

The intent of construction monitoring is to ensure compliance with the tree preservation specifications throughout the various phases of a development project. Frequency of site visits and specifications for reporting should be defined prior to construction activities.

After the planning and design phases of a construction project have been completed and the tree preservation report has been submitted and approved by the city, the preconstruction phase begins. Preconstruction activities involve site clearing, demolition, clearance pruning, removing, and transplanting trees. The Consulting Arborist may be required to verify that tree protection zones (TPZ) delineated on plans are installed as prescribed. The Consulting Arborist may attend on-site meetings to discuss proposed design changes that may impact trees.

The construction phase is fast paced to keep up with the planned schedule. The Consulting Arborist visits the site for monitoring, collecting data on available soil moisture, tree health details, tree protection measures and surrounding construction activities. Activities include grading changes, trenching and root pruning. The Consulting Arborist will focus on maintaining the TPZ, reporting tree damage and violations, and responding to unforeseen problems in a timely manner. The Consulting Arborist must evaluate unplanned contractor pressures, anticipate impacts on trees, and determine their ability to recover and thrive.



The landscaping phase is often when trees are most exposed to construction impacts.

The landscaping phase involves plant, irrigation, and lighting installation. Trees may be exposed to damage as the TPZ is removed or altered and potential for soil compaction and root damage under canopies is increased. Mitigation for any construction damage should be recommended and implemented during this stage.

The postconstruction phase takes place when the construction activities are complete. Monitoring should focus on identifying any lingering construction damage, assessing soil conditions, and making recommendations that create an environment for the trees to thrive. Long-term maintenance plans for existing and newly installed plants should now be proposed.

Regardless of the phase of development, each construction monitoring visit includes the timely delivery of a report documenting adherence to established tree preservation specifications, available soil moisture, observations, discussion, photos, and recommendations.

For more information, please contact Bartlett Consulting at consulting@bartlett.com or visit www.bartlett.com/bartlett-consulting.cfm.

Bartlett Consulting is a division of The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company with Consulting teams located throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Ireland. This highly educated, experienced, and qualified team provide a wide range of services that include tree preservation, construction monitoring, creation of management plans, tree inventories, tree risk assessments and mitigation plans, and development and support for Bartlett's web-based tree management program ArborScope™.

