

Tree Protection Guide

The protection of trees is vital to retaining our town's character and environment. Trees grow in a delicate balance with their environment and any changes to that balance must be minimised if the tree is to remain healthy state and fulfil its potential. It is rarely possible to repair stressed and injured trees, so damage needs to be avoided during all stages of development and construction.

This document guides work around trees to ensure their long-term protection, integrity and vitality and applies to all trees in the municipality that are either owned or managed by the Alpine Shire Council.

In all cases, Alpine Shire Council's Open Spaces Coordinator shall, within the parameters of best practice and meeting the community's expectations, have the discretion to modify or add to any condition, practice or standard outlined within the policy. All construction and development works near public trees must abide by the protection and retention requirements outlined in this document.

Tree Protection Requirements

The most important consideration for the successful retention of trees is to allow appropriate above and below ground space for the trees to continue to grow. This requires the allocation of Tree Protection Zones for retained trees. A protection zone should be established for the duration of the project. Care must be taken to ensure that no damage is caused to council tree trunks, roots, canopy or branches during construction.

To ensure that public trees in the municipality are fully protected at all times, the following requirements must be complied with.

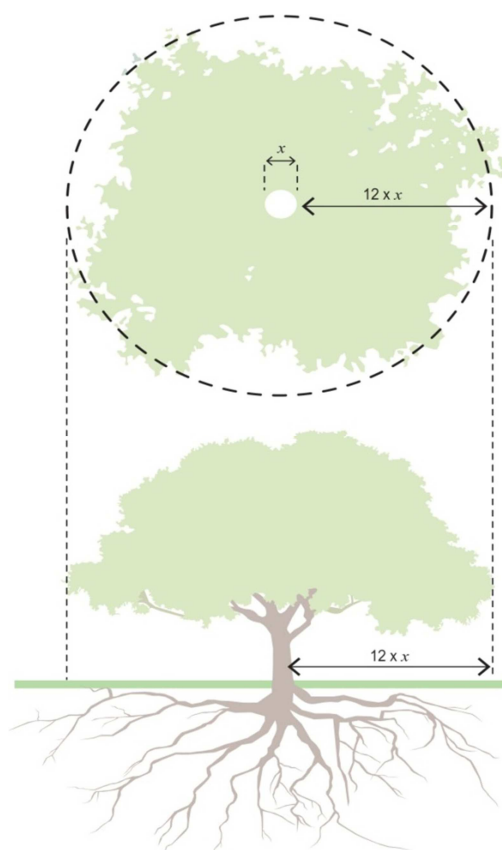


Tree Protection Zones

1. A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) shall be established for the duration of any works near a tree.
2. The tree protection distance method outlined in the current Australian Standard will be used for the allocation of tree protection zones. The TPZ for individual trees is calculated based on trunk (stem) diameter (DBH), measured at 1.4 metres up from ground level. The radius of the TPZ is calculated by multiplying the tree's DBH by 12. For example; a tree with 40cm DBH requires a TPZ of 4.8 metres. The method provides a TPZ that addresses both tree stability and growth requirements. TPZ distances are measured as a radius from the centre of the trunk at ground level.
3. The Council's arborist must approve any modification to a tree protection zone

Trunk Diameter (DBH)*	Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)
10cm	1.2m
20cm	2.4m
40cm	4.8m
75cm	9m
100cm	12m

* DBH – Diameter of the trunk at breast height



The following are not permitted within a tree protection zone:

1. Mechanical excavation on the road, footpath or any public space
2. Stockpiling of building materials, debris or soil
3. Vehicular traffic except on existing paved surfaces
4. Installation of service pits or hatches
5. Vehicular crossings

6. Severing of tree roots with a diameter greater than 30mm
7. Alteration of soil levels and structure

Pruning

1. No council tree may be pruned or branches removed by anyone other than those authorised by council
2. Pruning of roots and branches will be in accordance with AS4373, Pruning of Amenity Trees or any more recent relevant Standard.

Removal

1. Removals of trees will not occur unless approved by council.
2. No council tree may be removed by anyone other than those authorised by council.
3. Where a public tree removal is approved by the council's arborist in relation to a development, the associated cost of the tree and its removal shall be paid by the property owner or a representative prior to the removal.

Tree Protection Management Plans

1. Permission from council's arborist is required for activities that do not comply with the above measures.
2. A Tree Protection Management Plan endorsed by council's arborist will be prepared prior to the commencement of the works.
3. A Tree Protection Management Plan must be developed in accordance with the Australian Standard AS4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites or any more recent standard. It is to be prepared by a certified arborist to assess impacts to public trees, provide recommendations to reduce impacts on public trees and identify construction guidelines to be followed through all phases of construction.

Tree Protection Bonds

Where construction activities have the potential to impact public trees, a bond for the protection of the tree will be held by council. The amount of the bond will amount to the combined tree amenity and ecological value and will be held for the duration of the works, subject to an approved Tree Protection Management Plan.