



Grow Green Landscape Professionals Training

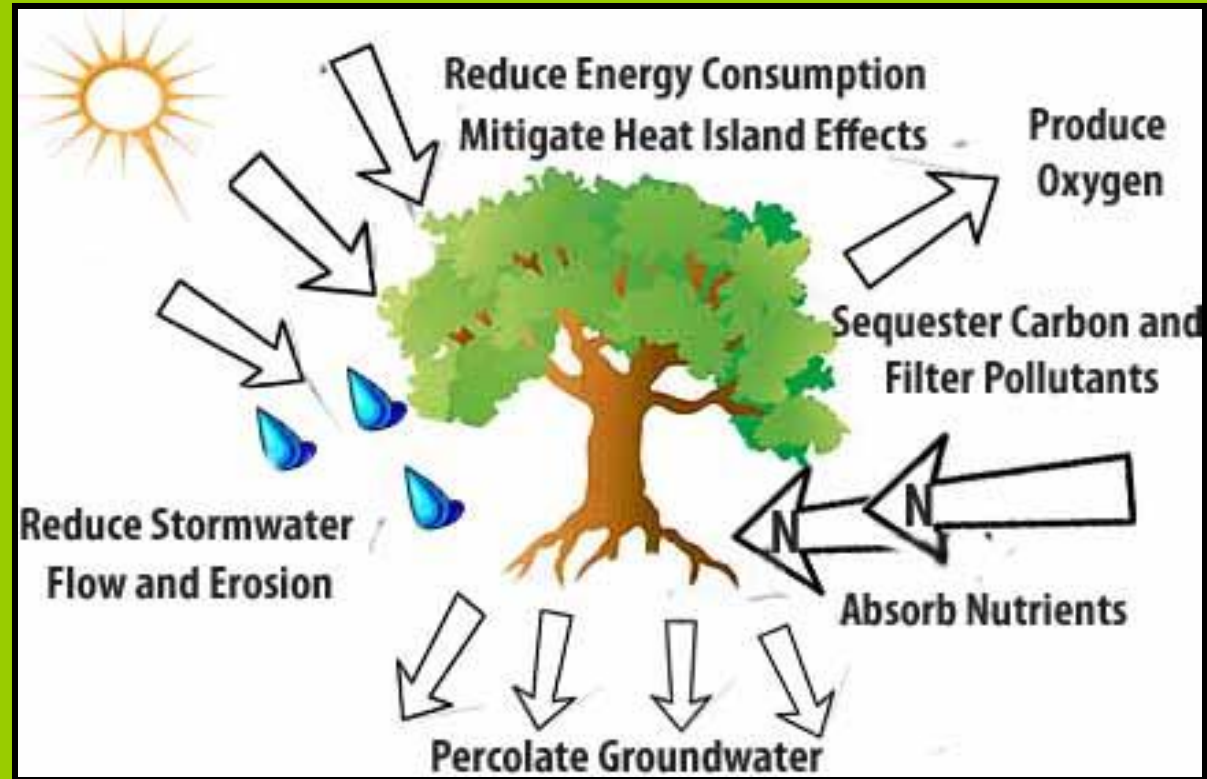
Navigating Tree Regulations

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City Arborist Program

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Urban Forest Benefits

Trees are critical to Austin's quality of life



Also:

- Wildlife habitat
- Screen views & noise
- Property value
- Sense of place
- Aesthetics
- Added ecological value of mature trees
- Infrastructure which improves with time

Tree Protection Ordinance Goals

- ❖ Ensure public health, safety, and welfare
- ❖ Conserve (preservation, maintenance, and replanting)



Preserve the character of Austin's urban forest, protect its current health, and increase its longevity

