Trees: Trenching within Dripline or Protection Zone

Prior to any work near or around trees on the Penn campus, consult with University Landscape Architect to determine feasibility and significance of tree. If required, an arborist may need to be consulted and present during the project.

Excavation and Airspade:
Use Airspade in location of proposed disturbance to expose roots. If roots are encountered and redirection of installation is not practical, bend and redirect them without breaking. Where deeper excavation is required hand dig in protection zone or dripline of tree. Consider allowing substantial surface roots to remain and install utility below existing roots.

Root Pruning:
If encountered immediately adjacent to location and redirecting is not possible, cut roots approximately 3 inches back from new construction using a sharp pruning saw or pruner specifically designed for tree pruning. Do not use paint to seal roots ends. Do not use a backhoe or other equipment that rips, tears, or pulls roots. Do not cut main lateral or structural roots, only those smaller roots in conflict with the installation route.

Backfill:
Roots shall not be allowed to dry during excavation. Cover exposed roots with burlap and water regularly. Temporarily support and protect roots from damage until they are permanently redirected and covered with soil. Backfill as soon as possible, preferably with compost enriched soil mix. Tamp lightly to avoid air pockets. Establish a regular watering routine until acceptable re-establishment period is complete.