

Tree Preservation Report



A Tree Preservation Report is applicable when there is construction or development and can include residential, commercial, municipal, or corporate properties. Many cities and townships have preservation ordinances in place to protect and preserve trees through the developmental process. A Tree Preservation Report may be required as part of a development package submitted for approval to the city or municipality by the property owner or developer.

A good ordinance defines trees in specific terms and according to their status. Trees protected from removal or impacts from construction may be referred to as Specimen, Protected, Significant, Heritage, Street, Notable, or Champion. These defining terms are a starting point for discussion with the Consultant. They are important because they provide the criteria such as minimum size trunk diameter or diameter at breast height (DBH) needed for proposal creation and data collection.



Defining arboricultural terms can be confusing due to industry jargon. The following are a few of the terms that may cause confusion.

Survey vs. Inventory

In the United States, a tree survey may refer to information collected by licensed surveyors or engineers and may provide tree canopy, species, and trunk diameter information. A survey is usually illustrated in Computer Aided Design (CAD) format while a tree inventory is typically collected and presented within a Geographic Information System (GIS). Often, tree surveys developed by surveyors, engineers or designers do not always contain up to date or correct information regarding the trees. Review of the surveyed plans and collection of the necessary data to produce a tree inventory by a Consulting Arborist is necessary to compile and organize a written document known as a Tree Preservation Report.

Tree Protection Plan vs. Tree Preservation Report

A Tree Protection Plan may be required by the ordinance and is typically produced by a Landscape Architect or Engineer using information from a Tree Preservation Report produced by a Consulting Arborist. A Tree Protection Plan is presented in CAD format and may include specific recommendations regarding the size of the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). Site specific tree preservation guidelines are provided in the Tree Preservation Report.

Preliminary Tree Preservation Report vs. Tree Preservation Report

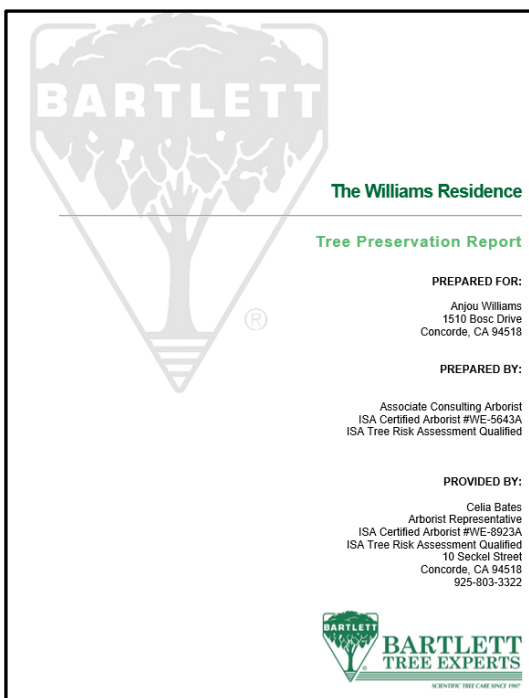
Land development or property improvements are usually completed in Phases (Planning, Design, Preconstruction, Construction, Landscaping and Postconstruction). Different types of information may be needed from a Consulting Arborist for a given project phase. A Preliminary Tree Preservation Report may be appropriate for guiding project architects through the conceptual design process (inventory with preliminary tree guidelines). A Tree Preservation

Report becomes part of a development package that is submitted to municipal planners and relates tree impacts as part of the review process (inventory data, disposition, impacts to trees, and may include mitigation recommendations).

We identify trees suitable for preservation and investment throughout the construction process and recommend removal for trees in poor condition and suitability, whether related to health, structural integrity, or species invasiveness.

Once the scope of work is defined and approved, a Bartlett Consulting Arborist is ready to visit the site and thoroughly inspect your trees. The inspection includes a health and structure evaluation, identification of species and measurement of the trunk diameter. The Consulting Arborist may make notes concerning pest activity and other external stresses. Individual municipalities may require additional attributes or site conditions to be documented and discussed. The information collected in the field will be analyzed and presented in a report format.

A Tree Preservation Report should include at least the following components:



- Introduction
- Assignment
- Tree Preservation Regulations
- Observations
- Tree Impacts
- Tree Preservation Guidelines

Once the city has approved the Tree Preservation Report and trees selected for preservation, then the TPZ's are erected. At this phase, the Consulting Arborist has an opportunity to monitor construction activities. Construction activities move very fast and it is important that the consultant stay ahead of those changes. Visiting the site during the construction process is important and should be done as often as possible. Once damage has been done beyond repair, it's often too late to amend. Please see the Construction Monitoring handout for additional information on this service.

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

