

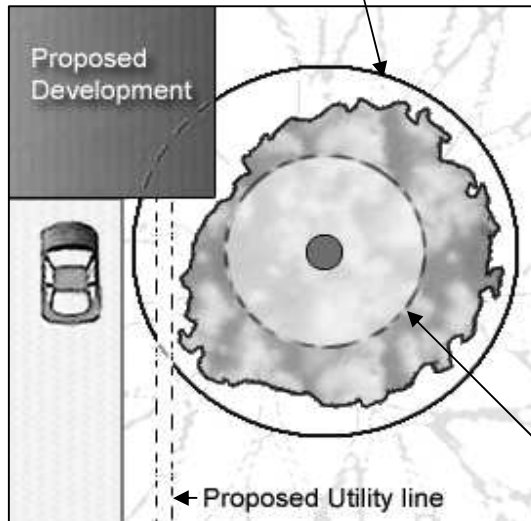
Tree & Natural Area Preservation

The City of Austin Tree and Natural Area Preservation code is based on the fundamental precepts of sound urban forest management. Proposed development projects are evaluated on a case-by-case (and tree-by-tree) basis, which entails evaluating the existing tree resources on a site, understanding the dynamics of trees and development impacts, and negotiating a solution that results in a development with a balanced mixture of tree species and age. The goal of each review is to assure that, through a combination of preservation and reforestation, a final product is achieved which results in a diversified and sustainable urban forest.

Trees 19 inches in diameter (60 inches in circumference) and greater are classified as "protected size" and receive enhanced preservation evaluation. Protected trees require a permit to remove them, impact the critical root zone (i.e. utility trench, sidewalk, driveway, irrigation lines, foundation), or remove more than 30% of the canopy.

Critical Root Zone (CRZ):

One foot from the tree trunk for each diameter inch of trunk size.



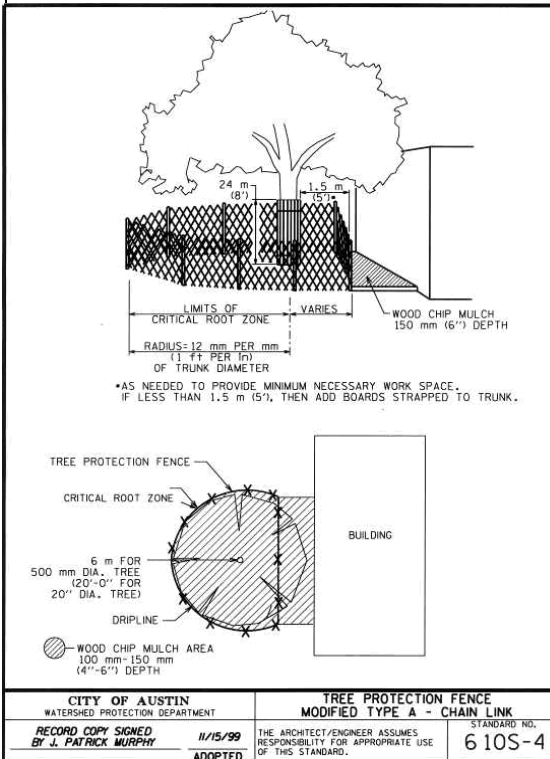
Example: a tree with a 20-inch diameter trunk has a 20-foot CRZ, and a 10-foot ½ CRZ.

Environmental Criteria Manual Tree Preservation Design Criteria

◀ 3.5.2 Critical Root Zone Impacts –

A tree's root system ranges well beyond the dripline. The CRZ has been established to set a practical limit beyond which any loss of roots would not have a significant impact on a tree's survival. Design constraints often dictate that trees slated for preservation have some encroachment on their critical root zone. Weighing this fact with what appears to be an acceptable degree of risk to most trees, the following minimum design criteria (maximum allowable impacts) have been established:

- A minimum of 50% of the CRZ must be preserved at natural grade, with natural ground cover, and
- No cut or fill greater than four (4) inches will be located closer to the tree trunk than the ½ CRZ.



◀ Tree Protection

In order to assure that trees are adequately preserved, tree protection fencing is required for trees within the limits of construction. Fencing should protect the entire Critical root zone (CRZ) area. Fencing is required to be chain-link mesh at a minimum height of five feet. A 6-inch layer of mulch within the entire available root zone area is required for trees which have any disturbance indicated within any portion of the critical root zone.

▶ Trunk Measurements

Diameters of tree trunks are measured at 4 ½ feet above grade. If the tree is on a slope, measure from the high side of the slope. Measure above or below unusual swells in the trunk. To determine the diameter of a multi-trunk tree, measure all the trunks; add the total diameter of the largest trunk to ½ the diameter of each additional trunk.

For more information visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees or contact the City Arborist at (512) 974-1876 or Michael.Embese@ci.austin.tx.us.

