

North Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning Area

Tree Canopy (2006)

❖ **The tree canopy should become a beneficial asset to the NLCNPA.**

The NLCNPA lacks an adequate tree canopy.¹⁶ Only 21 percent of the combined neighborhood was covered by tree canopy in 2008; the *Tree Canopy (2006)* map on page 46 displays the tree canopy for the area.

According to the *Tree Canopy (2006)* map, the majority of the NLCNPA’s tree canopy is located in the interior, residential portions of the area. Many of the area’s commercial and multi-family properties located along North Lamar Boulevard, I-35 and US Highway 183 are largely devoid of trees. Stakeholders expressed a desire to enhance the tree canopy in certain areas of the neighborhood, particularly along the aforementioned roadways, in order to beautify and improve the neighborhood.



Stakeholders expressed the need for tree plantings along major thoroughfares that are largely devoid of trees, including North Lamar Boulevard.

Objective P.10: Enhance the tree canopy of the NLCNPA.

Recommendation 60

Plant hardy, long-lasting, and drought-tolerant trees throughout the NLCNPA. Specific areas include:

- 60.A. North Lamar Boulevard, between Braker Lane and US Highway 183
- 60.B. I-35, between Braker Lane and Barwood Park
- 60.C. Rundberg Lane, between North Lamar Boulevard and IH-35
- 60.D. The Chinatown Center and the adjacent property to its east
- 60.E. The Crockett Center
- 60.F. The commercial and multi-family properties located along I-35, between Showplace Lane and Little Walnut Creek
- 60.G. The residential area bounded by Diamondback Trail to the north, Doc Holliday Trail to the

¹⁶ “Tree canopy” here refers to the overall coverage of a particular area by trees.

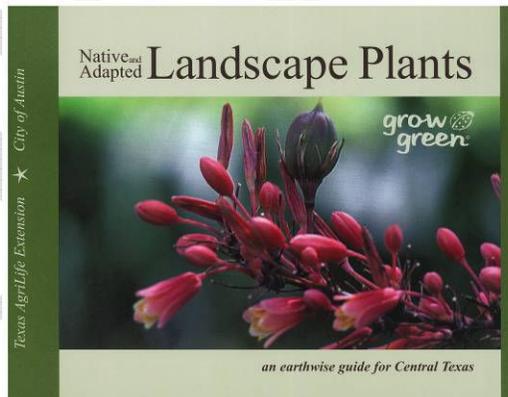
east, East Garrett Run to the south, and Derringer Trail to the west

Refer to the *Tree Planting and Preservation Recommendations* map on page 49 for the locations of these specific areas.

- Recommendation 61** Plant native species of trees throughout the NLCNPA, including:
- Monterey Oak
 - Pecan
 - Texas Persimmon
 - Texas Redbud
 - Texas Ash

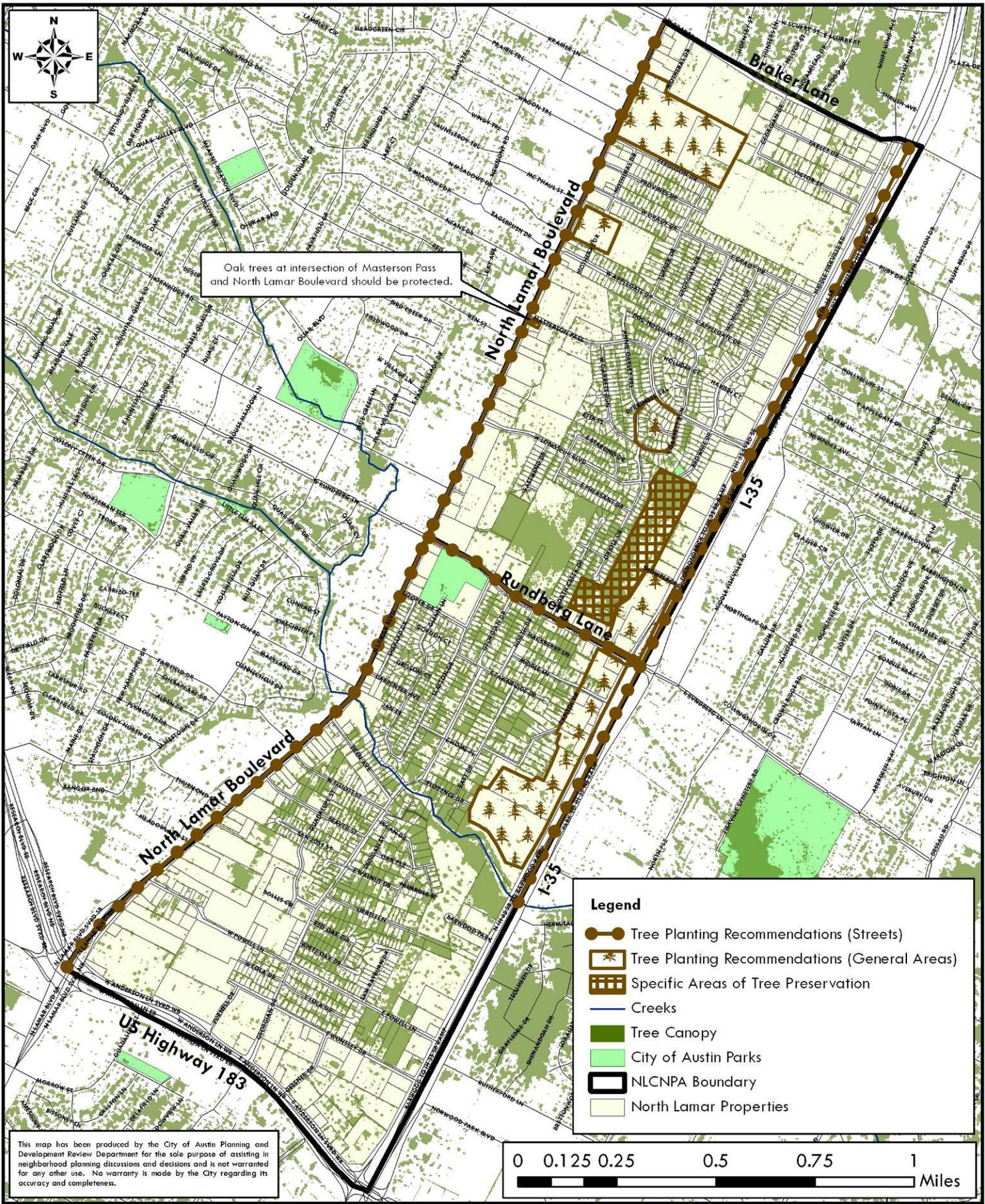
- Recommendation 62** Plant other species of trees throughout the NLCNPA, including:
- Mountain Laurel
 - Crape Myrtle
 - Eastern Red Cedar
 - Silver Leaf Maple
 - Wax Myrtle

