

Consult A Pro

When and How to Engage an Expert

Knowledgeable professionals are available to homeowners and HOAs interested in managing, improving, or stewarding the green spaces around them. Engaging an expert can save money and resources, help you make informed management decisions, and even mediate in contentious situations.

When to Contact a Professional

Whether you are looking to restore a degraded ecosystem or simply plant a tree, it is important to identify your goals and make a well informed plan of action. Professional recommendations should be considered any time there is uncertainty or if a situation exceeds your expertise. Care and consideration should be given to situations that involve potential hazards to humans or property, significant expense of resources, or irreversible actions.

What to Look for in a Professional

When seeking guidance from a consultant it is important to be aware that the depth of one's expertise often limits the breadth of their perspective. Professional recommendations may be limited in scope or biased by profession, background, experience and company values. For example, a professional who is paid to cut down trees is more likely to advise the removal, rather than pruning, of trees. Ideally, advice should be attained from experienced and credible professionals with a holistic and interdisciplinary approach.

How to Find a Professional

If you find that you are in need of professional advice, the best place to start is with a clear list of goals, questions and concerns. With this information, you can identify the type of professional you need and begin a search for consultants. A list of resources in the appendix of the Bolin Forest Urban Forest Stewardship Report provides a place to start.

In general, seeking input from more than one source is the most reliable way to ensure a holistic and balanced perspective.