



Natural Resource Professional Approval Process

February 2025

Columbus City Code Definition

Natural Resource Professional. A landscape architect, Certified Arborist, horticulturalist, or other professional credentialed by an entity recognized by the Department as providing professional certification or accreditation.

Technical Tree Manual Text

Section 4.1 Natural Resource Professional Required:

Tree information on a Public Tree Plan must be provided by a Natural Resource Professional.

If a project owner proposes a professional outside of the professional categories in the definition who the project owner feels is qualified to collect this information, Forestry must approve.

Approval Process

1. As part of the Public Tree Plan, the project owner shall provide contact information and certifications for their designated "Natural Resource Professional." If the professional is a landscape architect, Certified Arborist, or horticulturalist, no Department approval is necessary.
2. If the individual does not meet the Natural Resource Professional definition, apply via this form for Forestry approval:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/725285b447a94ded9297a6dd5022db55>. Include any relevant education or experience, showing evidence of successful past projects. Projects conducted for City of Columbus are preferred.
3. Credentials will be approved by form letter from the City of Columbus on a case-by-case basis. Approved credentials will remain valid until such time as the individual professional certification expires or, if the "Natural Resources Professional" is operating on approval by the City of Columbus in lieu of professional certification, until revoked by the City of Columbus in writing to the applicant.
4. Extensions or indefinite acceptance of "Natural Resources Professional" credentials in lieu of professional certifications may also be provided by the City of Columbus by letter and may remain in effect until revoked by written notice issued by the City of Columbus.
5. This approval process shall remain in place until such time as modified by the Department. Modifications to the approval process will be communicated in writing to existing approval holders.
6. Email Forestry@columbus.gov with any questions about this process.

