Professional Pruning

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City of Austin Urban Forestry
Trees Are Good
Trees are an Investment
Trees are Living Creatures
We Can do More Harm than Good
An Asset can Become a Liability
Pruning Basics
Trees Can’t Heal
Pruning Causes Wounds
Leaves are Food Factories
Prune for a Specific Goal
Proper Pruning Cuts

- **branch collar**
- **branch bark ridge**
- **dead branch**
- **living branch**
Branch Collar
Avoid Tearing
Three Part Cut

Cut 1

1 or 2 Feet

Cut 2

Cut 3
Lion’s Tailing
Lion’s Tailing
Over Pruning
The Cycle Continues

New Sprouts!
Topping Leads to Poor Structure
Topping Increases Risk
Correct Pruning

Before

After
Don’t Forget the Permit

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Reduce Structural Defects
Make Small Wounds
This Tree...
Can Become This Tree
Temporary Branches
Make a Plan

Competing with Leader

Temporary Branch

Leader

Crossing Branches
Subordinate Temporary Branches
Subordinate Temporary Branches
Subordinate Temporary Branches
Be Careful!
How Roots Grow

- Trunk
- Anchor roots
- Transport roots
- Feeder roots

Dripline
Why Prune Roots?
Girdling Roots
Girdling Roots
Cut Girdling Roots Before Planting
Critical Root Zone

- 21” diameter
- 21’ radius
- CRZ
- 21’ radius
- 21” diameter

Critical Root Zone
City Regulations

The Critical Root Zone - Development Impact Zones

- Critical Root Zone - preserve 50%
- 1/2 CRZ - no cut/fill > 4'
- 1/4 CRZ - no impact
- 20 inch tree
- 5 feet
- 10 feet
- 20 feet
Getting to the Roots
Use Sharp Tools
Cut and Cover
Thank You!

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