



Public Works Department Standards for Preliminary Exploratory Excavation

The Preliminary Exploratory Excavation should only be conducted after written approval from the Urban Forest Manager.

The exploratory excavation should uncover the location, quantity, and size of a tree's major roots and serve to provide reasonable guarantee that major roots will not be lost during the completion of the proposed project.

Depth of exploratory excavation should be the proposed depth of full excavation for the project. In some cases a shallower depth for the exploratory excavation may be acceptable, only with approval from the Urban Forest Manager.

Once you have completed your Preliminary Exploratory Excavation, please submit to the Urban Forest Manager a written description of the number, diameter, and location of all roots encountered and photos of the uncovered area.

No roots over 0.5-inch diameter may be cut or damaged!!

Please contact the Urban Forest Manager with any questions.

301-891-7612

UrbanForestManager@TakomaParkMD.gov

Acceptable Digging Techniques

- Super-Sonic Air Tool



- Hand dig with low-pressure water to soften soil



Proposed line of excavation and potential root cutting for project

The trench only needs to be wide enough to allow identification of roots, typically 6" to 12" wide. All roots over 0.5" diameter must be preserved and remain undamaged.

Proposed depth of excavation

