

## Generic Tree Protection Management Plan for Contractors and Service Providers

Preserving trees is essential for our district's character and environment. Trees thrive in a harmonious balance with their surroundings. Altering this balance can compromise their health and potential. Since repairing stressed trees is challenging, preventing damage is paramount.

This document guides tree protection requirements for any development or construction that may occur in the vicinity of QLDC-owned or managed trees to ensure their long-term protection, integrity, and overall health.

All construction and development that may occur near public trees must abide by the protection requirements outlined below in accordance with Council's Tree Policy 2024.

### Tree Protection Zones

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The Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is the area around the tree that is needed for its long-term continued health and growth. A TPZ shall be established for the duration of any construction or development that may impact a public tree.

For minor TPZ encroachments (<10%) outside the Structural Root Zone (SRZ), root investigations are typically unnecessary. However, if encroachments exceed 10% or new activities emerge, an Arborist must review them.

The radius of the TPZ is calculated by multiplying the tree's diameter at breast height (DBH) by 12. DBH is measured at 1.4m above ground level, and TPZ distance is measured as a radius from the centre of the trunk at ground level (see Figure 1). Should the tree canopy extend past the calculated radius, then the TPZ will be extended to include all above-ground components of the tree.

In some cases, a TPZ can be modified or reduced due to site factors such as hard surfaces or surrounding infrastructure. No modification to a TPZ can occur without consent from the Council's arborist.

**A Tree Works Application form is required for all work within the TPZ. No work should take place within the TPZ without prior consultation with the QLDC or Project arborist.**

### Formal Tree Protection Management Plans

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A Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) is required for any works that do not comply with the measures outlined in this document and must be endorsed by the Council's Arborist prior to the commencement of works.

A TPMP is essential to safeguard Council trees during construction. It must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced Arborist and cover impact assessments on public trees, management recommendations, and construction phase guidelines. It's best to integrate a TPMP early during a project's design phase for optimal tree health and project results. A Work Arborist may be requested to be appointed to oversee all works near Council trees for the duration of works.

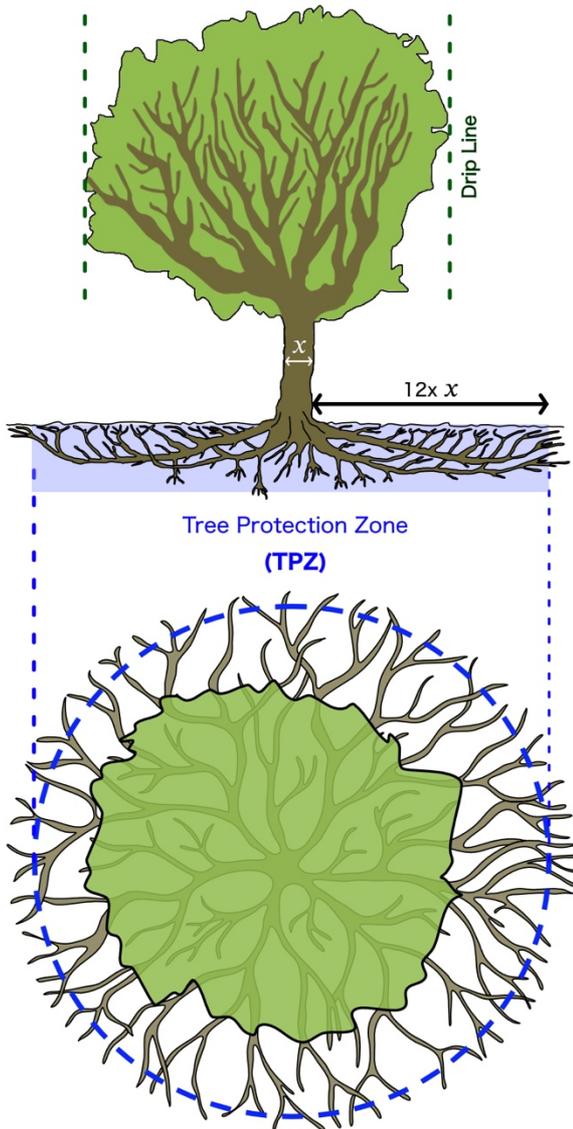


Figure 1: Calculating a TPZ. The TPZ radius is equivalent to the trunk diameter at 1.4m multiplied by 12

