



Department of **CITY PLANNING**

Office of Buildings – Arborist Division
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ARBORICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION GUIDELINES

Arboricultural Prescription

Arboricultural prescription means any type of site or tree treatment instruction developed by an Arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA), Registered Consulting Arborists, or a State Registered Forester whose aim is preserving tree(s).

- Approved prescriptions are accepted in lieu of paying standard recompense and going through the orange and yellow sign postings.
- Prescriptions are required when the critical root zone is impacted between 20-33%, the structural root plate is 100% protected, and the tree(s) is in the setback or on neighbor's property.
- Prescriptions may be required at the discretion of the Arborist Plan Reviewer or Field Arborist.

Reports should address:

- Scope of impact to the critical root zone, trunk and/or canopy.
- Recent history of disturbance around tree (e.g. construction, tree removal)
- How impact affects tree's health and stability (roots, trunk, and canopy)

Assessment should include:

- Hazard potential due to impact
- Arborist's opinion about tree survivability assuming the prescriptive measure below is performed on the tree – good, fair or poor condition.

Arboricultural Prescription Guidelines:

If the survivability of tree(s) is fair or better, please provide the measures to be taken to remedy impact during and after construction. The prescriptive measures below are to be performed by the Certified Arborist writing the report, or someone working under their direct supervision within the same company. If there are any recommendations to the property owner, those items are to be clearly separate from those performed by the professional Certified Arborist.

- Dates of each treatment
- Soil, (e.g., mulching; mitigation of compaction; drainage)
- Roots and root collar (e.g., pruning, protection)
- Trunk (e.g., protection, treatment)
- Canopy: pruning regimen (e.g. thinning, crown reduction. No topping, no tipping)
- Watering regimen/irrigation system (Scheduled watering and soil moisture monitoring)
- Treatments (e.g., growth regulators, pesticides, nutrients, soil humectants, etc.)
- Provisions for monitoring tree if applicable.
 - Visual analysis
 - Climbing the tree(s)
 - Degree of lean

NOTE: If there is a change in ownership, the arborist is required to continue with the prescriptive measures per the signed and paid-for invoice for fulfillment of prescription.