

 Department of Design and Construction		SPECIFICATION BULLETIN	SB 26-013
Title: Tree Consultant			
Prepared: 6/01/2026		Approved: 6/01/2026	
Mohammad Mahmud, P.E. Director, Specifications		How Sheen Pau, P.E. Associate Commissioner – Infrastructure Design	
Date			

APPLICABILITY:

- This Specification Bulletin (SB) is effective for projects advertised on or after 7/01/2026.

SUPERSEDEENCE:

- This SB supersedes the following SBs: **25-004.**

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Section 4.21 (2 pages)*

REVISIONS TO THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STANDARD HIGHWAY SPECIFICATIONS, DATED 5/16/2022:

All references contained below are to the New York City Department of Transportation Standard Highway Specifications, Dated May 16, 2022. Said Standard Specifications are hereby revised as follows:

- a. **Refer** to Section 4.21 – Tree Consultant
Delete in its entirety Section;
Substitute the revised Section in Attachment 1 (2 pages)

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Richard Jones, jonesri@ddc.nyc.gov.

SECTION 4.21 – Tree Consultant

4.21.1. INTENT. The Contractor must engage the services of a Certified Arborist who will serve as an advisor to the Engineer and to direct the Contractor's excavation work around existing trees under all stages of work.

4.21.2. DESCRIPTION. The Tree Consultant must be a Certified Arborist approved by the Engineer, who will advise the Engineer on which trees will be pruned and which trees will be removed. The Contractor must furnish to the Engineer the Tree Consultant's professional credentials for evaluation. Minimum qualifications for the Tree Consultant are as follows:

- B.S. in forestry, arboriculture, horticulture, or related plant science field, and two (2) years of full-time professional experience in field supervision of techniques to mitigate damage to existing trees from the negative impacts of construction and ISA Certification; or
- M.S. in forestry, arboriculture, horticulture, or related plant science field, and one (1) year of full-time professional experience and the field supervision of techniques to mitigate damage to existing trees from the negative impacts of construction and ISA Certification; or
- Associate degree in forestry, arboriculture, horticulture, or related plant science field, and three (3) years of full-time professional experience in arboriculture, specifically in the field supervision of techniques to mitigate damage to existing trees from the negative impacts of construction and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certification; or
- Arborist certification by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and four (4) years of full-time professional experience in arboriculture, specifically in the field supervision of techniques to mitigate damage to existing trees from the negative impacts of construction; or
- Independent of, not associated with, or not directly employed by, the Contractor or any subcontractors performing the tree pruning and tree removal operations under this contract.

The Tree Consultant will be required to appear on the work site when directed by the Engineer. The Tree Consultant will be required to advise the Engineer on tree pruning operations and the removal of trees where necessary; must personally witness and direct all excavation work around trees, approving both the Contractor's choice of hand tools for excavation under Items 8.02 A and 8.02 B, or 8.02 AB-S, as appropriate, and the manner of work around existing trees; must assess any damage caused by the Contractor's equipment, etc.; and, must identify trees, recommend construction alternatives to the Engineer in order to save existing trees from damage due to construction, recommend new tree planting locations, and evaluate an appropriate species mix.

For street trees and other trees that must meet NYCDPR requirements, the Tree Consultant must follow NYCDPR Forestry rules, including notifying NYCDPR Forestry of cutting all roots greater than 1" when exposed during excavation.

4.21.3. MEASUREMENT.

The quantity to be measured for payment for Item No. 4.21 – TREE CONSULTANT will be the time, measured in person hours, that the Tree Consultant actually performed the work as specified and to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

The quantity to be measured for payment for Item No. 4.21 A – TREE CONSULTANT (PER TREE) will be each tree that is located near a concrete sidewalk or curb where the Tree Consultant actually performed the work as specified and to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

4.21.4. PRICE TO COVER.

The contract price bid for Item No. 4.21 – TREE CONSULTANT will be a unit price per person hour and will cover the cost of all labor, material, reports, plant, equipment, inspection, insurance, and incidentals required to complete the work in accordance with the Contract Drawings, the specifications and the directions of the Engineer.

The contract price bid for Item 4.21 A – TREE CONSULTANT (PER TREE) will be a unit price for all construction activities near an existing tree and will cover the cost of all labor, material, reports, plant, equipment, inspection, insurance, and incidentals required to complete the work, all in accordance with the Contract Drawings, the specifications and the directions of the Engineer. The price bid will be paid once for any individual tree. Item 4.21 A is intended for use on sidewalk, curb, and pedestrian ramp contracts, and is to be used in place of Item 4.21.

Payment will be made under:

Item No.	Item	Pay Unit
4.21	TREE CONSULTANT	PERSON-HOUR (P/Hr)
4.21 A	TREE CONSULTANT (PER TREE)	EACH