



## **Annual Internal Review**

**This report covers the time period of 1/1/2013 to 12/31/2013**

### **Urban Forestry Board**

**The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:**

May study, investigate, plan, advise, report, and recommend any action, program, plan, or legislation which the board determines necessary or advisable for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal, or disposition of trees and shrubs and other landscaping in public parks, along streets, and in other public areas. Develop and establish a comprehensive urban forest plan for the planting, maintenance, and replacement of trees in parks, along streets, and in other public areas, and submit it to city council for adoption before implementation. See Section **2-1-183** of the City Code for additional duties.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**
  - In partnership with City staff, we completed development that began during 2011 of Austin's Urban Forest Plan. During 2013, these development efforts involved eleven regular meetings, three special called meetings, one special called meeting for the purpose of obtaining public input, ten working group meetings, and seven "pop-op" events for soliciting public input in high throughput areas. From July through October, we presented the draft plan and received constructive feedback from both the Environmental Board and Parks and Recreation Board. We approved a final version of the plan for submission to City Council at our November 2013 regular meeting.
  - We reviewed and denied an appeal from a citizen that had damaged a public tree within the right-of-way on their property. A monetary value of \$800 for the damaged tree was approved as a necessary reimbursement.
  - We addressed a potential conflict between Live Oak tree branches and high-voltage power lines in the Gracywoods Neighborhood in North Austin. We made a recommendation to City Council that Austin Energy

prune the Live Oak trees on a two-year cycle instead of a normal four-year one to maximize the amount of vegetation that could remain.

- We developed and approved a letter that was sent to City Council recommending that additional urban forestry resources be allocated to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- We developed and approved a letter that was sent to City Council regarding soil volume quality and planting standards for public landscapes with focus on the urban core.
- We reviewed and approved an Urban Forest Grant Program application for the transplant of a Live Oak tree located at the southeast corner of William Cannon Drive and State Highway 290.
- We formed a task force to address both short-term needs and long-term maintenance of the Treaty Oak. The task force is composed of board members, city staff, and prominent community tree experts.

**2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

The Board's actions through the year did comply with the mission statement of the Board

**3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

- Work with City staff on implementation of Austin's Urban Forest Plan that was approved by City Council on March 6, 2014.
- Work with City staff to develop and approve specific soil volume quality and planting standards for public landscapes.
- Develop short-term needs and long-term-maintenance recommendations for the health and integrity of the Treaty Oak.
- Review the various public tree planting programs managed by City staff.
- Continue development of a grant funding application process for private entities to provide maintenance services on prominent public trees.