STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR BUILDING AROUND VALLEY OAKS



CITY OF VISALIA Urban Forestry Guidelines

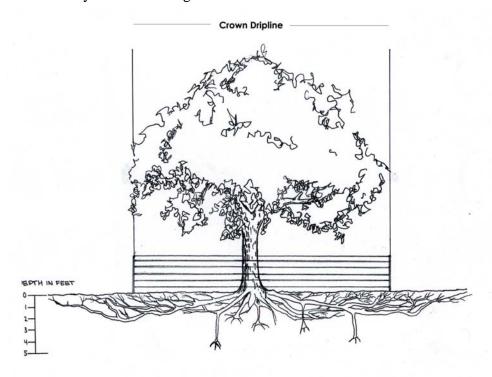


The citizens of Visalia are fortunate to live among the largest remaining stand of native Valley Oaks in the Central Valley. These magnificent trees need to be protected during development, so that they will survive for the next generation. By following these standard specifications we can ensure that all will enjoy the beauty of the Valley Oaks for generations to come.

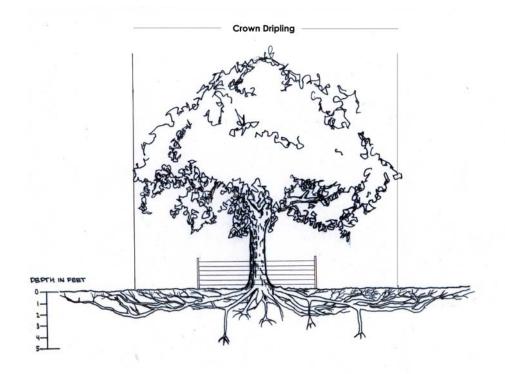
- 1. The protection zone of all Valley Oaks shall be drawn to scale on plans; this includes accurately locating the trunk and depicting the crown dripline. There shall be no earth work around the crown dripline without the consent of the City Arborist.
- 2. All utility locations shall be included in all development plans involving Valley Oak(s).
- 3. Protective tree fencing shall be added prior to any earthwork, at least 3 ft. minimum in height, installed at outer most edge of the dripline surrounding the trunk of a Valley Oak. The temporary fencing shall be: safety orange color, plastic webbing, temporary construction type fencing. (Snow fencing) Fencing shall be supported by steel T-bar stakes. This fence is to remain until construction is complete and the City Arborist approves it's removal. Nothing may be stored inside the protective fence. See detail 1.
- 4. There shall be no back filling within 10 ft. of the trunk of a Valley Oak and a maximum of 6 inches of backfill within the crown dripline. Any deviation from this requires City Arborist approval. Backfill will be of a high quality soil and clean of any debris.
- 5. There shall be no trenching within the crown dripline of the Valley Oak, or at a distance to be determined by the City Arborist. Utilities to be installed within the crown dripline shall be bored at a minimum depth of 36". See detail 4
- 6. There shall be no soil compaction, paving or structures placed within the crown drip-line of a Valley Oaks without the written consent of the City Arborist.
- 7. Valley Oak trees shall be irrigated before construction starts and through construction during the summer (June through October). This will help ensure that the tree can better withstand the stress of construction. Irrigation is extremely important during spring and summer when the environment around a mature Valley Oak is changed by construction. Irrigations shall water all of the area under the crown dripline. See detail 3
- 8. Permanent irrigation systems must be bubbler, drip, flood or sub-terrain only. No sprinkler systems allowed within 6 ft. of tree. If an irrigations system is to be added it must be approved by the City Arborist.
- 9. Landscaping under Valley Oaks shall consist of drought tolerant plants or California native plants that are drought tolerant in nature. There is to be no landscaping within 6 ft. of the trunk. Chipped bark and mulch are suitable for this area. No lawns shall be planted within 10 ft. of the trunk. We recommend that there be no lawn place within the crown dripline.

Please contact the City Arborist at 559-713-4295 to answer questions or provide assistance.

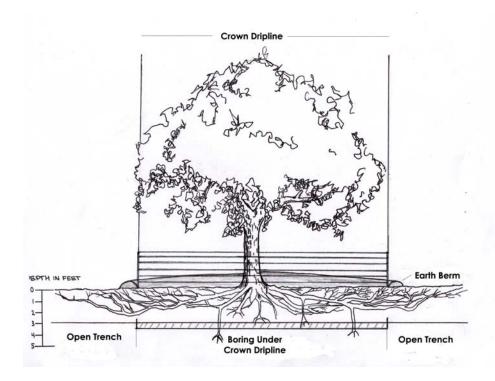
Detail 1. Proper Protective Tree Fencing: Protecting the root system under the crown dripline is critical for the health, longevity and stability of a tree. Mature trees including Valley Oaks typically lack taproots as commonly thought. 80% of a mature trees root system is often within the top 18" of the soil surface. Protective fencing shall be in place before any earth work begins on the site.



Detail 2. Improper Protective Tree Fencing: Protecting the health and stability of mature valley is impossible without protecting the root system under the crown dripline. The detail below is not acceptable because it does not adequately protect the tree.



Detail 3. Irrigation: An eight inch tall by eight inch wide earth berm can be added direct outside the protective fence surrounding the crown dripline to direct water into the root zone. The area inside the earth berm under the crown dripline shall be flood irrigated one time in each of the following months; June and August.



Detail 4. Boring under the crown drip-line: Mechanical boring shall be required to tunnel under the crown dripline with a horizontal directional bore. The boring shall be at a minimum depth of 36".

