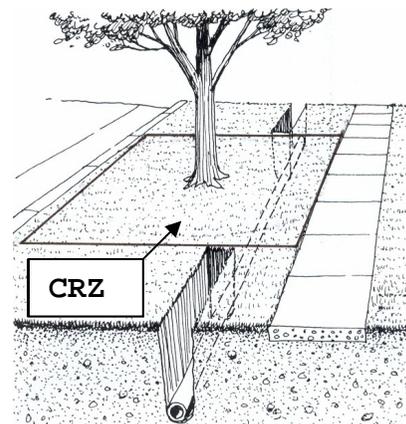




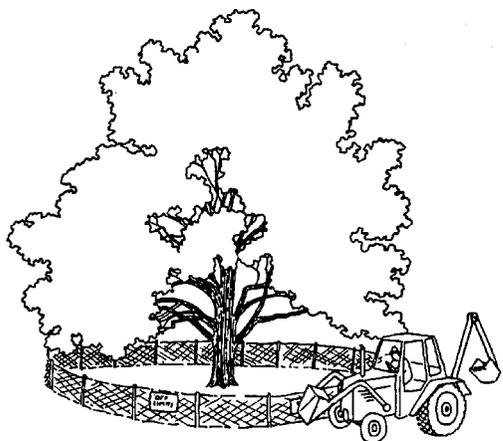
# Downers Grove Parkway Tree Protection Requirements

Municipal Codes regarding trees, including tree protection requirements for public parkway trees, are located in Chapter 24 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code <http://www.downers.us/code/chapters/24>. Parkway tree protection shall involve avoiding damage to both the above ground tree trunk, including the branches, and the below ground root system. Roots are the most vital part of a tree with the majority of nutrient and water absorbing roots in the upper 18 to 24 inches of soil. Tree roots must be protected from severing or changes in their soil environment (such as compaction or grade changes) to prevent irreversible tree decline or death in the coming years.

The Critical Root Zone, or CRZ, is the area immediately surrounding a tree that needs to be protected from damage. The size of this area, measured from the center of the tree, is ideally a circle with a radius of one foot for each inch of trunk diameter. The depth of the CRZ extends to 4 feet below the natural ground surface level. In a municipal parkway setting with utilities and paved or concrete surfaces, the CRZ cannot always be the ideal size. Instead, the CRZ has been adjusted to form a rectangle around the parkway tree trunk with the minimum dimensions listed in the following table. At a minimum, the listed CRZ shall be fenced with a 6 foot high temporary chain link construction fence secured to metal posts spaced no further than 10 feet apart. Whenever possible, the entire parkway shall be fenced in except where access has been permitted. Any exceptions shall be noted on the drawings submitted for a given permit.



Parkway Tree diameter at 4.5'	Width from street to property (minimum curb to sidewalk)	Length along street (minimum)	Depth
0 - 12.0 inches	10.0 feet	10 feet	4 feet
12.1 – 24.0 inches	10.0 feet	20 feet	4 feet
24.1 or more inches	10.0 feet	30 feet	4 feet



For public parkway trees, roots located within the determined CRZ shall be protected from compaction, severing, and the storage of materials or equipment. Utilities must be augered underneath the tree as shown above. In cases when severing of roots within a portion of the CRZ may be unavoidable (ex. sidewalk installation, curb replacement, water main or sanitary main disconnects in the parkway), subject to the approval of the Village Forester, the smallest possible area shall be disturbed and sharp clean cuts shall be made on root ends to promote wound closure and root regeneration. All CRZ fencing shall be a 6 foot high temporary chain link construction fence secured to metal posts spaced no further than 10 feet apart, and shall be maintained daily in good condition. Any exceptions to the fence dimensions or parkway position shall be noted on the permit.

In addition to fines and citations that may be assessed for violations of any Chapter 24 municipal code (such as not maintaining fencing around the CRZ or unauthorized removal of parkway trees), violators may be subject to the following provisions:

- issuance of an invoice for the monetary loss in tree value or partial value due to damage to either the above ground or below ground portions of the parkway tree, or unauthorized tree removal.
- forfeiture of bonds issued for the work should funds be sufficient to cover tree values and fines.
- costs of repairs, such as pruning or cabling, or costs for removal of the damaged parkway tree along with the stump if the tree cannot remain in the right-of-way.
- fines of \$500 for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense; \$1,000 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense; \$2,500 for 3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent offenses.
- each day during which a violation continues shall be construed as a separate and distinct offense.

For more information, contact the Forestry Division at 434-5475 or 434-5476.