Major Tree Initiatives



- ❖ **Tree Preservation Ordinance (1983)**
- ❖ **Analysis Preservation & Landscape Ordinances (2004)**
- ❖ **City Council's Urban Heat Island Resolution (2005)**
- ❖ **Tree Taskforce (2006)**
- ❖ **Mayor's Climate Change Initiative (2007)**
- ❖ **Urban Forestry and Environmental Boards**
- ❖ **Joint Resolution (2008)**
- ❖ **Tree Summit (2009)**
- ❖ **Heritage Tree (2010)**





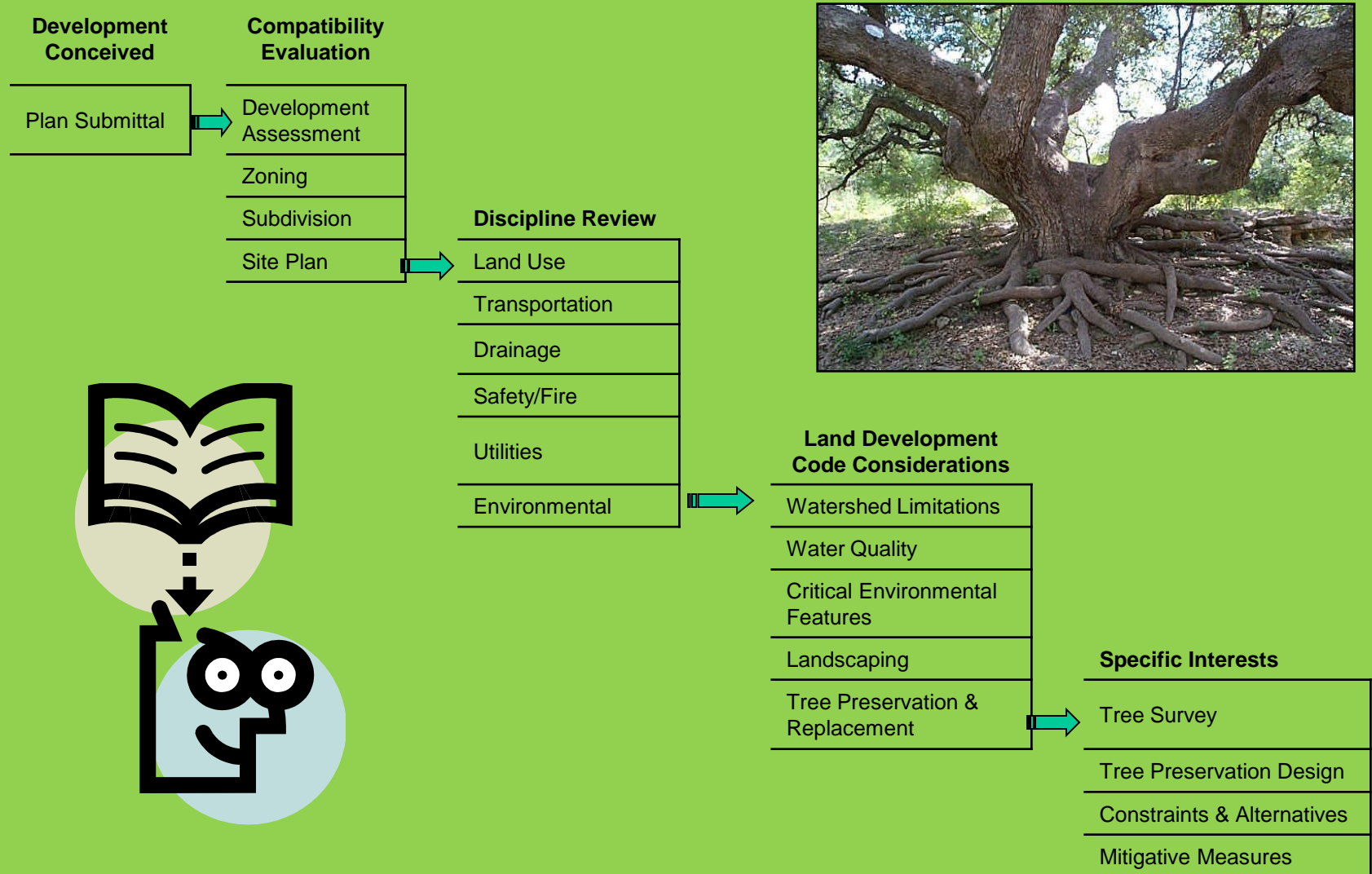
Urban Forest Impacts

Fire
Weather
Habitat Change
Disease and Pests
Biological Competition

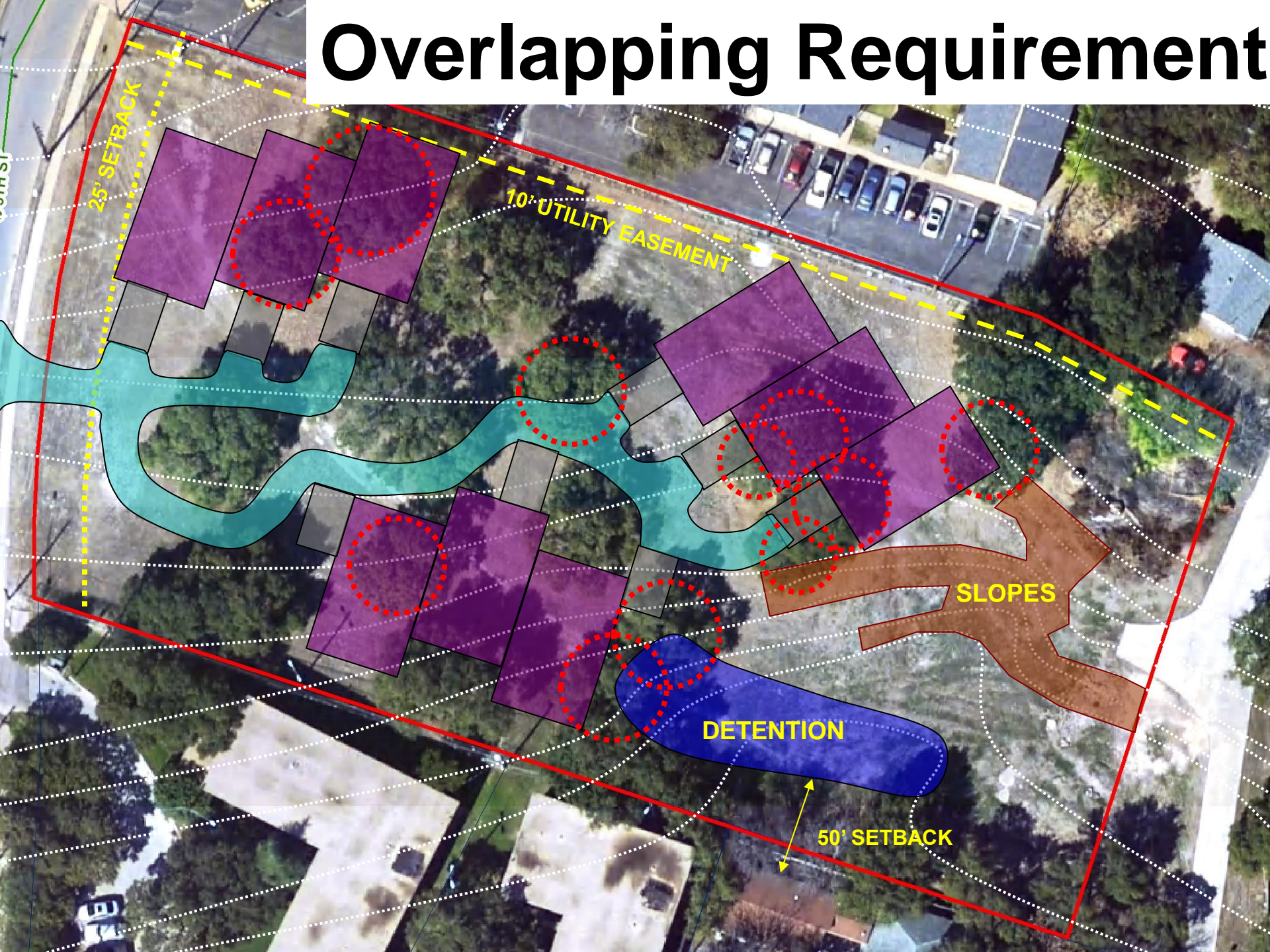


