

APPENDIX A: INTERPRETING DEVELOPMENT PLANS: KNOWING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Do plans include a tree stand delineation, identifying tree stands (groups of similar trees) by species and locating "specimen" trees?
2. Do plans include a tree survey identifying trees that will be impacted by construction and describing their existing health/overall condition?
3. Do soil erosion and sediment control plans and grading plans indicate tree save areas? Do soil erosion and sediment control plans complement, or conflict with tree save areas?
4. Is protective fencing delineated around tree save areas?
5. Is the location of protective fencing around the tree calculated at 1.5 radius from the tree for every inch of tree diameter measured at 4.5 feet above grade or another method recognized by the International Society of Arborists?
6. Do plans include proposed measures to protect and/or enhance tree save areas as needed (e.g. management of invasive species, employment of wind protection devices if necessary, planting of new species to increase species diversity within protected tree stands)?
7. Do plans include language prohibiting grading, trenching or equipment storage within tree save areas?
8. Do plans require erection of tree protection fencing prior to any demolition, grubbing, grading or construction on site?
9. Do plans require that protective fencing remain in place until all construction is complete?
10. Do soil erosion and sedimentation plans show installation of silt fences sufficient to keep soil away from roots of trees to be saved?
11. Where root loss will affect trees in tree save areas, are adequate measures indicated on the plans to properly prune roots and branches and otherwise minimize damage to trees?
12. Where temporary construction roads must pass over root areas of trees to be retained, are adequate measures employed to minimize soil compaction? (e.g. road bed of 6 inches of mulch or gravel)?
13. Are methods indicated in plans for remedying unintended damage to trees in tree save areas?
14. Where cuts or fills affect roots of trees in tree save areas, are appropriate stabilizing measures indicated on plans (e.g. retaining walls or tree wells)?
15. Where barriers are not possible to keep vehicular or foot traffic away from tree roots, do plans indicate protective methods to be employed (e.g. spreading several inches of wood chips, pumping concrete from the truck through conveyor pipes instead of driving over root systems; bridging root areas w/plates of steel)?
16. Are underground utilities installed using tunneling rather than trenching techniques to avoid damaging tree roots?
17. How far from proposed structures are trees that are targeted for preservation?
18. Do planting plans avoid use of non-native invasive species? Do they demonstrate species diversity (e.g. no species can exceed 20% of the entire plant population)?