

# Austin Community Tree Program



# Austin Community Tree Program



## Collaboration

- Planning and Development Review Department (Neighborhood Planning)
- Parks & Recreation Department
- Austin Energy
- Neighborhood Groups
- Community Volunteers

## Funding

- PDRD - Trees
- Austin Energy's Urban Heat Island Mitigation Fund - Collateral

## Management

- Planning and Development Review Staff (Program Manager)

## Technical Assistance

- Parks and Recreation Department (Parks Foresters)
- Planning and development Review (City Arborist)

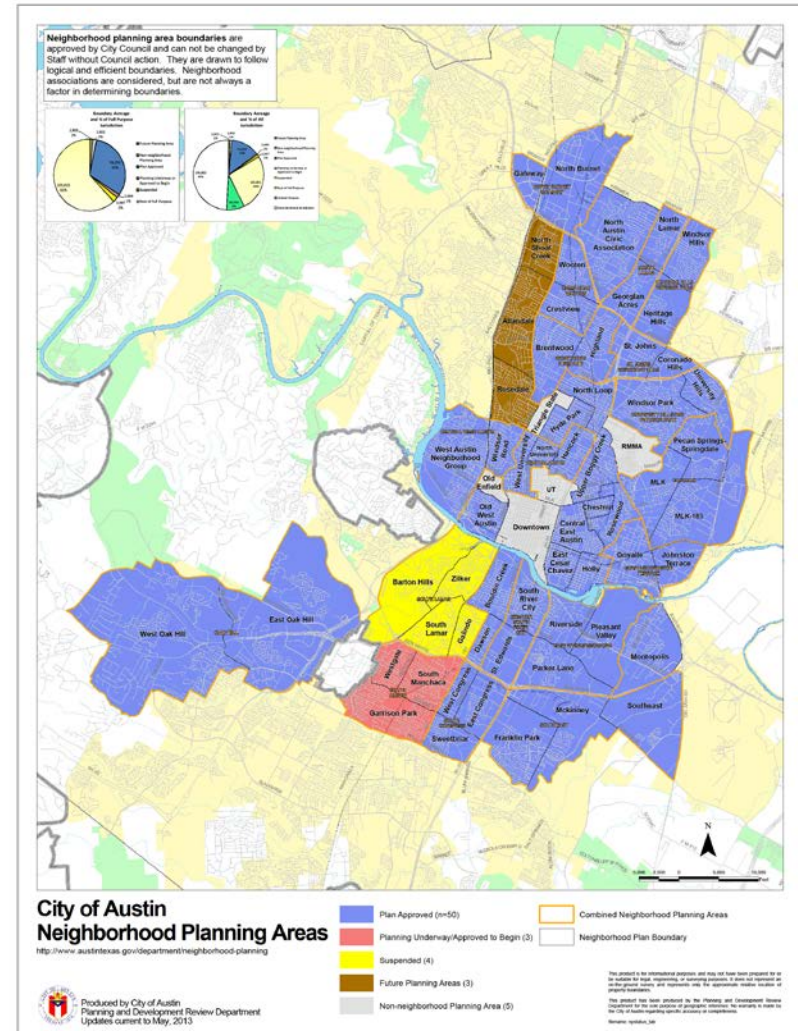




# Austin Community Tree Program



- Started in 2006
  - 8 Years
  - 15 Planning Areas
- Canopy Coverage
  - 12.8% - 56.3% - overall
  - 15.5% - 34.2% - n'hoods served
- Annual Event
  - November
  - 2006 March & November
- 4,445 Trees delivered to date
  - Shade (50'-90')
  - Understory (15'-25')
- Square Miles
- Tree Delivery



# Austin Community Tree Program



## Goals:

- To help cool neighborhoods 3 to 6 degrees by reducing the Urban Heat Island effect.
- To work with neighborhoods to increase tree canopy by providing FREE trees.
- To increase the overall volume of tree canopy in Austin's neighborhood planning areas by planting more trees near streets and sidewalks.
- To encourage biodiversity through offering a variety of trees
- Stresses the importance of planting the right tree in the right place: i.e. small, understory trees, not large shade trees, are planted near utility lines.