Development

Commercial Development Process



Overlapping Requirement

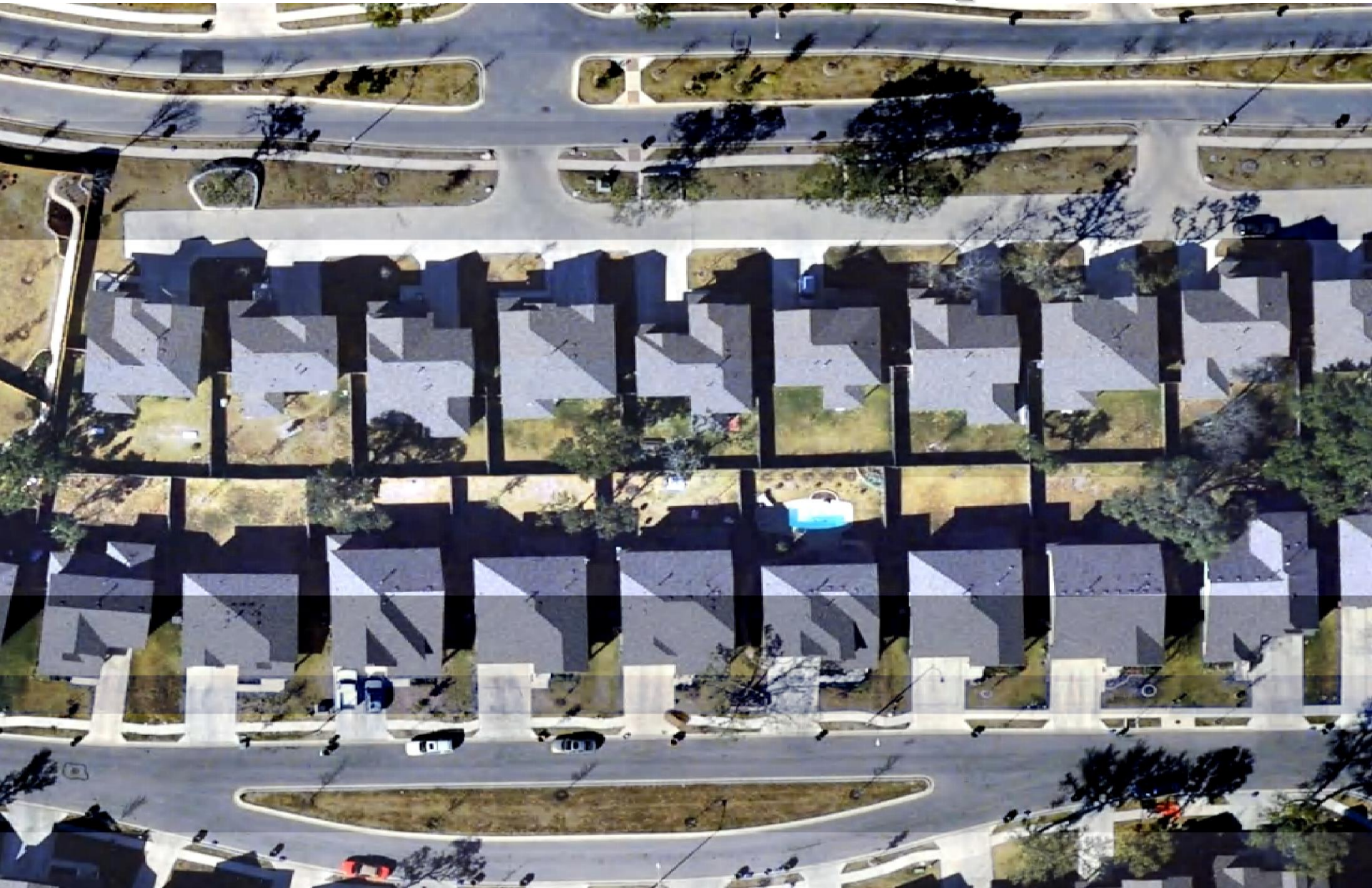


Residential Subdivisions Block View – Pre-Development



Residential Subdivisions

Block View – Post Development



Balancing Act?

Land development
requirements

Vs.