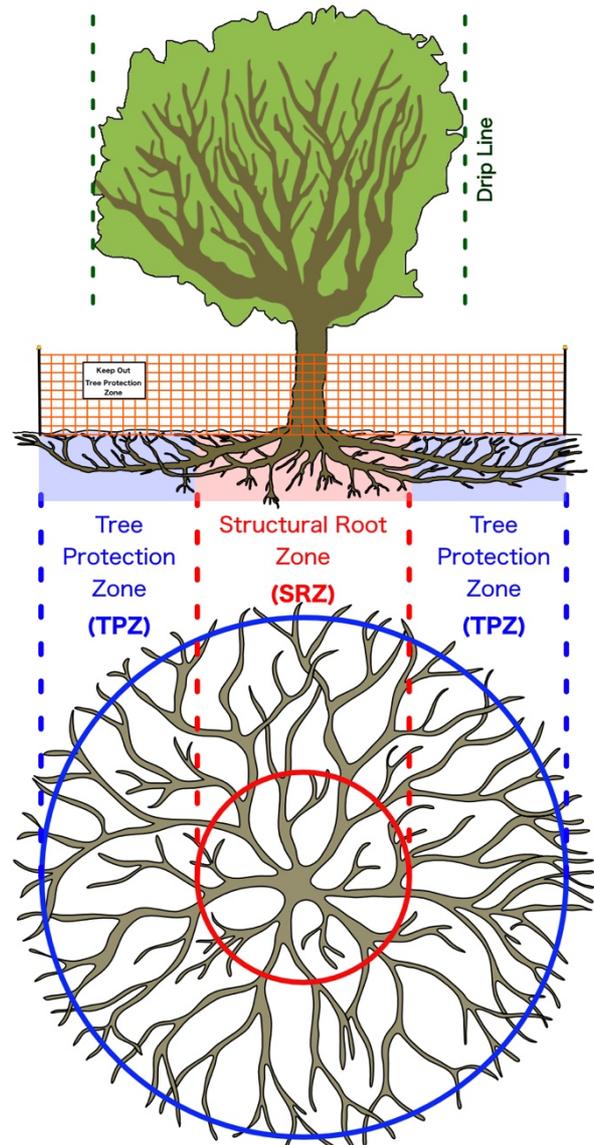


Figure 2: Tree Protection Zones

## Prohibited Actions within a TPZ (Unless Consulted with QLDC or Works Arborist):

- Excavation (except root-sympathetic methods)
- Storage of materials, equipment, chemicals, debris
- Vehicle traffic (unless on existing pavements)
- Installation of service pits or hatches
- Vehicle crossings (permanent or temporary)
- Equipment refuelling
- Disposal of waste materials (including run-off)
- Activities leading to soil compaction
- Cleaning of vehicles and equipment
- Preparation of chemicals or materials (e.g., concrete)
- Lighting fires
- Installation of utilities and signs (temporary or permanent)
- Severing of tree roots
- Soil alterations (level and structure)
- Parking of vehicles and machinery
- Use of herbicides and pesticides

**Avoid all works within the Structural Root Zone (SRZ) unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

## Tree Protective Fencing

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A tree protection fence should be erected to identify the TPZ and work zones. The location of the tree protection fence should be determined in conjunction with the works arborist.

The tree protection fence should be labelled by clearly visible and legible all-weather signage displaying the words “Tree Protection Zone” and shall be considered a total exclusion without the prior approval of the works arborist.

