

Trees & Underground Utility Lines

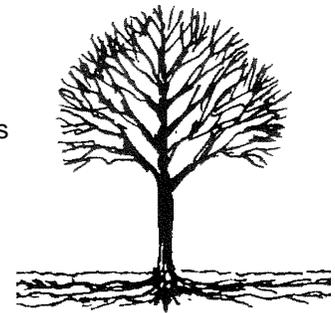
Hidden away beneath the soil, roots quietly go about doing their job. They anchor immense trees firmly against the wind, serve up vital water, and pry loose essential elements from the soil.

Most of a tree's roots lie less than 8 to 12 inches below the surface, and they can grow outward to a distance one to two times the height of the tree.

Unfortunately, when trees grow in cities and towns, they must share limited space with underground utility lines. In these crowded conditions, they live under constant threat of disturbance from utility

Know Where Roots *Really* Grow

Roots spread where soil conditions allow access to soil nutrients, air and moisture. This results in about 85% of a tree's roots being in the top 18 inches of soil, with the majority within one foot of the surface.



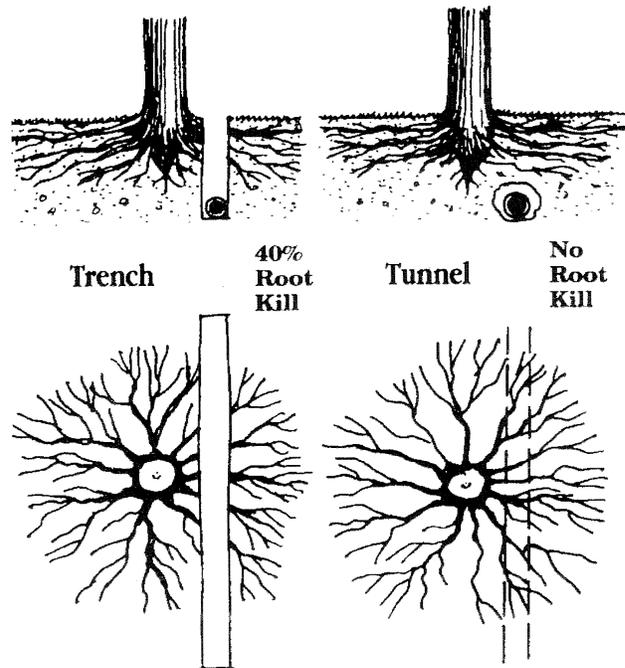
installation or repairs, new lawn sprinkler systems, and other activity that requires digging.

Why Tunneling and Careful Trenching Can Save Trees

Trenching near a tree can kill as much as 40 to 50 percent of the tree's roots. This will almost certainly lead to stress, poor tree health, lack of firmness against wind, or outright death. A tunnel in the same place can preserve the tree's roots, with no resulting damage to the tree.

When tunneling is not an alternative, the route of a trench can be altered to miss tree roots, or avoid as many of them as possible.

Tennessee State Law requires that Tennessee One Call be notified if anyone is about to engage in either digging, excavation, moving of earth, demolition or any type of activity that disturbs the earth and could therefore possibly involve a danger of damaging underground utility lines.



Call 811 or visit <http://tncall.com> before you dig.

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