

Build Your Own Tree Protection Plan

Project

Applicant

The purpose of a Tree Protection Plan is to protect the trunk, canopy and roots from mechanical and compaction damage. Even small impacts to a tree's bark or roots can cause irreparable damage or result in loss of the tree. Making a plan helps ensure that the Urban Forest is preserved for the benefit of Edmontonians. Learn more about tree protection and apply for permits at Edmonton.ca/TreePermit.

How to use this template

1. Measure the Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of all City trees near the project and assign each a number (Tree 1, Tree 2, etc.). See Appendix 1 for measurement tips.
2. Plan tree protection fencing for each tree by identifying the tree protection zone using Section 3 and Appendix 1. There are three versions of Section 3 based on the category of tree and conditions around it. You can repeat and omit these pages depending on how many City trees you are working near. You must submit one Section 3 page for each City tree near the project.
3. Determine anticompaaction measures for site access location in Section 2.
4. Attach or sketch a site plan including all the required details in Section 1.

This template is for projects not involving excavation.

Section 1 | Site Plan

Draft a site plan for this Tree Protection Plan. You can adapt an existing site plan to add the required elements or draft a new one. Upload the site plan along with the Tree Protection Plan when applying for your Public Tree Permit.

Your site plan must include:

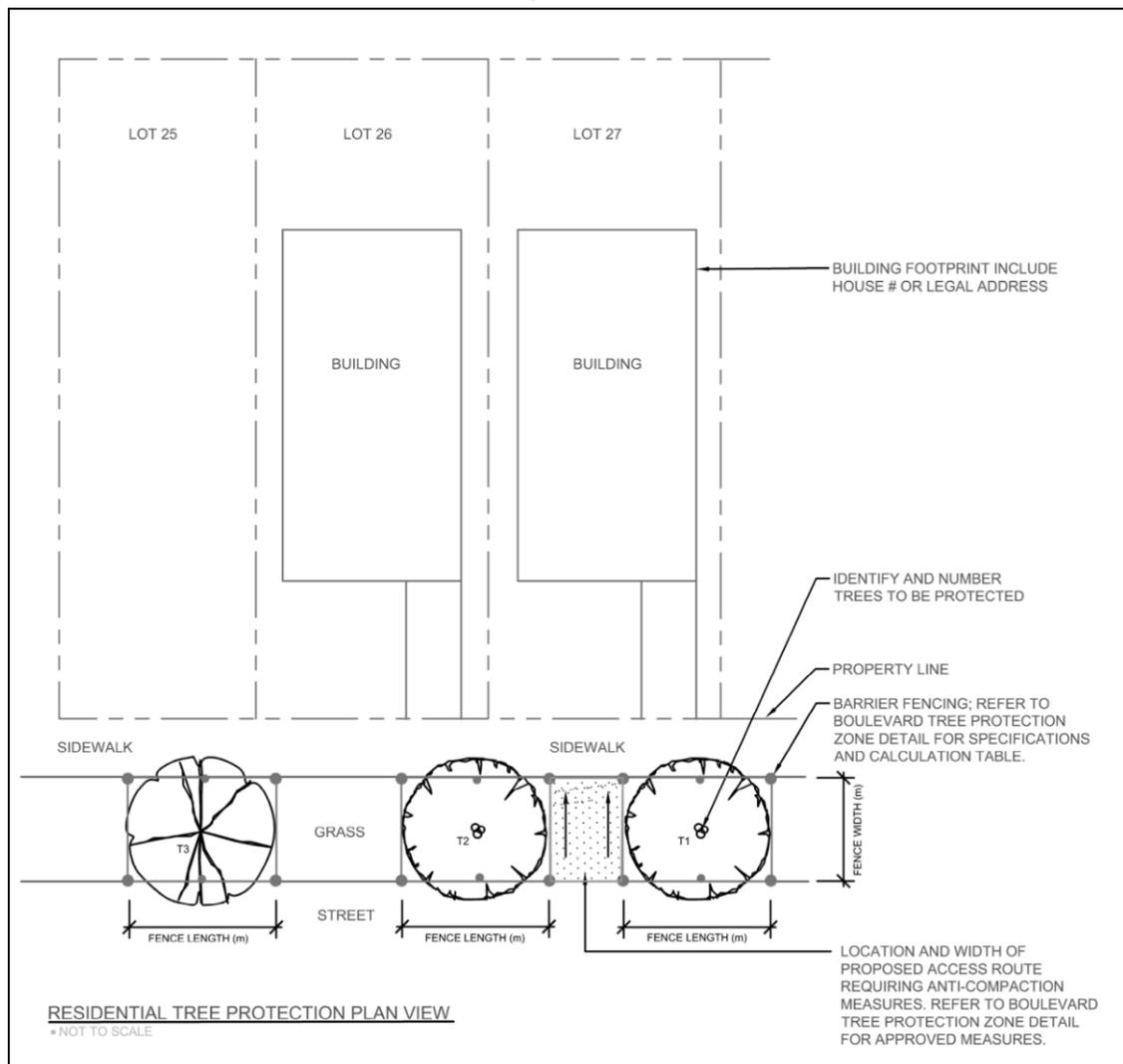
- ❑ Address, property lines, roadways, sidewalks, buildings, boulevards
- ❑ Every boulevard and open space tree within 5 m of project boundaries, access locations or laydown areas
- ❑ Every natural stand within 10 m of project boundaries, access locations or laydown areas.
- ❑ Number each City tree (Tree1, Tree 2, etc.) for reference in Section 3.
- ❑ Actual fencing distances from trunk's edge (m)