## Tree Root Sympathetic Excavation Methods

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All excavations which are to take place within the TPZ should be done in conjunction with the works arborist, through hand, air or hydro excavation.

The appointed Arborist shall work closely with the contractors carrying out excavations to ensure that the methods being utilised do not damage the roots of the tree.

Trenchless construction is the preferred method for service installation within TPZ’s. When trenchless methods are not possible, excavation shall be by hand, air or non-destructive hydro excavation at low pressure with approval from Council’s arborist.

Trenchless entry and exit pits must be positioned outside the designated TPZ of each tree. This requirement should apply unless root sympathetic exploratory investigations have been undertaken and it has been determined by an Arborist that access within the TPZ will not significantly impact the tree.

The depth of the trenchless methods will depend on the size of the tree and the services being installed.

## Pruning

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No council tree may be pruned, or branches removed by anyone other than those authorised by Council’s Arborist.

No pruning will be approved unless it falls within the general tree maintenance specifications.

## Tree Removal

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Removal of trees will not occur unless approved by QLDC Arborists.

Where a tree is approved for removal in relation to a project, the associated cost of the tree and its removal shall be paid by the project or representative prior to removal. This may also incur 2-for-1 replacement and aftercare costs.

## Questions

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If you have any questions about tree protection, please contact the QLDC Services team at [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz).

# TREE PROTECTION ZONE

## NO ACCESS

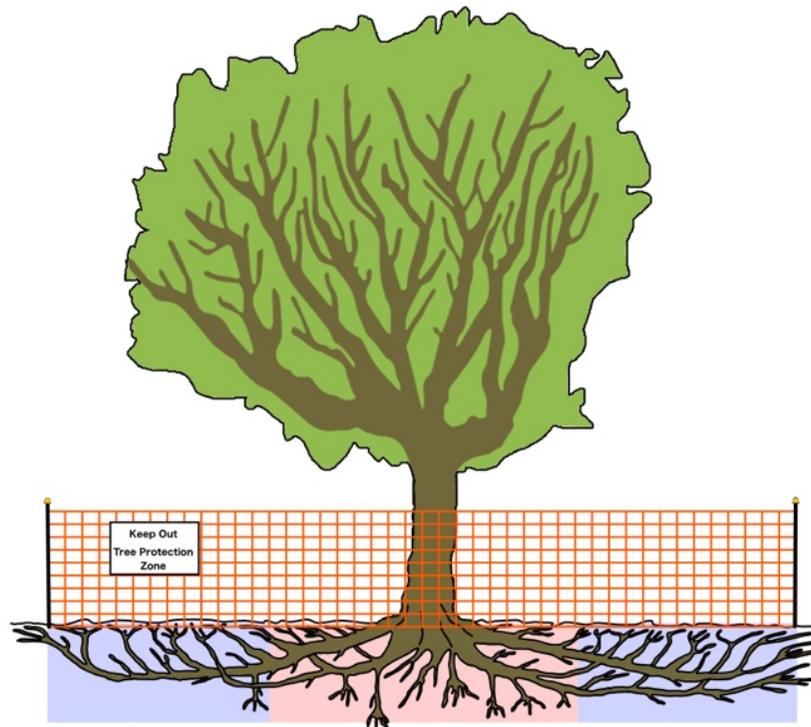
No Machinery Digging

No Machinery or  
Parking

No Material Storage

No Trunk or Branch  
Damage

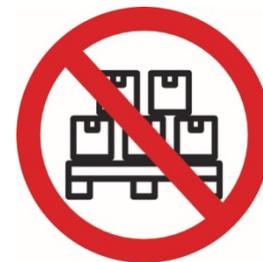
No Pruning or Root  
Damage



Tree  
Protection  
Zone  
(TPZ)

Structural Root  
Zone  
(SRZ)

Tree  
Protection  
Zone  
(TPZ)



**NO WORKS IN THIS ZONE UNLESS APPROVED BY ARBORIST**

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