

Tree Protection Method Sheet

Beavers and the wetland system they create are a natural part of the Jordan River corridor and are a valuable presence. Since beavers on the Jordan River use trees for food, fencing a selection of trees (such as aspen, poplar, cottonwood, and willow) is sometimes necessary to preserve a healthy vegetative habitat. A fence keeps the beaver from getting to the tree. Fencing can protect native trees from getting stripped by beaver which can save the life of the tree and also help to ensure public safety along the river trail. It is not necessary to eliminate beaver access to all trees, especially tree that are non-native. Thank you for keeping the Jordan River corridor healthy and safe!

MATERIALS

It will be the responsibility of the volunteer to collect all of the needed materials listed below. This can be done via purchase or donation. All of the following materials are commonly available at home centers in the area.

- Roll of 2"x4" mesh 14-Gauge Welded Wire Utility Fencing 3 feet tall
- Wire Cutters/Pliers
- Measuring Tape
- Gloves and Safety Glasses
- Calculator

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

In order to keep track of the work done and to assist in documenting the variety and condition of trees along the Jordan River, please take digital photos of each individual species of tree you encounter before and after the work is completed. You do not need to take a picture of every tree worked on. These photos will be used in future project packets to help volunteers identify the trees. Please capture as much of the tree as is possible in your before picture. Think about what would be helpful to you in identifying the trees (leaf size and shape, bark patterns, trunk color, etc) and make sure your photo includes these characteristics. Please submit these photos to the PPL volunteer coordinator with your "Site Condition Report" once completed.

SAFETY

Being aware of your surroundings can help to ensure a successful and safe project. Please work in teams of two or more when completing the field portion of the project (cutting, installation, photos, etc.). Use extra care when working near water and be aware of banks that look soft or slippery. All field volunteers should wear hard soled shoes, long sleeves and pants, gloves, and safety glasses. While working in public areas please avoid contact with potentially infectious items including syringes and human waste. If you do encounter any of these items, report them to the proper organizations.

LOCATING TREES TO BE PROTECTED

Place protection around native trees such as poplars and cottonwoods. Be sure of the tree species before installation. Watch for trees that have been freshly chewed or that have wood shavings at its base and are within 100 ft. from the river. A tree that has been chewed around the entire base of its trunk does not need protection. Be aware that some trees are located on steep or unstable banks of the river, use extra care when close to the water. This work will best be accomplished in pairs. Some trees will require the careful removal of the old tree cage before the new one can be installed. Some existing cages have been built using different techniques and materials, and the new cages being installed represent the best practices learned from experience. Please dispose of these materials properly, recycling where possible. Then follow the directions under the PROCEDURE section below.

CLEAN-UP

As you and your team of volunteers are working to protect these natural lands within the city, please be careful to clean-up unused materials, packaging, and other items carried onto the property. When walking off trail, please tread lightly, avoid trampling plant material. Be sensitive when installing the wire cage around the tree trunks not to scratch or damage the bark. After the work is completed please leave with "no trace." Thank you for your help in improving these natural lands and preserving wildlife habitat.





1. Gather the supplies: gloves, protective lenses, calculator, pen/pencil, notepad, wire cutters, pliers, field fencing.

$$1. \frac{\text{circumference (inches)}}{3.14}$$

= diameter

$$2. (\text{diameter} + 6) * 3.14$$

= length of field fencing (inches)

2. Measure circumference in inches by wrapping measuring tape around the widest part of the tree to be encircled, including branches and stems. Use calculation above.



3. Using the wire cutters, nip the fencing at the proper length, being careful to leave wire prongs to connect the fence together around the tree. Wear safety glasses and gloves to protect you from sharp ends.



4. Carefully, encircle the trunk with the wire fence. Make sure to situate cage so that it stands clear of the tree.



5. Bend the wire prongs using the pliers around the opposite side to close the circle. There should be a gap of approximately 3 inches between the trunk of the tree and the wire fence.



6. Use wire cutters to snip sections of the fencing along the bottom to more easily bend it outwards.



7. Bend the metal outwards along the bottom making a rim or shelf so that the cage may sturdily stand, functioning as its own support.



8. Secure fencing in place.



9. Double check to make sure the fencing is upright, secured, and does not touch the tree.