



City of Durham

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Tree Preservation Plans

With the construction of new buildings or structures, construction of impervious surfaces, or a ground level expansion of the total floor area of an existing building on a property, as well as with an application for a land use permit, a Tree Preservation Plan, showing how the preservation of the existing trees will be incorporated into the proposed development, shall be included.

At a minimum, the Plan shall incorporate the following provisions:

- Provide specific measures for the tree preservation and protection during all phases of construction; including excavation around trees, grading and filling around trees, repair and removal of trees, pruning and structural support, and fertilization/aeration.
- Require Tree Protection Zone or Construction Zone tape to be used with tree fencing.
- Require all tree related decision and activities referred to in the plan to be approved by the City Arborist.
- Require all Preserved Tree health determinations, other than construction damage, to be made by taking core samples or performing other non-harmful procedures to document the health of the tree.
- Provide the City Arborist and/or the City Administrator with the authority to stop work for any violations of the approved plan.

The services of a Project Arborist shall be provided by the property owner to oversee that construction activities do not harm Preserved trees. The Project Arborist shall prepare and implement a Tree Protection Plan for the proposed development and coordinate tree protection efforts closely with the City Arborist, at the expense of the property owner.

A Certificate of Recognition and Acceptance of Special Tree Preservation, as provided by city staff, shall be signed by the General Contractor and Property Owner prior to any on-site tree removal and a copy of the certificate will be provided to the City Administrator.

Negligence of sub-contractors and utility installation crews shall be the responsibility of the Property Owner and General Contractor. The Property Owner shall be responsible for the cost of repairing damage to any Preserved Trees during construction as directed by the City Arborist and/or City Administrator. Failure to repair the tree damage in a timely manner will be cause for the city to withhold any land use- or building- permits or certificates for the property until the necessary tree repair is accomplished to the City's satisfaction.