



# Streetscape & Soil Volume Resolution

Survey Responses  
February 2014

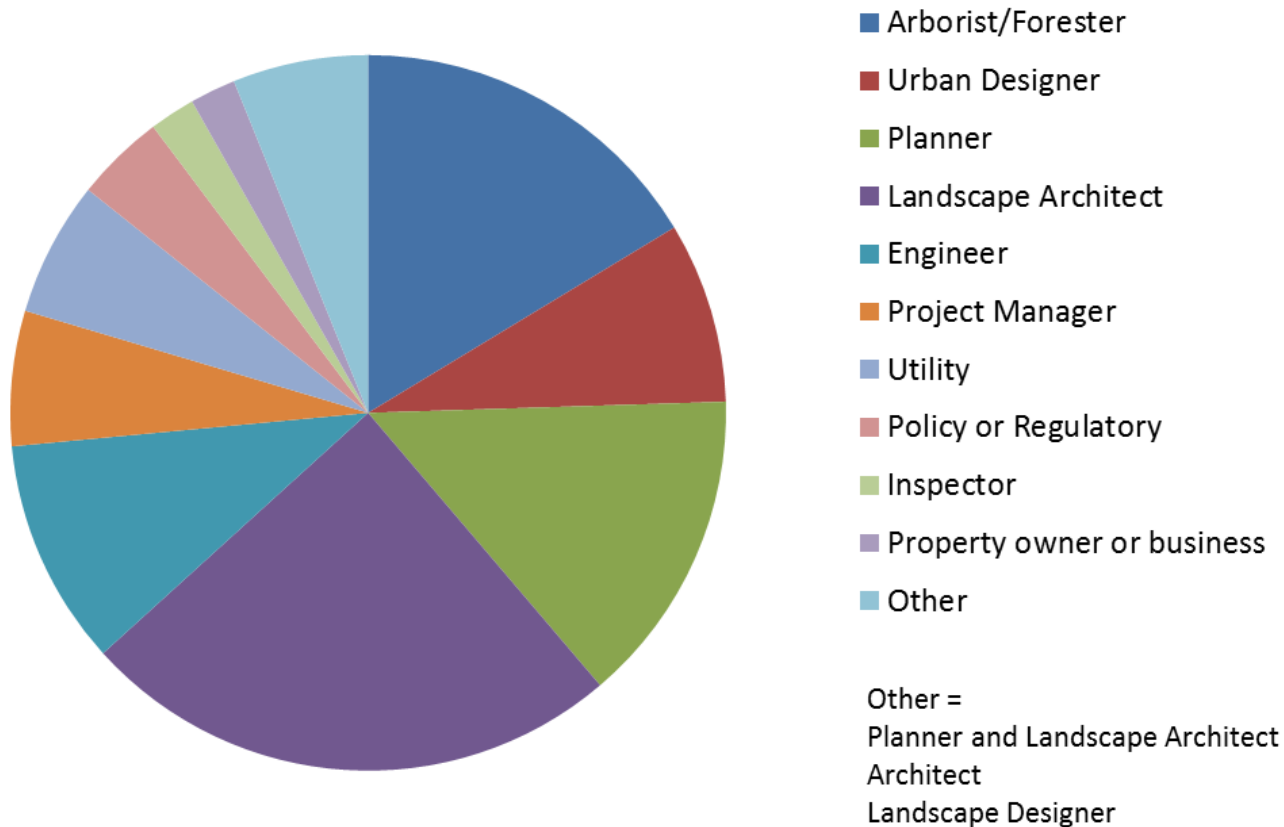
# Survey Overview

- Open 15 days
- 52 started survey
- Targeted audience:
  - Subject matter experts
  - Mostly city staff



