

Chad Huffine

August 17, 2017

Chad

At your request I met with Omar Zinn on August 14, 2017 to examine a Southern red oak at 1001 Homestead Rd. Chapel Hill, NC. The purpose of the visit was to inspect the tree and advise Mr. Zinn on the impact a parking area would have on the trees health. Mr. Zinn considers this tree an important part of this housing project and showed sincere interest in its protection during the building phase.

MEASUREMENTS

The tree in question is a mature Southern Red oak measuring 52 inches in diameter with a height of 100 +/- feet. The crown measures approximately 48 +/- ft. in diameter.

CONDITION

Close examination of this tree did not reveal any indications of disease, insect pests, or root disturbance. I saw no evidence of cracks, cavities, or the presence of wood decaying organisms on the trunk or roots. Annual shoot growth is normal, averaging around 4 inches annually. The crown is filled out to the tips of all branches with no indication of dieback. Leaf color is excellent. There is no lean or evidence of roots lifting out of the soil. This tree has been properly pruned and maintained by the previous owner.

AREA OF DISTURBANCE

Based on architectural drawings provided by Mr. Zinn the impact of the parking lot will be less than 25% of the area in the tree protection zone. This amount of disturbance is acceptable under current professional arborist guidelines. In addition, the remaining tree protection zone is to be left undisturbed during construction. Mr. Zinn indicated there would be no grading, soil disturbance, or fill dirt added to that area. Therefore, 75% or more of this trees root system should be undisturbed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the plans, construction activity would not come any closer than 25 feet away from the trunk. Mr. Zinn indicated that it could be even further away. This incursion should not adversely impact the overall health the tree considering over 75% of this trees roots system will be left untouched during construction. I advised Mr. Zinn to trim all damaged roots by making smooth cuts prior to backfilling with soil. I would recommend increasing the amount of mulch around the tree to provide more moisture and reduce grass competition. This would help reduce the amount of stress on the tree.

Removal of dead limbs or deadwooding is recommended at this time. In addition, a few low hanging limbs need to be removed. Do not remove any limbs over 8 inches in diameter. Topping is strongly discouraged and is unnecessary.

Construction fences or barriers should be placed at a minimum at the drip zone of this tree in addition to the one placed 25 feet from the trunk on the construction side. This will protect the roots and soil from compaction.

A re-inspection of the tree should be made at least one year following construction and at a minimum of every 2 years to monitor the trees reaction to root loss and its affect on the trees overall health.

Sincerely,

Rett Davis
Certified Arborist