

Village of Mamaroneck **TREE ROOT PRUNING GUIDELINES**

If it is deemed necessary to prune roots within a tree's protected Critical Root Zone, please adhere to the following information, based on ANSI A300 Tree Care Industry Standards.

1. Advance Planning:

- Root pruning shall take place prior to any other disturbance on the site.

2. Preparation:

- Contact an ISA Certified Arborist and arrange a site visit to discuss logistics and to confirm exact location of root pruning.
- Decide where root pruning trench will be located and mark it on the ground between the disturbance and tree, typically 6" closer to the tree than edge of disturbance.

3. Digging Process:

- Pruning trench should be cleared using only hand tools or an air knife.
This action will expose the roots while leaving them intact.
- DO NOT use an excavator to clear, since this will shred the roots and can damage the tree trunk.
- Root pruning should be as shallow as possible to ensure that cuts are made only on roots affected by the disturbance.

4. Pruning Process:

- The Certified Arborist must perform or supervise all root cuts and remain on site during all pruning.
- Once roots are exposed, use a sharpened tool to cleanly cut only the necessary roots. Proper tools include a handsaw, root pruner, or any other sharp tool that leaves a clean cut.
- DO NOT use a chainsaw or excavator to sever roots.
- All roots shall be left with a clean, perpendicular cut with smooth ends and no ragged edges.

5. Post Pruning:

- Tree root cuts must be kept moist. If roots ends will be left exposed for more than 8 hours, cover the cut root ends and the dug hole with moist burlap.
 - Fill hole with quality top soil and mulch area with triple shredded hardwood to depth of 3".
 - Water well until entire area around tree is thoroughly soaked.
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