Calculate minimum protection distances using Section 3 and Appendix 1

- ❑ Proposed vehicular access or temporary crossing location and width (m)
- ❑ Proposed anti-compaction measures

Select anticompaction measures for the vehicular access location in Section 2

Sample Site Plan



Section 2 | Anticompaction Measures For Vehicular Access Location

This section is for sites with a temporary crossing or vehicular access location within the standard minimum protection distance. If your vehicular access is on existing hardscape (driveway, roadway, maintained trail) or if no vehicles will be passing within five metres of a City tree, skip to Section 3.

Width of the proposed access: ___ m.

If an access location is within 5 m of a natural stand or boulevard/open space tree:

If access is within 5 m of the tree and outside of Standard Minimum Protection Distance:

- 8"-12" of coarse mulch covered by $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood
- Other: _____

If access is within the Standard Minimum Protection Distance resulting in shorter tree protection fencing:

- Overlapping or interlocking rubber access mats (rated for minimum 32 tons)
- Rig mats
- Other: _____

If an access location is at least 5 m from any City tree:

No anticompaction measures are required

For all worksites, any turf or area around the City trees must be returned to its original state, regardless of tree protection and anticompaction requirements.

Section 3 | Tree Protection Fencing Dimensions

Boulevard and Open Space Tree

Complete this page for each [boulevard and open space tree](#) within 5 m of work being done (project boundaries, access or laydown areas). Existing infrastructure acts as an anticompaaction measure, so tree protections do not need to cover existing hardscape (walkways, sidewalks, roadways) or block other infrastructure like hydrants. Show how wide and where the proposed vehicular access will be (if applicable) so Urban Forestry can approve shorter fencing if required.

Tree Number ___ on Site Plan

	Sidewalk (if applicable)	
Fence Width*: ____m		Fence Width*: ____m
	Curb (if applicable)	
	Road (if applicable)	
*If no hardscape is present and no access is required, length of all fencing must be minimum protection distance.		

Determine the Standard Minimum Protection Distance by using Appendix 1. Add or sketch any infrastructure (sidewalks, maintained trails, curbs, roads, hydrants) and propose shorter tree protection fencing if necessary. Leave 30 cm between a curb or roadway and the tree protection fencing.

