

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2005 08:05:16 -0500

To: rginex@downers.us

From: John Schofield <JohnSchofield@gsb.uchicago.edu>

Subject: Thank you for your letter of June 10, 2005

Cc: mbaker@downers.us, mtully@downers.us, smcconnell@downers.us, surban@downers.us, rsandack@downers.us, mschnell@downers.us, BKrajewski@downers.us, wwaldack@downers.us, dbarber@downers.us, EPetrarca@downers.us, kvonderheide@downers.us

Dear Mr. Ginex,

Thank you very much for your letter of June 10, 2005. I appreciate the timely response to my questions at last Tuesday's Council meeting.

The enclosed Village communications to Residential Home Builders seem most appropriate and helpful. One hopes they are effective in modifying the behavior Residential Home Builders in favor of preserving more public trees, which is the public goal.

Many thanks to Kerstin von der Heide for getting the word out, and to the Council for enacting the ordinance.

Perhaps my questions during the public comment period of last Tuesday's meetings were not stated clearly by me or recorded completely, because my questions were:

1. What is being done to create a genuine climate of tree preservation among the Village's own employees?
2. How will the Village measure the results of the ordinance in terms of actual tree preservation?

I am asking these questions in order to prompt constructive discussion of the issue: to ensure that the Council's decision actually saves the maximum number of public trees! I look forward to continued discussion to foster a climate of public tree preservation.

Thank you again for your timely and helpful response in your letter of June 10, 2005.

--John Schofield  
1125 Jefferson Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60516  
630-810-1403  
<http://johnschofield.home.comcast.net/>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2005 11:24:25 -0500

From: "Ginex, Riccardo" <rginex@downers.us>

Subject: RE: Thank you for your letter of June 10, 2005

To: 'John Schofield' <jschofie@gsb.uchicago.edu>,  
"Ginex, Riccardo" <rginex@downers.us>

Cc: "Baker, Michael" <mbaker@downers.us>, "Tully, Martin" <mtully@downers.us>,  
"McConnell, Sue" <smcconnell@downers.us>, "Urban, Stan" <s.urban@comcast.net>,  
"Sandack, Ronald" <rsandack@yahoo.com>,  
"Schnell, Marilyn" <mschnell@downers.us>,  
"Krajewski, Brian" <bkrajewski@downers.us>,  
"Waldack, William" <WWaldack@downers.us>,  
"Barber, David" <DBarber@downers.us>, epetrarea@downers.us,  
"von der Heide, Kerstin" <kvonderheide@downers.us>

John,

Staff understands this is a tree preservation is a priority and will work hard to make sure it is possible.

Thanks,

Rick



www.downers.us

June 10, 2005

Mr. John Schofield  
1125 Jefferson  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

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FAX 630.434.5495

**DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
842 Curtiss Street  
Downers Grove  
Illinois 60515-4761  
630.434.5595  
FAX 630.434.5599

Dear Mr. Schofield:

I wanted to respond to the question you posed at the Village Council meeting last Tuesday evening regarding what the Village was going to do to foster a climate of tree protection on public lands.

As you know, the Council has amended Chapter 24, Trees and Shrubs, of our Municipal Code to ensure that public parkway trees are protected during construction activities. In amending the ordinance, there is an increased focus on permit approval for tree removal, appraisal value, bonding for trees that will not be removed, and minimum fencing distances for tree protection. Additionally, our Village Forester has already mailed 105 packets to residential builders in an effort to educate them about these changes. Her cover letter not only explains the changes in the ordinance but directs the builders to the most pertinent sections. Also included is the new ordinance itself and an updated copy of the Downers Grove Tree Protection Requirements. I have enclosed a copy for your personal use.

Staff intends to work very close with the home builders in an effort to see the ordinance is followed and as many as possible public parkway trees are preserved. In those instances when the ordinance is not followed we will use our enforcement ability to carry out the intent of the ordinance.