# Survey Participant Interests

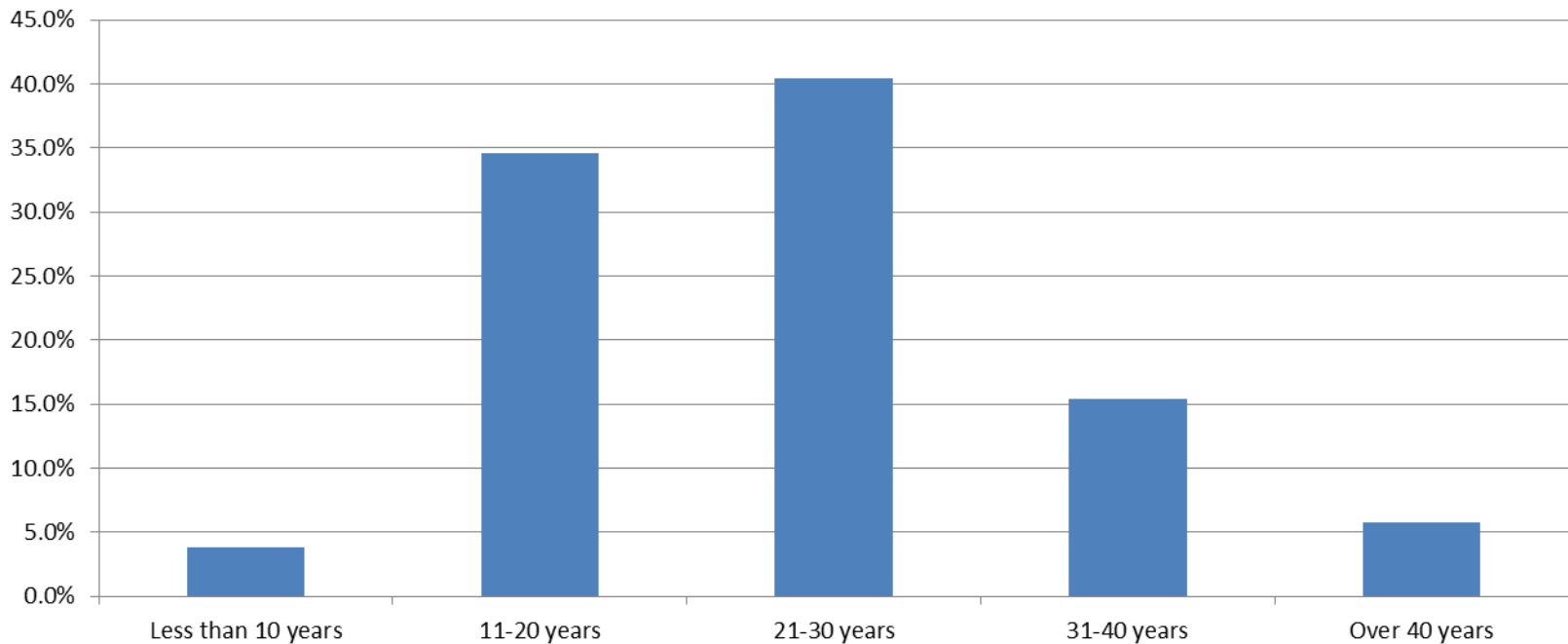
**Which best represents your background and interest in this topic? (n=46)**





# Expectation for Tree Longevity

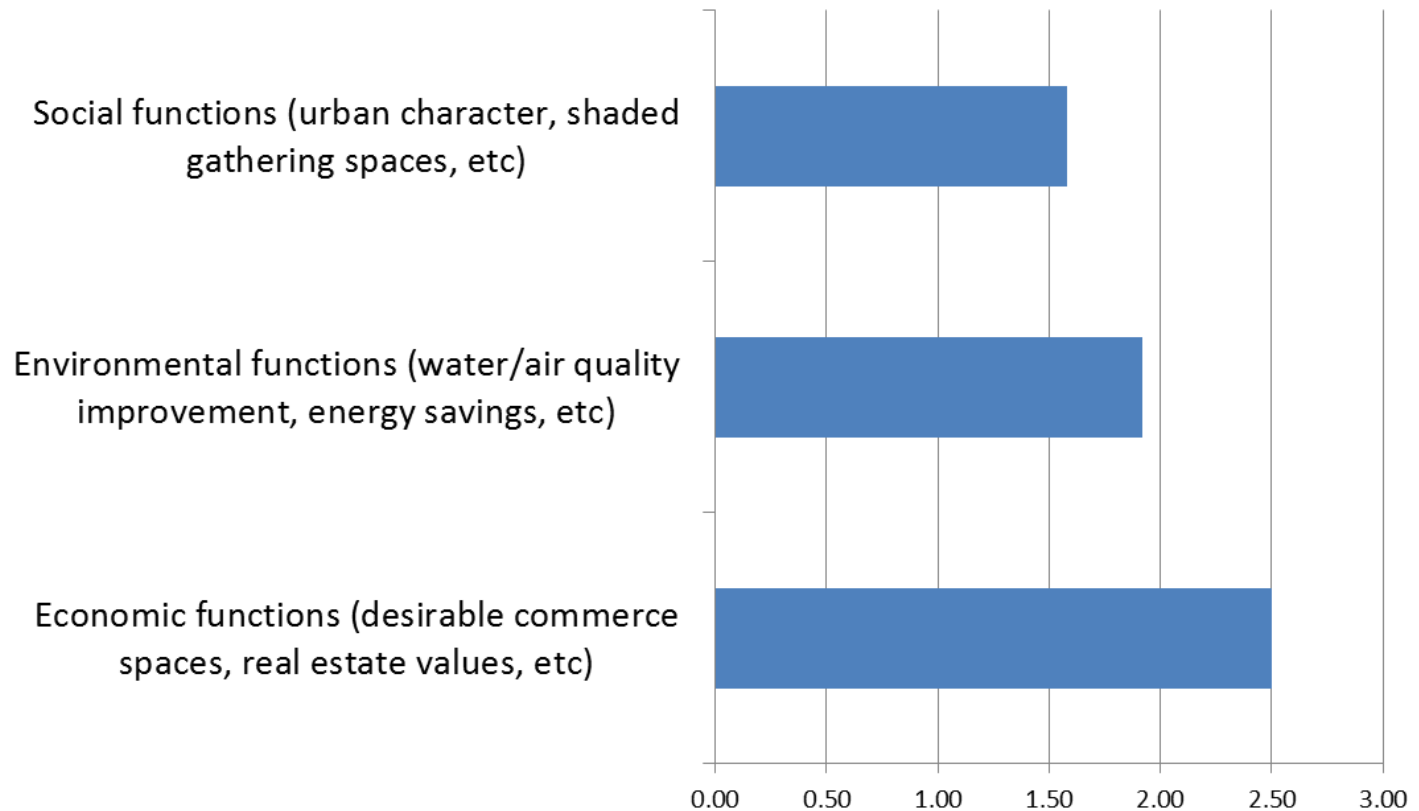
**Downtown Austin streetscape trees are expected to live for 30 years, according to City planting program goals. Across the United States, downtown street trees growing in similar conditions have average lifespans of 13 or fewer years (Herwitz, E. 2001). Tr**





