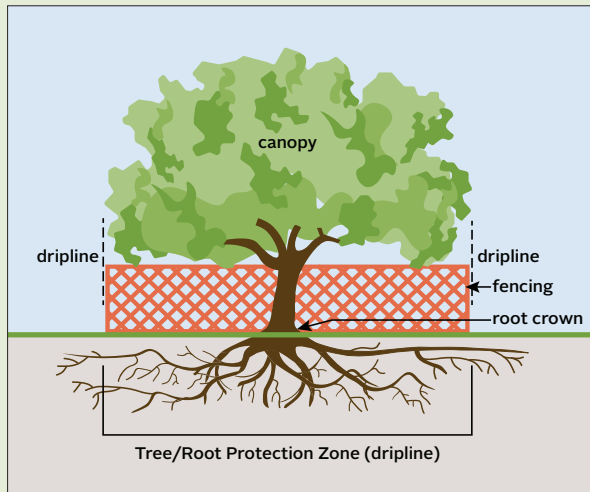
HALIFAX

Tree Protection and Construction

Trees near construction and demolition can face significant stress. Damage to trunks and branches, excavation of roots, compaction of soil, and changes to grades and drainage patterns can lead to an unhealthy or unsafe tree. In extreme cases construction and demolition work may contribute to the death of a mature tree.

If trees are to be preserved during and after construction or demolition of an adjacent development, tree protection measures are required.

The Halifax Regional Municipality has a Tree Protection By-law T-600 which regulates activities within the dripline of a mature tree. The dripline is defined as the area directly located under the outer circumference of the tree branches. A permit is required for such activities, and will be granted by the municipality upon receipt of a tree protection plan.

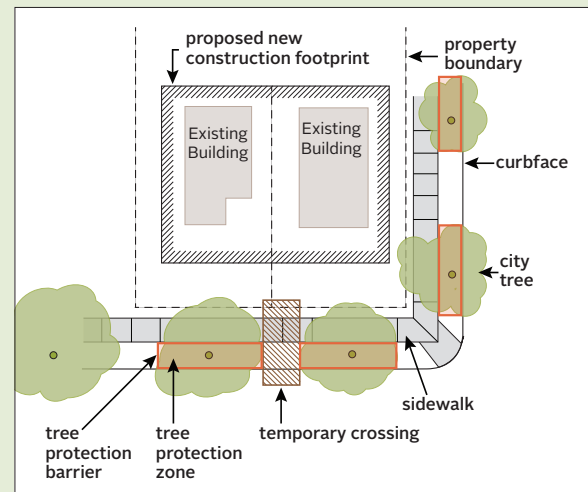


Tree Protection Plan

At a minimum, the Tree Protection Plan must include a drawing identifying the following:

- all existing buildings, structures, hard surfaces and all existing municipally owned trees within the disturbance area
- location, size and species of all municipally owned trees to be retained, to be removed, and the extent of the tree crowns
- location of proposed tree protection fencing and locations of temporary access points within the Tree Protection Zone
- All proposed changes on site (e.g. footprint of new building with number of floors, new access points, boulevard crossings or other modifications of the Right of Way within the minimum Tree Protection Zone)
- Locations and extent of any proposed laydowns and or construction materials storage area(s)

Tree Protection Plan Example



Tree protection for public trees should extend, at a minimum, to the limits of public property. Should a significant portion of the dripline and roots of a public tree extend onto private property and be at risk of damage or loss due to construction, alternatives to tree protection may be necessary. In these instances, consultation is required with the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Temporary Crossing

Access through a Tree Protection Zone may be required to move materials to the work site. Any access through a Tree Protection Zone will require anti-compaction measures to prevent root damage.

Anti-compaction measures for temporary access can consist of the following:

- 20–30cm of coarse wood mulch over a geotextile fabric
- Rig mats or construction mud mats
- Plywood over 20–30cm of coarse wood mulch

Anti-compaction measures should not be left in place longer than six months as the roots may suffocate.

Exceptions

Any exceptions, Tree Protection Zone alteration, or tree pruning for clearances require consultation and approval by the Halifax Regional Municipality.