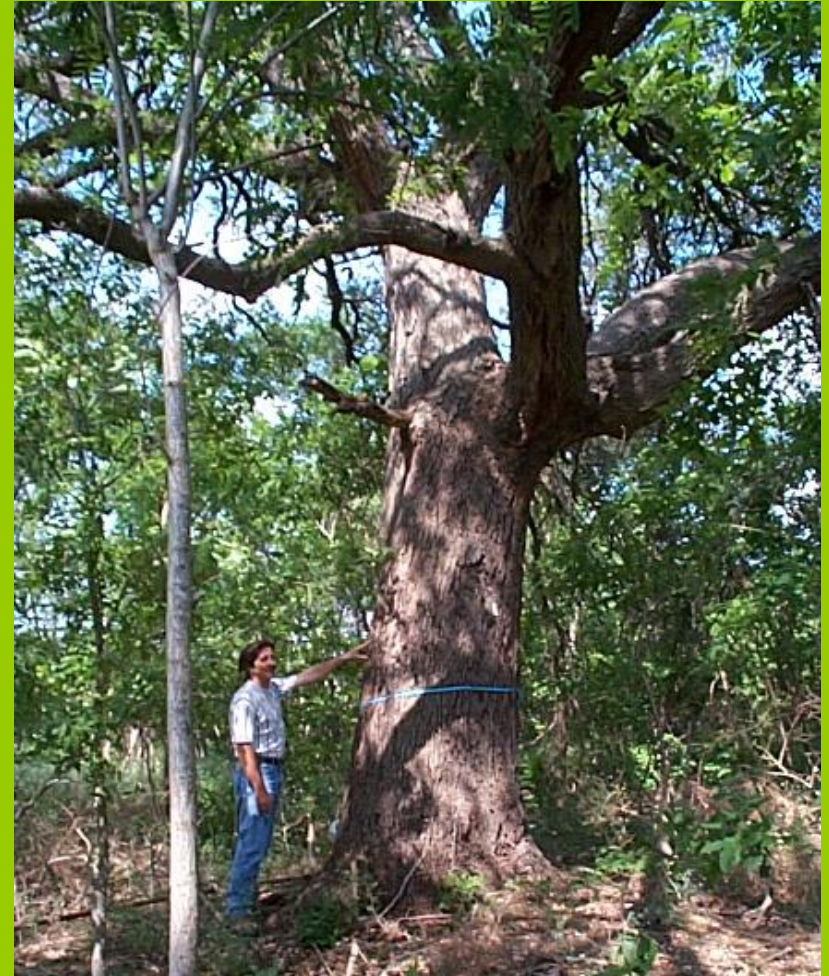
Tree preservation
requirements



“tree preservation is inherently less definitive” ECM 3.5.3

Tree Assessment Variables

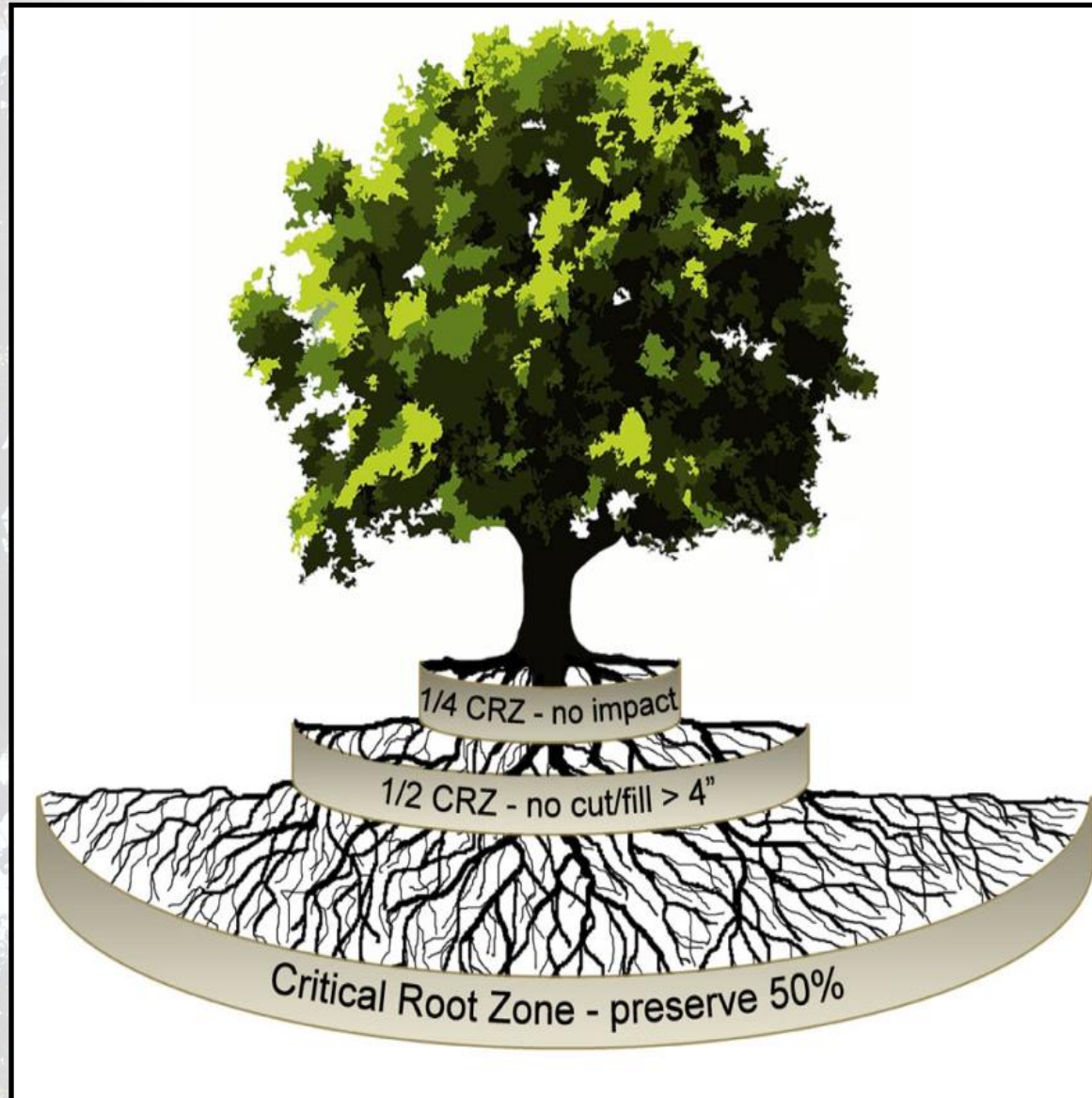
- Size (trunk diameter)
- Species
- Location
- Health
- Form
- History
- Susceptibility to change
- Density on lot
- Hazards
- Targets



Root System



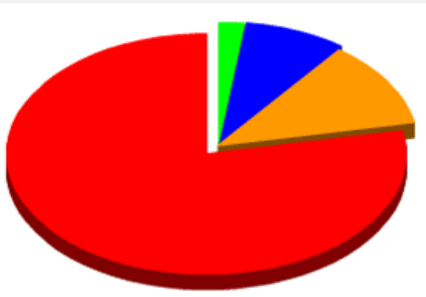
Critical Root Zones



Ordinance Generalities

(native healthy trees)