- Recommendation 63** Encourage the use of the *Native and Adapted Landscape Plants* guidebook so to choose naturalized and proper tree species for the area.



To choose naturalized plant species for landscaping, stakeholders should use the *Native and Adapted Landscape Plants* guidebook provided by the City of Austin.

- ❖ **The NLCNPA tree canopy should become a protected asset for the community.** Not only should the existing tree canopy of the NLCNPA be enhanced, it should also be preserved and protected. Due to the current deficiency of trees, it is important to protect those trees already present throughout the NLCNPA.



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Tree Planting and Preservation Recommendations

Neighborhood stakeholders expressed specific concerns regarding illegal parking and the restriction to tree growth it poses. Trees throughout the NLCNPA are gravely impacted by the improper parking of vehicles on residents' front lawns. Over time, these vehicles could potentially compact and destroy trees' root systems or leak harmful materials into the soil, further restricting tree growth in the area.

Objective P.11: Protect the existing tree canopy of the NLCNPA.

Recommendation 64 Encourage the preservation of those trees already present throughout the NLCNPA.

Recommendation 65 Protect specific areas of trees, paying special attention to:

65.A. The oak trees located on the median at the intersection of North Lamar Boulevard and Masterson Pass

65.B. Those trees located on the vacant properties located between North Creek and Oriole Drives, Brownie Drive, IH-35, and Rundberg Lane

Refer to the *Tree Planting and Preservation Recommendations* map on page 49 for the location of these specific areas.



Trees throughout the NLCNPA should be protected assets of the community. The oak trees at the intersection of Masterson Pass and North Lamar Boulevard (left) and trees along residential streets (Glenn Lane, right) should be protected.

Recommendation 66 Discourage parking on front or side lawns upon which trees are present.

❖ **Tree education should be offered to every NLCNPA stakeholder.**

In order to both enhance and protect the tree canopy of the NLCNPA, education regarding tree (and other landscaping) care must be made available to all neighborhood stakeholders. This education will increase awareness to those activities affecting the

area's trees: illegal parking, improper care, development, or the planting of invasive species. By correcting these issues through education, trees will become a beneficial and valuable asset to the NLCNPA community.

Several City-sponsored or -related programs, including Austin Community Trees (ACT), are valuable resources for information regarding trees. In fact, through an application process, the ACT program supplies trees to one neighborhood planning area (with an adopted neighborhood plan *and* low tree canopy percentage) each year.

Objective P.12: Provide tree education to all stakeholders of the NLCNPA.

- Recommendation 67** Provide tree education to all stakeholders of the NLCNPA including information regarding:
- Proper irrigation and care needed to sustain tree growth
 - Illegal (i.e., front yard) parking and its effects on trees and their critical root zones
 - Tree species that will provide large canopies
 - Native or adapted tree species
 - Types of fertilizers that pose little harm to the natural environment

- Recommendation 68** Distribute educational materials regarding proper tree care in the following manners:
- Public Service Announcements
 - Brochures
 - Leaflet insert in monthly Austin Energy bills

Objective P.13: Encourage the use of the tree-related resources available throughout the City.

- Recommendation 69** Participate in the Austin Community Trees tree planting program.