Is a shorter Minimum Protection Distance required for the Actual Tree Protection Fencing Length?

If yes, why?

- No
- Yes, existing hardscape (walkway/pavement)
- Yes, for site access
- Yes, other - please explain: _____

Is a shorter Minimum Protection Distance required for the Actual Tree Protection Fencing Width?

If yes, why?

- No
- Yes, existing hardscape (sidewalk/curb)
- Yes, other - please explain: _____

Is this tree's canopy expected to interfere with equipment, construction or the proposed building?

- Yes, clearance pruning required
- No, there's plenty of clearance
- Not sure, schedule a meeting on site

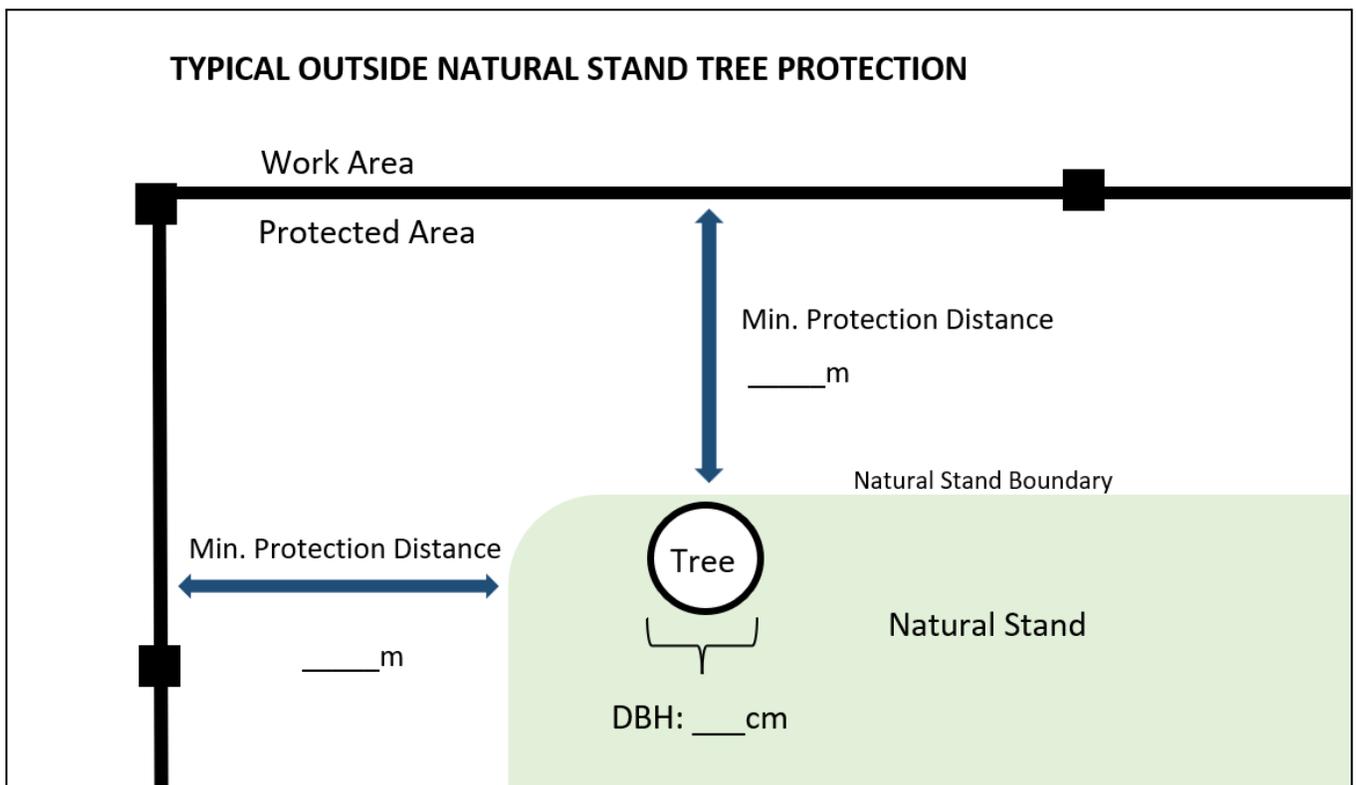
Section 3 | Tree Protection Fencing Dimensions