We're working together to make Austin a "cooler" place to live.



# Austin Community Tree Program



## Logistics:

- Neighborhood selection, outreach & coordination begins in February/March
  - Adopted Neighborhood Plan
  - Tree canopy is at or less than 30% (2006 data)
  - Established Neighborhood Plan Contact Team
  - Neighborhood Leadership Team
  - Volunteer Capacity
- 2006 – 2013: Neighborhoods have been invited to apply to the program
- 2014 - forward: Previous applicants will be offered first right of refusal.
- ACT offers between 8 and 10 different species of large shade and small understory trees.
- Trees are planted in the *front yards out of the right-of-way* or the side yard if the property is located on a corner
- Owners of the properties receiving free trees are responsible for the two-year maintenance period focusing on watering and mulching

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## 2013 Highlights

- 911 trees distributed throughout Dove Springs
- 311 trees planted by community volunteers
- Program material translated into Spanish
- Target outreach to Schools, Apartment Complexes, Churches, Libraries, Businesses and homeowner associations
- Lead Community Volunteer recipient of the International Women's Day Environmental Award by Ten Thousand Villages Austin



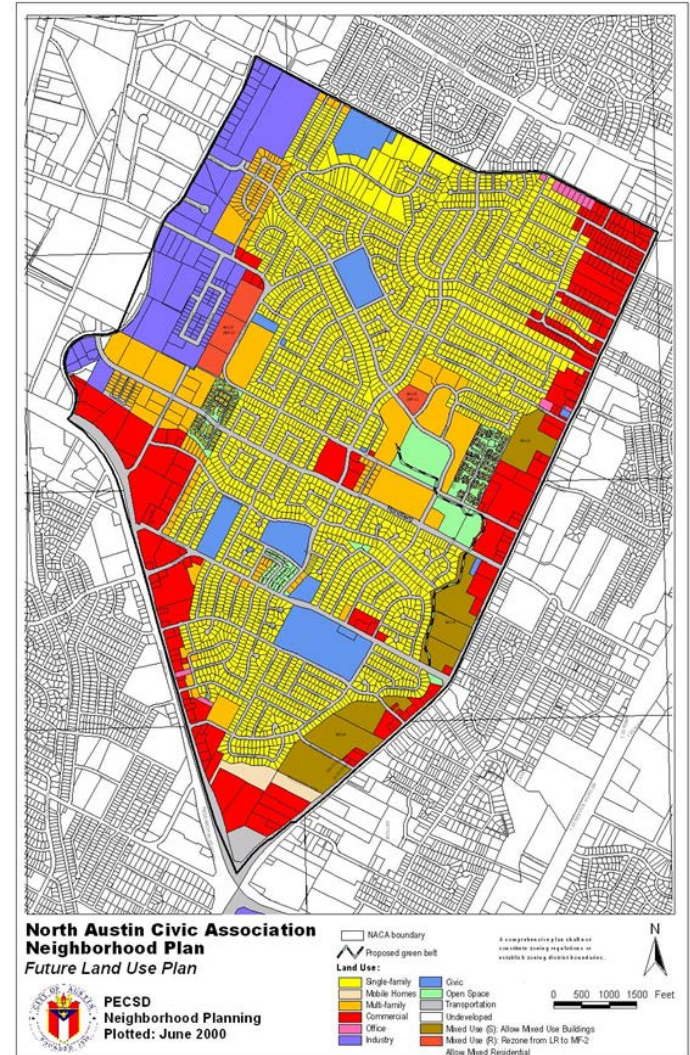


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## 2014 Goals

- North Austin Civic Association (NACA)
- Canopy - 21.5%
- 1000+ Trees
- 500 Planted
- Partnership with APD Restore Rundberg Initiative
- Partnership with TreeFolks
- Core Community Team of 6
- Recruit Intern dedicated to ACT Program metrics



