

# 2014 Heritage Tree Report

Keith W. Mars City Arborist Program Planning and Development Review Department



The City Arborist Program

Tree Preservation and Replenishment

### **Overview of Presentation**

- City Arborist Workflow
- 2014 Heritage Tree Review
  - Site Plan and Subdivision Permits
  - Heritage Tree TORA Permits
  - Dead, Diseased, or Hazard Permits
- The Big Picture
- Challenges and Opportunities



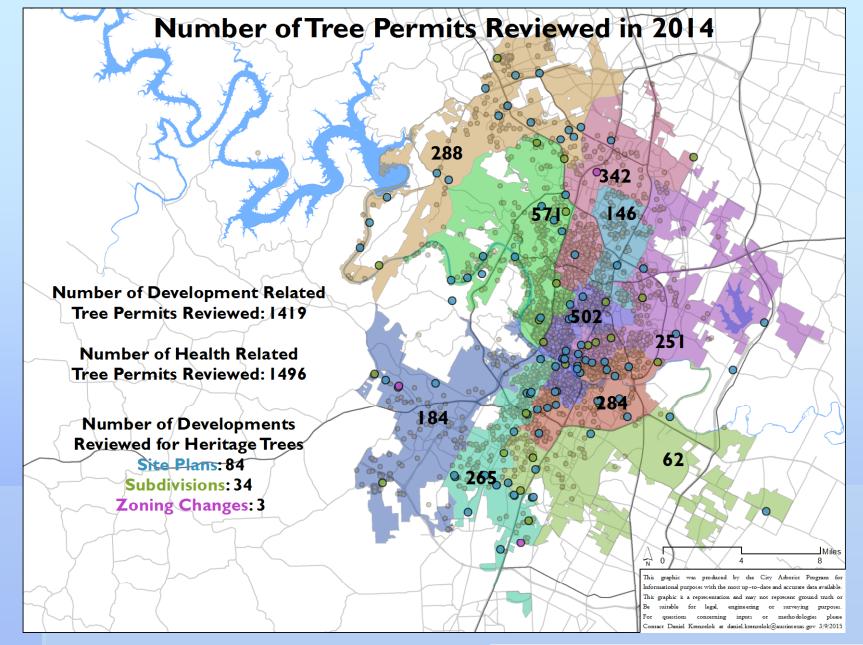
#### Work Flow Overview City Arborist Development Review, Inspection, and Permit Analysis



# Site Plan and Subdivision Review for Heritage Trees

- No Land Use Commission variances
- Reviewed 118 site plans and subdivisions
- 65% and 18% increase from 2013 in # of site plans and subdivisions reviewed
- ~18,000 inches surveyed
- ~17,000 inches preserved
- ~1000 inches removed (95% preservation of healthy heritage trees)





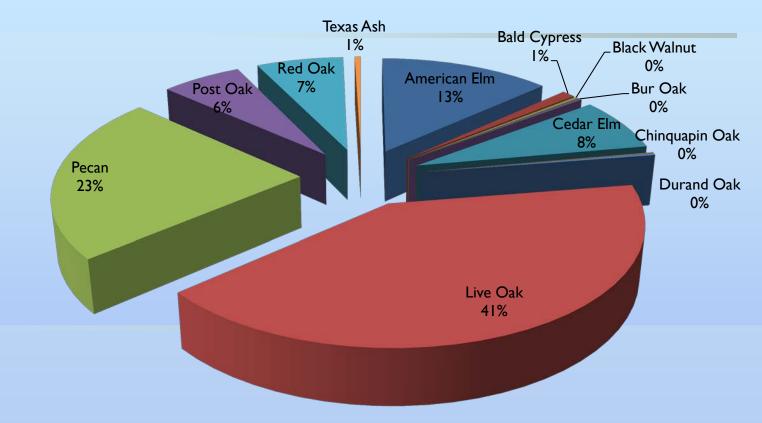


### **2014 Heritage Tree Permits**

- 1083 heritage trees were reviewed on tree permits in 2014
- 33,340 inches of trees reviewed
- 35 healthy heritage trees allowed to be removed