Outside Natural Stand

For trees near the edge of the [natural stand boundary](#)

Complete the following for a natural stand within 10 m of work being done (project boundaries, access or laydown areas). This should be based on the largest tree in closest proximity to the project boundaries, or the edge of the stand, whichever provides more protection distance (the protection boundaries may only be on one or two sides). Know how wide and where the proposed site access will be (if applicable) to have shorter fencing approved, if required. Existing infrastructure acts as an anticompaction measure, so tree protections do not need to cover existing hardscape (multi-use paths, maintained trails, roadways) or block other infrastructure like hydrants.

Tree Number ___ on Site Plan



Determine the Standard Minimum Protection Distance by using the table in Appendix 1. Add or sketch any infrastructure (sidewalks, maintained trails, curbs, roads, hydrants) and propose shorter tree protection fencing if necessary. Leave 30 cm between a curb or roadway and the tree protection fencing.

Is a shorter minimum protection distance required for the actual tree protection fencing?

If yes, why?

- No
- Yes, existing hardscape (trail/pavement)
- Yes, for site access
- Yes, other - please explain: _____

Is the canopy of this tree expected to interfere with equipment, construction or the proposed building?

- Yes, clearance pruning required
- No, there's plenty of clearance
- Not sure, schedule meeting on site

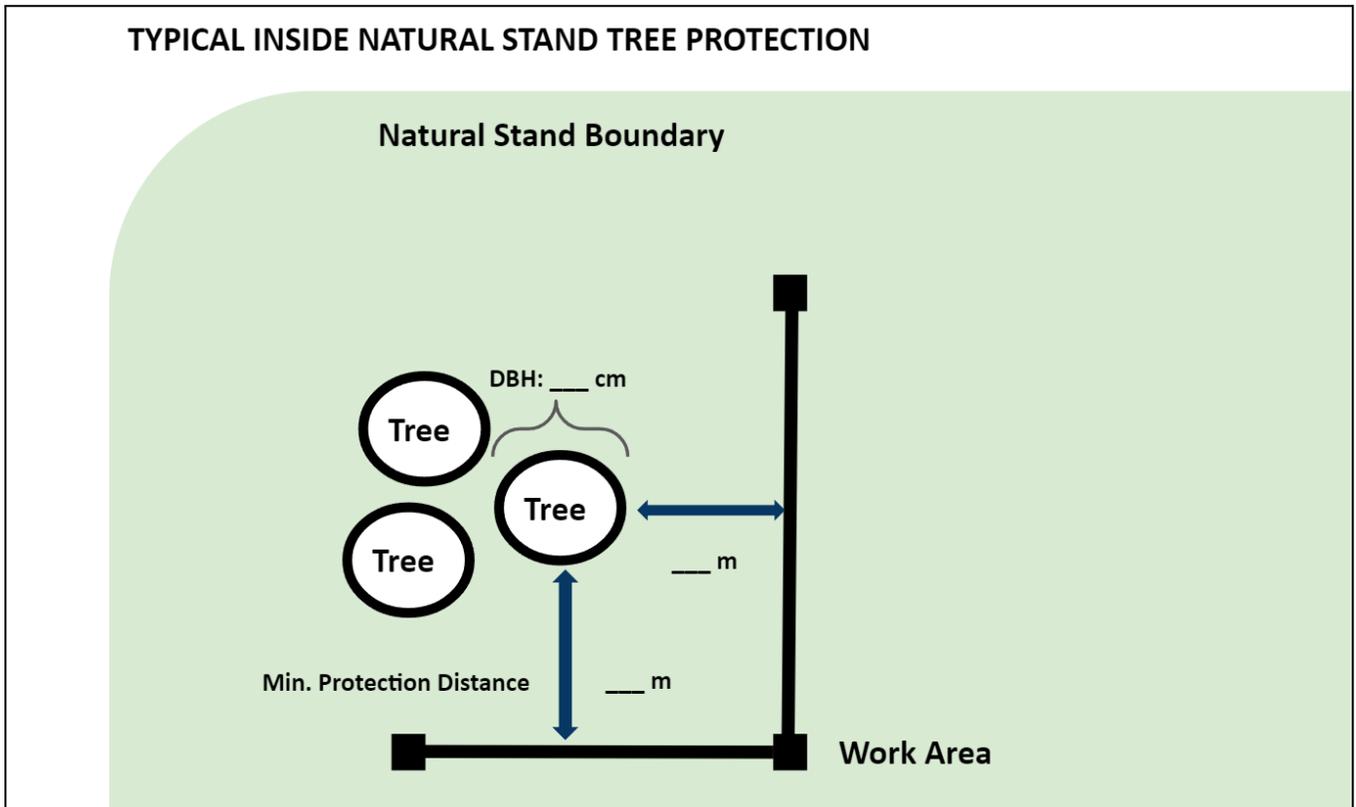
Section 3 | Tree Protection Fencing Dimensions

