

Early Drafts of Amendments
Related to the Possible
Adoption of the IWUIC

Some Known Code Adoption Issues/Concerns

- Concerns from other City staff
 - Do not see how the code could be applied as a “one size fits all”
 - Wildlife issues (habitat)
 - Erosion and sediment control require some dead organic material to remain on the ground
 - Water quality processes require some dead material to remain
 - Multiple boards and commissions need to have input (see the next slide)

Additional Adoption Process Details

- Impacted Boards and Commissions Identified by City staff
 - The Planning Commission will need to agree/approve any urban design impacts from the application of the code
 - The Environmental Board will need to review the code and amendments for environmental impacts.
 - The Urban Forestry Board will need to review the impact on the tree canopy and other forestry impacts
 - The Scientific Advisory Board will need to review the code and amendments for impacts to preserve lands
 - The Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals will need to review the code and amendments for impacts to building and occupant safety and coordination with the building code and fire code
 - The Public Safety Commission will need to look at the impact of the code and amendments on AFD response procedures and staffing.

Extending IWUIC Application to Wildland Preserves

- Several subsections the IWUIC would need to be looked at for potential local amendments if the City decides to expand the its scope to areas not in close proximity either to structures or to significant utility infrastructure.

Preliminary Drafts of Possible Local Amendments

- Recently AFD has received initial comments have from City staff members from other departments but AFD has not had time to evaluate them, discuss them with the persons making the comments and resolve them.
- AFD staff has reviewed the backup material for the July 18 Urban Forestry Board Meeting and sees numerous ideas for consideration in developing and improving the draft language of local IWUIC amendments for consideration by the various impacted boards and commissions and ultimately by the City Council.
- As noted above, the language of the following draft sections is **very** preliminary and should not be looked as definitive in any way. The draft language is provided to describe AFD's intent to collaborate and to holistically apply the concepts contained in the IWUIC.

Preliminary Drafts of Possible Local Amendments

101.2.2 Land and Wildlife Preserve Areas. The provisions of this code shall apply to wildland areas within preserve lands to the extent necessary to mitigate the potential for wildland fire to develop so as to become an imminent threat to structures or to the City's infrastructure.

104.1.1 Environmental Impact Controls. The Fire Chief shall collaborate with appropriate environmental and forestry professionals to ensure that fuel modifications are compatible with the regulations and program goals of the City of Austin as described in section 603.1.1 of this Code and with environmental statutes and regulations as established by the laws of the State of Texas and of the United States.

Preliminary Drafts of Possible Local Amendments

603.1.1 Environmental Objectives. The fire chief shall coordinate the creation of defensible space with other affected City departments to help ensure compatibility with the environmental and forestry goals of the City of Austin, including but not limited to the Austin Water Utility Preserve Lands Program (AWU), the Austin Energy Climate Protection Program and Forestry Program (AE), the Watershed Protection Department Environmental Resource Management Program (WPD), the Parks and Recreation Department Urban Forestry Program (PARD), and the Planning and Development Review Department Trees and Landscaping Program (PDRD).

Preliminary Drafts of Possible Local Amendments

603.2.2 Trees. Trees are allowed within the defensible space, provided the horizontal distance between crowns of adjacent trees and crowns of trees and structures, overhead electrical facilities or unmodified fuel is not less than 10 feet (3048 mm).

***Exception:** Where the species of trees are considered to be resistant to ignition and/or the health of the trees and the ability to irrigate the trees is deemed to be adequate, the fire chief is authorized to work with appropriate City of Austin forestry and environmental personnel from AWU, AE, WPD, PARD, and/or PDRD to establish tree crown to tree crown distances of less than 10 feet (3048 mm).*