# Austin Community Tree Program



	2014 Program Dates
Jan – March	Staff begins preplanning with ACT Neighborhood Team
April – May	Staff develops program collateral with Austin Energy Team
June – August	Staff works with ACT neighborhood to promote ACT program participation
Sept 21	Block Walk #1 (on-site volunteer training provided)
Oct TBD	Tree registrations due
Oct TBD	Tree order placed with participating nurseries
Nov 8	Block Walk #2 (on-site volunteer training provided)
Nov 14	Trees are delivered to secure staging location in the neighborhood
Nov 15	ACT 2014 big event! Trees delivered and planted throughout the neighborhood



# Austin Community Tree Program



For more information:

[www.austintx.gov/planning/neighborhood/trees.htm](http://www.austintx.gov/planning/neighborhood/trees.htm)

Program Manager:

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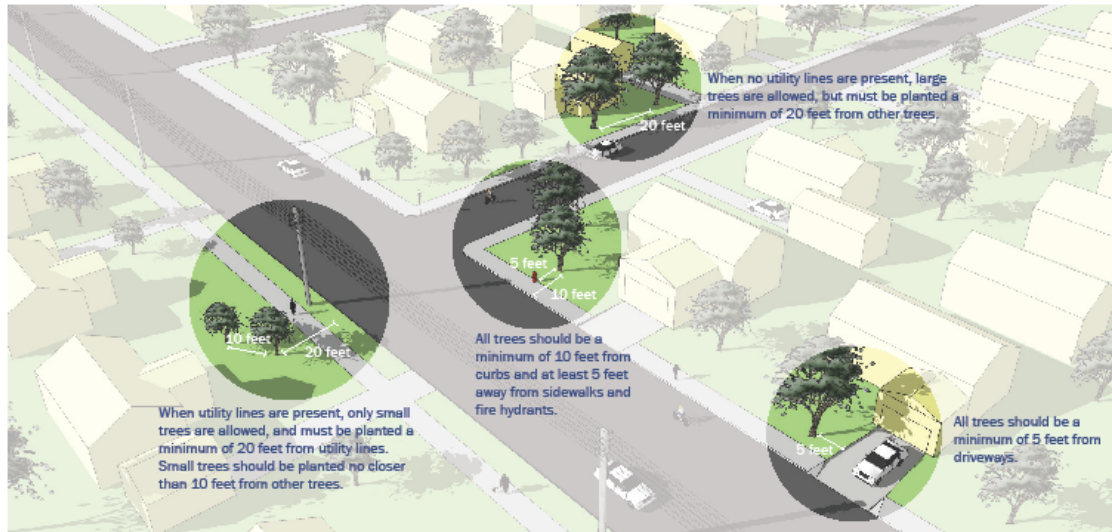
(512) 974-2648



# Austin Community Tree Program



## Austin Community Tree (ACT) Program Tree Placement Guidelines



When utility lines are present, only small trees are allowed:

- 20 feet from poles/lines
- 10 feet from other trees

When no utility lines are present, small and large trees are allowed:

- Large trees should be at least 20 feet from existing trees and other ACT trees
- Small trees should be at least 10 feet from existing trees and other ACT trees

ACT trees are only permitted in the front or side yard.

For more information: <http://austingo.austintexas.gov/departments/community-trees>

### Placement Distances

	Minimum distance
Underground utilities	5 feet
Fire hydrant	5 feet
Sidewalk	5 feet
Curb	10 feet
Driveway	5 feet

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## **Who will care for the trees?**

Owners of the properties receiving free trees are responsible for the two-year maintenance period. This will include but is not limited to the following:

### **Watering:**

Ample soil moisture must be maintained throughout the two-year maintenance period. Recommended: 5 gallons once a week during the winter months and twice a week during the summer months.

### **Mulch:**

Mulch is a protective cover placed over the soil to retain moisture, reduce erosion, provide nutrients, and suppress weed growth and seed germination. Free mulch will be available on tree planting day at a predetermined location in the neighborhood. Recommended: 3-4" thick layer starting 6 inches from the trunk of the tree extending out to the edge of the tree canopy, also called the "drip line".

For more tree care information go to [www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org)

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*Keeping Austin Cool...  
One Neighborhood at a Time*

ACT is primarily a tree ***delivery*** program