Inside Natural Stand

For trees within the [natural stand boundary](#)

Complete the following for a natural stand within 10 m of work being done (project boundaries, access or laydown areas). This should be based on the largest tree in closest proximity to the project boundaries (the protection boundaries may only be on one, two or three sides). Know how wide and where the proposed site access will be (if applicable) to have shorter fencing approved, if required. Existing infrastructure acts as an anticompaction measure, so tree protections do not need to cover existing hardscape (multi-use paths, maintained trails, roadways) or block other infrastructure like hydrants.

Tree Number ___ on Site Plan



Determine the Standard Minimum Protection Distance by using Appendix 1. Add or sketch any infrastructure (sidewalks, maintained trails, curbs, roads, hydrants) and propose shorter tree protection fencing if necessary. Leave 30 cm between a curb or roadway and the tree protection fencing.

Is a shorter minimum protection distance required for the actual tree protection fencing?

If yes, why?

- No
- Yes, existing hardscape (trail/pavement)
- Yes, for site access
- Yes, other - please explain: _____

Is the canopy of this tree expected to interfere with equipment, construction or the proposed building?

- Yes, clearance pruning required
- No, there's plenty of clearance
- Not sure, schedule meeting on site

Appendix

Appendix 1 | Measuring DBH and Tree Protection Zone

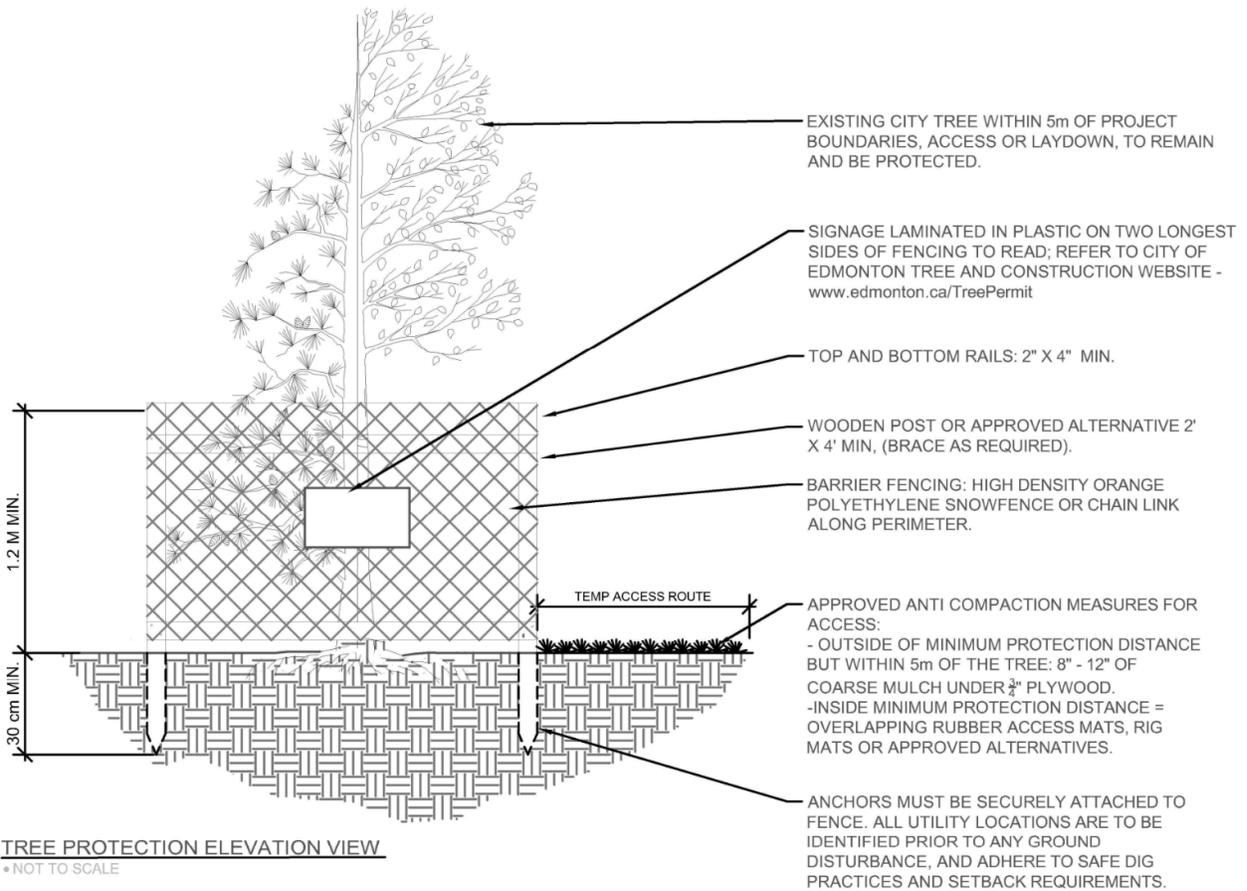
Determine the Standard Minimum Protection Distance using trunk size 1.4 m above ground		
