



Tree Specialists, Inc.

Conservation | Preservation | Restoration

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Your Tree Care Checklist

Proper tree care treats the entire tree system from roots to shoots. During our consultation we will be focusing on the following items:

Tree structure

Most trees possess some structural defects in the woody architecture of the tree system. These defects can compromise the structural integrity of branches or even whole trees:

- cavities
- splits/seams
- basal injury and decay
- unnatural or excessive lean
- poor trunk flare development

Tree Physiology

Structural condition is only one aspect of tree “health”. The tree’s ability to produce foliage and to expand the woody mass of the plant is another essential component of the tree system. To assess this we look for:

- Appropriate foliar size, density, and color for the species
- Good twig growth
- Good callus/woundwood growth
- Presence of insect and disease pathogens

Site conditions

A tree is only as healthy as the root system and the landscape environment in which it is growing. Important factors affecting tree growth include:

- Soil volume and texture
- Soil fertility and pH
- Drainage patterns/ water supply
- Grade changes
- Soil compaction
- Light conditions

Aesthetic value

Before deciding to invest in preservation, a tree’s contribution to the overall landscape must be evaluated. Trees in good condition may still be candidates for removal if:

- They shade desirable understory plantings
- They trap excessive moisture on roofs/siding
- They have outgrown their planting space
- Fruit or leaf litter is affecting pools, hardscape features, autos, etc