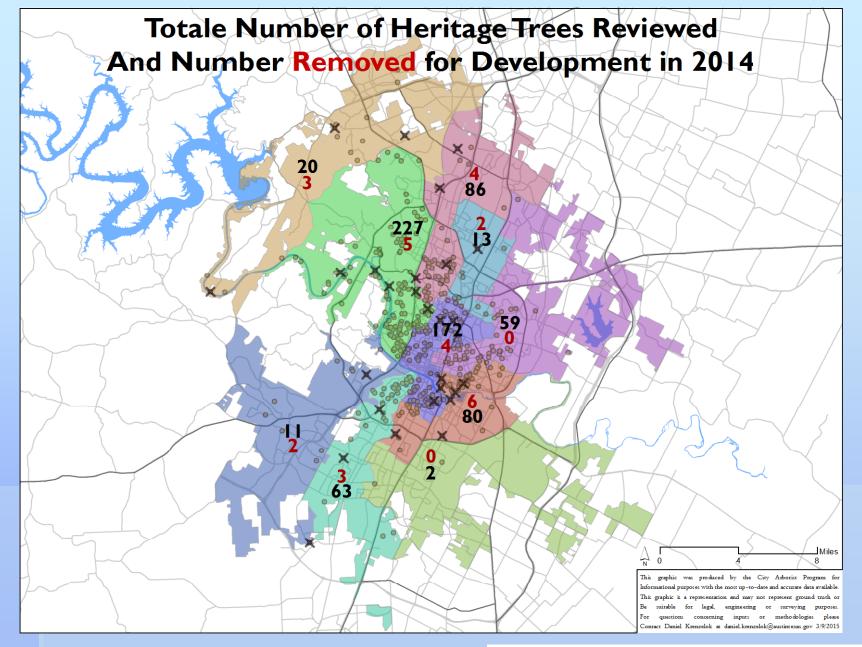
#### Heritage Trees by Species Reviewed on Tree Permits in 2014





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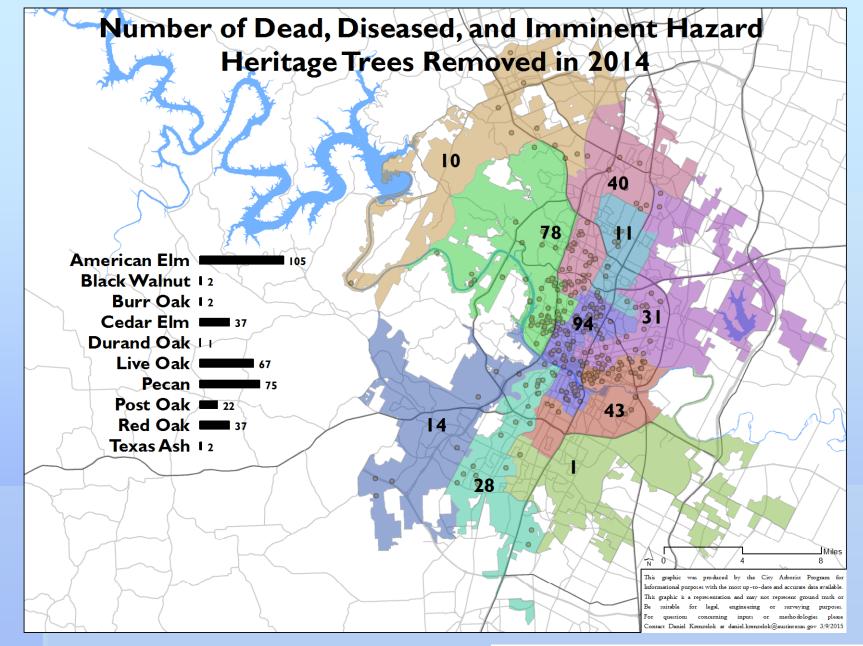




### **Tree Condition Permits**

- 350 dead, diseased, or imminent hazard heritage trees were reviewed on tree permits in 2014
- 10842.5, inches of dead, diseased, or imminent hazard trees permitted for removal







### Heritage Tree Mortality on Tree Permits

<u>Species</u>	2014 Number <u>Reviewed</u>	<u>2014 Dead,</u> <u>Diseased, or</u> <u>Hazardous</u>	<u>2014 %</u> Mortality	<u>2013 %</u> Mortality	<u>2012 %</u> Mortality	<u>2011 %</u> Mortality
American Elm	143	105	73%	78%	86%	85%
Cedar Elm	80	37	46%	52%	47%	50%
Live Oak	445	67	15%	20%	24%	26%
Pecan	249	75	30%	33%	40%	31%
Post Oak	67	22	33%	39%	50%	38%
Red Oak	73	37	51%	57%	71%	71%



# **Big Picture**

- The ordinance is working (>95% preservation rate of heritage trees)
- Regulatory options for means to end
- Programmatic reorganzation
- Citizens and development community engaging earlier in development process
- Dynamic city, dynamic forest
- Ensuring community values are protected



### Urban Forest Challenges and Opportunities

- 4<sup>th</sup> year as fastest growing city in country while protecting the urban forest
- Protection of tree species less than 19"
- Fulfilling vision of Imagine Austin
- Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan
- CodeNext



### **Questions?**

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