



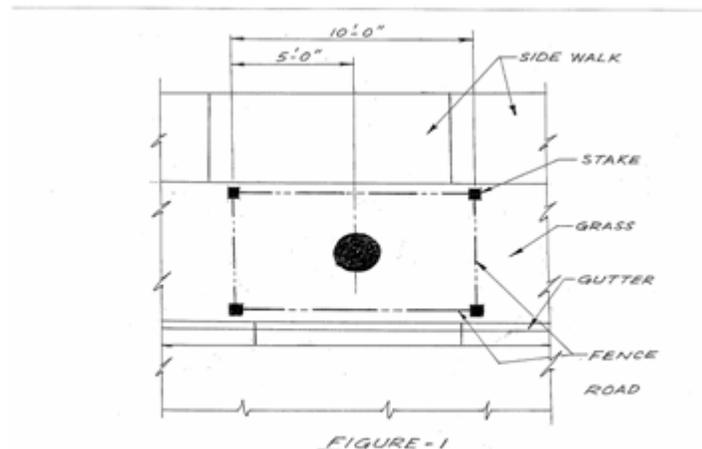
## Tree Protection in the Right of Way

### Guidelines

The following guidelines have been provided by the Department of Transportation to save county street trees from construction related damage. Because street trees in the urban and suburban environment almost always grow in close proximity to residential and commercial structures and therefore, construction work activities, measures to successfully protect the trees are necessary. Usually the greatest impact to trees on construction sites is from soil compaction and root cutting. The following simple procedures can greatly reduce most of the construction damage to trees in the right of way:

#### Protective Plastic fencing

- Delineates where construction traffic and materials are permitted and where they are not permitted.
- Plastic construction fencing should be at least 4 feet in height, staked and taut throughout.
- Installation of fencing should **precede any construction** activity and remain in place throughout the entire construction process.
- Fencing should create a square or rectangle shape around the tree with one side as close as possible to the curb, another side as close as possible to the sidewalk (or edge of right-of-way), and the other two sides should be at least 5 feet from the base of the tree perpendicular to the other two sides. An example is shown below.



- If **silt fences** are shown for installation within the root zone, the Sediment Control Inspector should be contacted for a re-evaluation **prior to installation.**

### **Trenching/Excavating**

- The root zone of a tree extends out even past the drip line (canopy) of the tree. Alternate methods should be explored before trenching or excavating are considered.
- If trenching or excavating are necessary, the disturbance should occur as far away from the base of the tree as possible.
- **Prior to excavation or trenching,** roots should be pruned at the point of disturbance. Any exposed roots should be cut cleanly at the edge of the trench.

### **Minimizing soil compaction**

- Equipment, tools, or building materials are not allowed in the lawn panel or grass right of way area. In certain circumstance if staging areas are permitted by the Right of Way Inspector, sheets of ¾ inch plywood should be laid down beneath the materials to displace the weight and minimize soil compaction.
- Only a permitted temporary construction entrance or an existing driveway may be used for vehicular ingress and egress to a site. However, if temporary access across the right of way occurs, plywood should be used.
- **Plywood must not obstruct the sidewalk or create a pedestrian hazard.**
- Staging areas and ingress/egress areas should be thought out well before construction begins with consideration to minimize impact to the public trees.

**If you have any questions, please call 311 in Montgomery County or 240-777-0311 outside of Montgomery County. For more information on tree care and planting go to the following link <http://www.trees.maryland.gov/>**