

## Town of Chevy Chase Tree Removal and Protection

### **Tree Removal:**

The Town of Chevy Chase prohibits the removal or destruction, including undertaking any action that will substantially impair the health or growth, of a canopy tree, without first obtaining a permit from the Town. A canopy tree is defined as a tree with a trunk that measures at least 24 inches in circumference at four and one-half feet above the ground. If a tree divides at less than four and one-half feet above the ground, the trunk shall be measured directly beneath the dividing point. If you believe you need to remove a tree that meets the above definition, please submit a separate Tree Removal Permit (available online at [www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org) or in the Town Office). Violation of this ordinance will subject you to a municipal fine of up to \$1000.

### **Tree Protection:**

Chapter 29 of the Town Code requires that before undertaking any activity that poses a potential risk to a canopy tree (see above definition) a property owner shall submit a Tree Protection Plan for review and approval by the Town Manager. Activities that pose a potential risk to canopy trees include but are not limited to (i) the demolition, in whole or in part, of an existing home or structure; (ii) the construction of a new home or structure; (iii) the expansion of the footprint of an existing home or structure; (iv) the construction of a driveway, patio or other impervious surface; (v) the construction of walls, (vi) installation of underground utility lines, and (vii) regrading or excavating within the drip line of a canopy tree. Violation of this ordinance will subject you to a municipal fine of up to \$1000.

The objectives of a Tree Protection Plan are to minimize the impact of construction activities on trees, including but not limited to mechanical injury to roots, trunks and branches; compaction of soil that degrades functioning roots and inhibits the development of new ones; and changes in grade that can cut off or suffocate roots. A Tree Protection Plan shall, where applicable, include the following:

- (1) Existing and proposed property lines, structures, utility lines, driveways, sidewalks, and other paved surfaces.
- (2) The size (circumference at 4 ½ feet above the ground), species, state of health, estimated location of drip line, and accurate location of all trees on the project property, as well as trees on neighboring properties where their driplines lie over the proposed construction zone.
- (3) A delineation of the Tree Protection Zones within which all construction activities, grading or drainage changes, trenching, heavy equipment, or storage of materials will be excluded. All Tree Protection Zones must be surrounded by chain link fences six feet in height with signage affixed, in English and Spanish, warning workers not to disturb the zones. Boundaries of Tree Protection Zones will be located to provide the maximum protection for tree roots.
- (4) The delineation of areas to be excavated, regraded, and/or disturbed, as well as mitigation measures to be used to protect remaining trees if substantial grading changes are proposed.
- (5) The location of any proposed trenching for underground utility lines.
- (6) The location of any temporary gravel construction access drives and where construction materials and equipment will be stored.
- (7) All trees proposed for removal.
- (8) All trees to be protected in Tree Protection Zones, including trees in the Town right-of-way.
- (9) The location, species and diameter of each proposed replacement tree.
- (10) The methods by which tree branches and roots are to be protected before construction. Branch and root pruning must adhere to International Society of Arboriculture standards.
- (11) The maintenance program for trees to be protected during construction as well as for replacement trees for two years following construction.
- (12) Contact information for a designated individual who will ensure that all work adheres to the approved Tree Protection Plan.

**A copy of the approved Tree Protection Plan must be posted on the property on a board covered with plastic prior to the commencement of construction and left in place until construction is finished.**

**Incomplete Tree Protection Plans will not be reviewed by the Town's arborist or approved by the Town Manager**