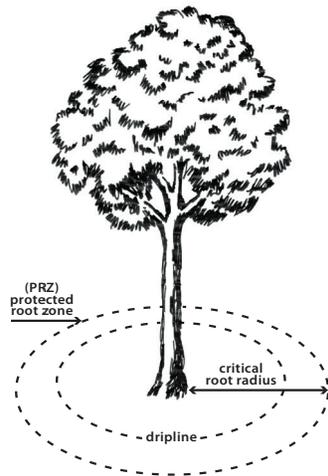


WHAT IS THE CRITICAL ROOT ZONE?

A tree's **Critical Root Zone** is defined as a circle on the ground corresponding to the dripline of the tree.



Damage to the tree roots can be caused by any disturbance inside this area; nearby trenching, paving, or altering drainage patterns outside of this area may also significantly affect the tree.



Roots are one of the most vital parts of a tree. They are responsible for nutrient and water uptake, storing energy, and anchoring the tree. **90-95% of a tree's root system is in the top three feet of soil, and more than half is in the top one foot.** It is critical that tree roots that lie in the path of construction are protected.

BENEFITS OF TREES

- ◆ Trees prevent soil erosion and reduce flooding by absorbing rain through their leaf systems and roots
- ◆ A large mature tree can intercept over 5,000 gallons of stormwater
- ◆ Shade trees significantly reduce utility bills
- ◆ Healthy trees can increase property values by as much as 20%
- ◆ Trees provide wind abatement, screening and increased security
- ◆ Trees support diverse wildlife ecosystems
- ◆ Trees clean carbon dioxide from our air
- ◆ Trees provide constant filtration of air and water pollution
- ◆ Trees possess commemorative and historical value
- ◆ Trees bring beauty to our lives and our town



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT:
www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org



You Can't Unchop A Tree



HOMEOWNERS CAN
PROTECT THEIR TREES

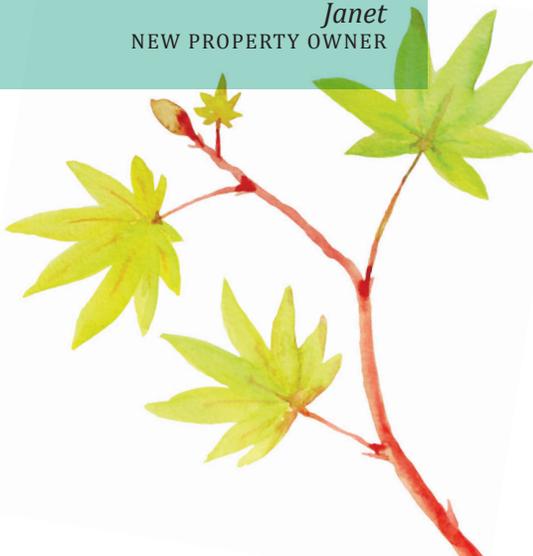
You Can't Unchop a Tree • You Can Protect It



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU...

"I wanted a new path at my house and before I knew it my landscaper had taken down trees I didn't realize I was losing. If I had been on-site when the work began, I would have been able to talk to my contractor about his plans to remove a number of trees. I have since learned that it will take 50 years to have that canopy back. The trees were one of the things I loved about my property."

Janet
NEW PROPERTY OWNER



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The **PLACEMENT OF TREES** is very important; trees protect each other. Clear-cutting weakens and can kill more than just the trees you remove.

Proper **SELECTION OF TREES** can help protect against:

- Flooding
- Power outages
- Damage to your property

DIVERSITY helps to protect your trees. Plant a variety of trees rather than growing a monoculture. Choose trees that are better designed to withstand:

- Blights
- Beetles
- Strong storms

PLANNING FOR CONSTRUCTION

Talk with your Architect, Engineer and Landscape Designer about which trees you want to save.

Make sure that septic and drainage systems are designed around savable trees.

Care should be taken to avoid:

- Compaction
- Damage from machinery
- Cutting across root zones when installing utility pipes
- Flooding of root systems



Protective fences should be erected as far out from the trunks of trees as possible to protect the root systems.

PROPER MAINTENANCE

Speak to your landscape and tree professionals about the proper care and feeding of both saplings and mature trees.

Make sure that irrigation heads are located where they will not hit your trees with every rotation.

VOLCANO MULCHING, pictured below, deprives your tree of oxygen and makes it vulnerable to pathogens, which may cause the tree to die. Use proper mulching techniques to keep mulch 2"-3" from the tree trunk. More than 3" of mulch prevents water from reaching the soil.