Trunk Size	Determined By	Meaning	Mitigation
8 – 19	Applicant	Where Feasible	50%
19 <	Staff	Trees Reviewed	100%
24 – 30*	Staff	Preserved	300%
30* <	Commission	Public Hearing	300%



*Select Species (Heritage Trees)

Mitigation Options

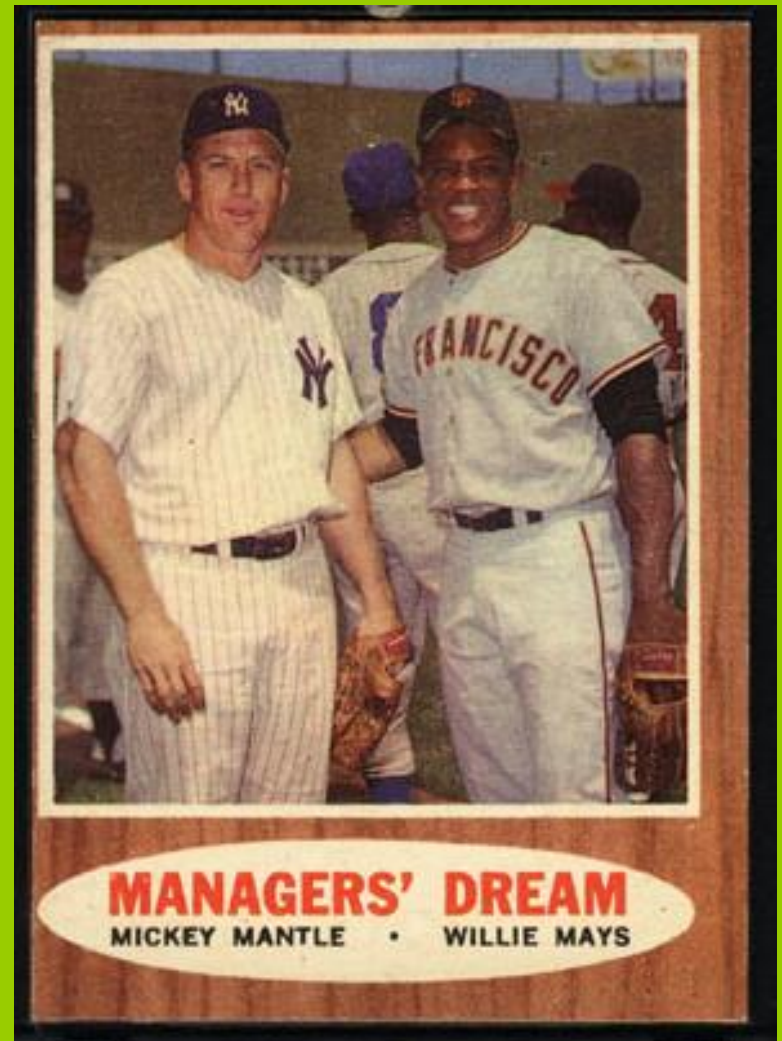
- **Planting Trees**
- **Natural Area Preservation**
- **Soil Care Plan**
- **Transplanting**
- **Tree Fund**



Proposed developments are reviewed to assure that a final product is achieved which results in a diversified and sustainable urban forest

Important Players

- ❖ Citizens
- ❖ City Council
- ❖ Design Professionals
(Landscape Architects,
Engineers, Architects)
- ❖ City Personnel
(Management, Plan
Reviewers, Inspectors,
Long Term Planners)
- ❖ Home Owner Associations
- ❖ Certified Arborists



THANK YOU

City Arborist Program

Planning & Development Review Department

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<http://austintexas.gov/department/city-arborist/>