

Winnebago County Facilities

Construction and Tree Preservation Policy

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Winnebago County Facilities feels that planning and preservation are the keys to success in protecting trees during a construction project. Tree preservation can save money in design costs, material costs, installation costs, and eventually maintenance costs. Tree Protection Zones will be setup to protect and preserve existing high value trees. With a successful tree preservation plan Winnebago County will reap the benefits of mature landscaping that projects an immediate sense of class and style into future construction projects.

The process for identifying and preserving trees will be conducted as identified below:

1. Prior to construction Winnebago County Facilities will consult with a professional arborist or an urban forester to inventory and assess trees on the proposed build site. The inventory will record the variety, location, size, and health of each tree. The inventory shall identify high value trees and those that would need attention or removal.
2. Winnebago County Facilities will draw a base map identifying important site features such as existing buildings, property lines, utility connections, and setbacks for the proposed building. Identify priority trees for protection from the inventory and mark the location of these trees on the base map. Sketch in the appropriate tree protection zones where the temporary fencing shall be located.
3. Winnebago County Facilities will work with the arborist or urban forester, architect, builder, construction supervisor, engineers, general contractor, and landscape architect to locate the building footprint, driveway, parking lot, and identify how these items will affect the surrounding landscape. Trees that will need to be removed will be marked with orange X spray painted on the trunk 5 feet high from the ground.
4. The tree protection plan will designate the high value trees that shall be protected during the construction project. This plan shall be formulated prior to any work being conducted on site. The tree protection plan will address locating construction activities, grading and storm water drainage, designate tree protection zones, impact of parking lots, and address techniques to maintain proper tree maintenance during and after the construction period. No construction activities shall be allowed within the designated tree protection zones. A print of the tree protection plan shall be

provided with the print package from the architect hired for the construction project. The print shall be to scale and can be incorporated with the landscape plan.

5. The general contractor will be responsible for conducting designated root pruning and installing Tree Protection Zone fencing prior to any work being conducted on the site.
6. Root pruning the preservation trees shall be conducted prior to the tree protection zone installation. Root pruning shall be completed from the outside of the drip line prior to site clearing or grading. Root pruning shall be completed with the use of equipment designed for this purpose. This will eliminate unnecessary damage to the protected tree root system and ensure preservation of the tree. The general contractor will then erect Tree Protection Zones. Tree protection zones will consist of wire or rope, snow fencing, posts, and proper signage. The tree protection zones will consist of the entire area from the drip line to the trunk. Posts shall be set at the drip line edge of the protected tree, wire or rope ran at the top of the fence posts, and orange snow fencing. The wire or rope will be used to ensure that the fencing does not fall down and remains up throughout the construction project. There will be two signs per protected tree identifying the area as a TREE PROTECTION ZONE. Root stimulator shall be applied every 2-3 feet along the entire length of the tree preservation area. Watering and mulching will be completed by the general contractor throughout the construction process as necessary. Any tree pruning required during the process shall be conducted by an ISA certified arborist or forester.
7. During construction Winnebago County Facilities will prohibit access to and monitor all tree protection zones. Access to the tree protection zones will be prohibited during the entire construction period. At anytime Winnebago County Facilities has the right to STOP WORK on all aspects of construction. Any damage to the preservation trees that occurs during site work including violation of the preservation area or damaging protected trees shall be the responsibility of the general contractor to repair. Repairs may include whole tree replacements, appraisals of tree damage and incurred liquidated damages, or treatments supplied by an arborist or urban forester. Winnebago County Facilities will consult with an arborist or urban forester monthly to assess and optimize tree health.
8. Winnebago County Facilities will monitor all preservation trees post construction and consult with an arborist or urban forester on proper maintenance and care. Upon construction completion the tree protection zones will be taken down and any necessary pruning will be completed. Preservation trees will continue to be mulched and watered as necessary.