Respectfully,

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE

Riccardo F. Ginex  
Village Manger

RFG:ab  
Attachment  
cc: Mayor & Council  
E. Petrarca, Village Attorney  
D. Barber, Director of Public works  
K. von der Heide, Village Forester



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FYI  
I mailed 105  
copies of  
this

June 3, 2005

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Dear Residential Home Builder:

I am sending you correspondence regarding changes in the Downers Grove Municipal Code for public parkway trees and construction activities. Municipal Codes for trees and shrubs are in Chapter 24, and a copy is enclosed. The most pertinent Codes for you as a homebuilder are sections 24.3, 24.7, and 24.8. Section 24.3 details the tree removal permit process for projects that require the removal of a parkway tree. Fees for right-of-way items are listed in Section 19.28 of the Municipal Code (a copy is also enclosed). For tree removals, the fee will be the appraised tree value. Also note that other parkway trees at a site that will not be removed will be bonded for their appraised tree value. Section 24.7 details the tree protection requirements for any parkway tree that is to remain in the parkway. The table lists the minimum fence dimensions to be erected around a parkway tree. Depending on each site, the tree itself may not be in the middle of the fenced area. The entire parkway is to be fenced in except where access has been permitted as indicated on any submitted construction plans. Section 24.8 details what is considered a violation, specifies any remedies should damage occur to any parkway tree, and lists the fines for any violations which includes failure to maintain tree protection fences in an upright condition.

I realize this is an increase in the required fencing, and I know there will be a learning curve for everyone involved in implementing the revised tree protection fencing. In that I will be the one following up on sites and fences, and tracking follow up calls, I will be patient in the beginning. I have also enclosed an updated copy of the Downers Grove Tree Protection Requirements sheet that summarizes the pertinent points. On many plans I have reviewed, I have seen that the previous version of the tree protection sheet had been inserted on the plan sheet. Please discard any version older than May 2005, and use the newest copy. If you should have any questions or comments, please contact my office at 434-5475.

Sincerely,

Kerstin G. von der Heide  
Village Forester



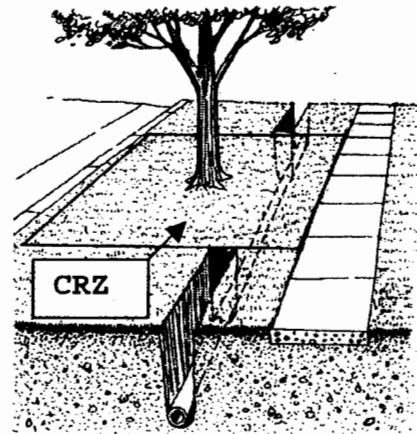


# Downers Grove Tree Protection Requirements

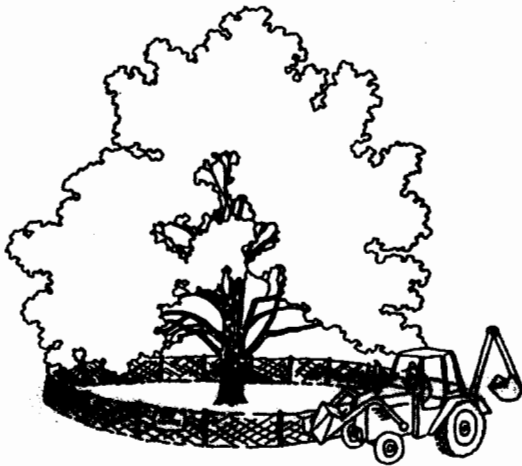
Ordinances regarding trees, including tree protection requirements for public trees, are located in Chapter 24 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code. The Forestry Division of the Public Works Department implements and enforces these codes. The following identifies tree protection requirements for projects near public parkway trees.

Tree protection shall include avoiding damage to the above ground tree branches and trunk, and the below ground root system and surrounding soil. Roots are one of the most vital parts of a tree and must be protected from severing or changes in their soil environment caused by compaction and regrading. The majority of a tree's nutrient and water absorbing roots are in the upper 18 to 24 inches of soil. Damage to the roots can lead to irreversible tree decline or death in the coming years, unless the area around the tree trunk is protected during construction activities. 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 generally 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 size of 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. Whenever possible, the entire parkway shall be fenced in except where access has been permitted.



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. If utilities pass through a CRZ, they must be augered underneath the tree. In cases when severing of roots within a portion of the CRZ may be unavoidable (ex. sidewalk installation, curb replacement), subject to the approval of the Village Forester, sharp clean cuts shall be made on root ends to promote wound closure and root regeneration. All fencing around each tree's CRZ is to be 4 feet high, secured to metal posts spaced no further than 10 feet apart, and maintained daily in good condition.

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 protected trees), violators may be subject to the following provisions:

- issuance of an invoice for the value or partial value of the tree lost 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.