Trunk Circumference at 1.4 m above ground	Trunk Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)	Minimum Protection Distance
Under 31 cm	10 cm and under	1.2 m
34-94 cm	11-30 cm	1.8 m
97-125 cm	31-40 cm	2.4 m
129-157 cm	41-50 cm	3.0 m
160-189 cm	51-60 cm	3.6 m
192-220 cm	61-70 cm	4.2 m
233-251 cm	71-80 cm	4.8 m
Over 251 cm	Over 80 cm	5.0 m

Step 1: Wrap a tape measure around the trunk of the tree 1.4 m above ground to get the circumference of the tree.

Step 2: Using the chart above, match the circumference with the corresponding diameter. This is the tree's Diameter at Breast Height (DBH).

Step 3: Again using the chart, match the tree's DBH to find the Standard Minimum Protection Distance. The tree protection fencing for the example needs to be 3 m from the tree on all sides.

Appendix 2 | Tree Protection Details



Appendix 3 | Tree Protection Measures

The area beyond the standard tree protection distance and within 5 m of each City tree must also be protected from compaction when access or laydown is required. Anticompaction measures help prevent oxygen depletion from the soil, allowing tree roots to feed and grow in the future. In general:

- If access or laydown is required within 5 m of the tree and outside of the Minimum Protection Distance (resulting in shorter tree protection fencing), 8"-12" of coarse mulch under $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood is an approved anti-compaction measure.
- If access is required within the Minimum Protection Distance, overlapping or interlocking rubber access mats (minimum 32 tons) or rig mats can be approved.