# Streetscape Tree Purposes

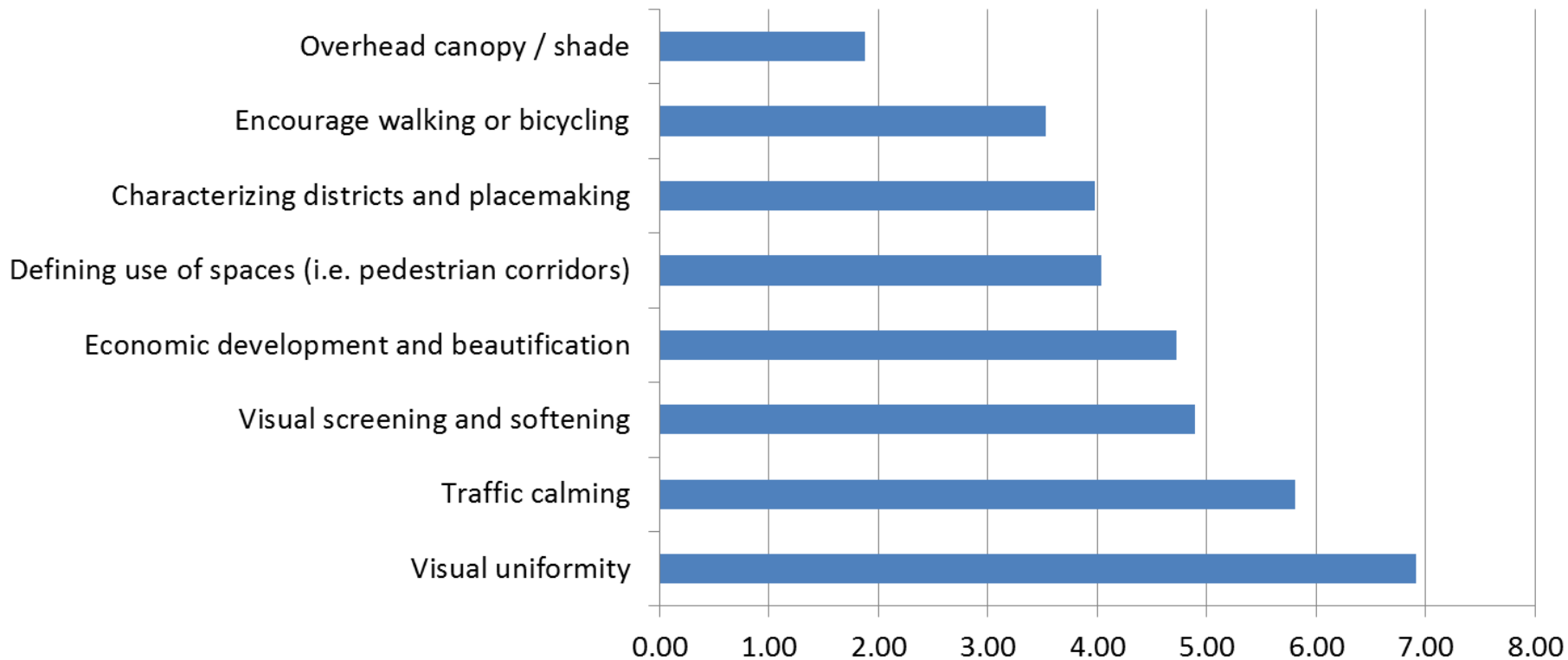
**Streetscape trees serve different purposes to different people. Rank the following purposes of streetscape trees in order that YOU feel is appropriate (1=most important function). (n=51)**





# Tree Design Functions

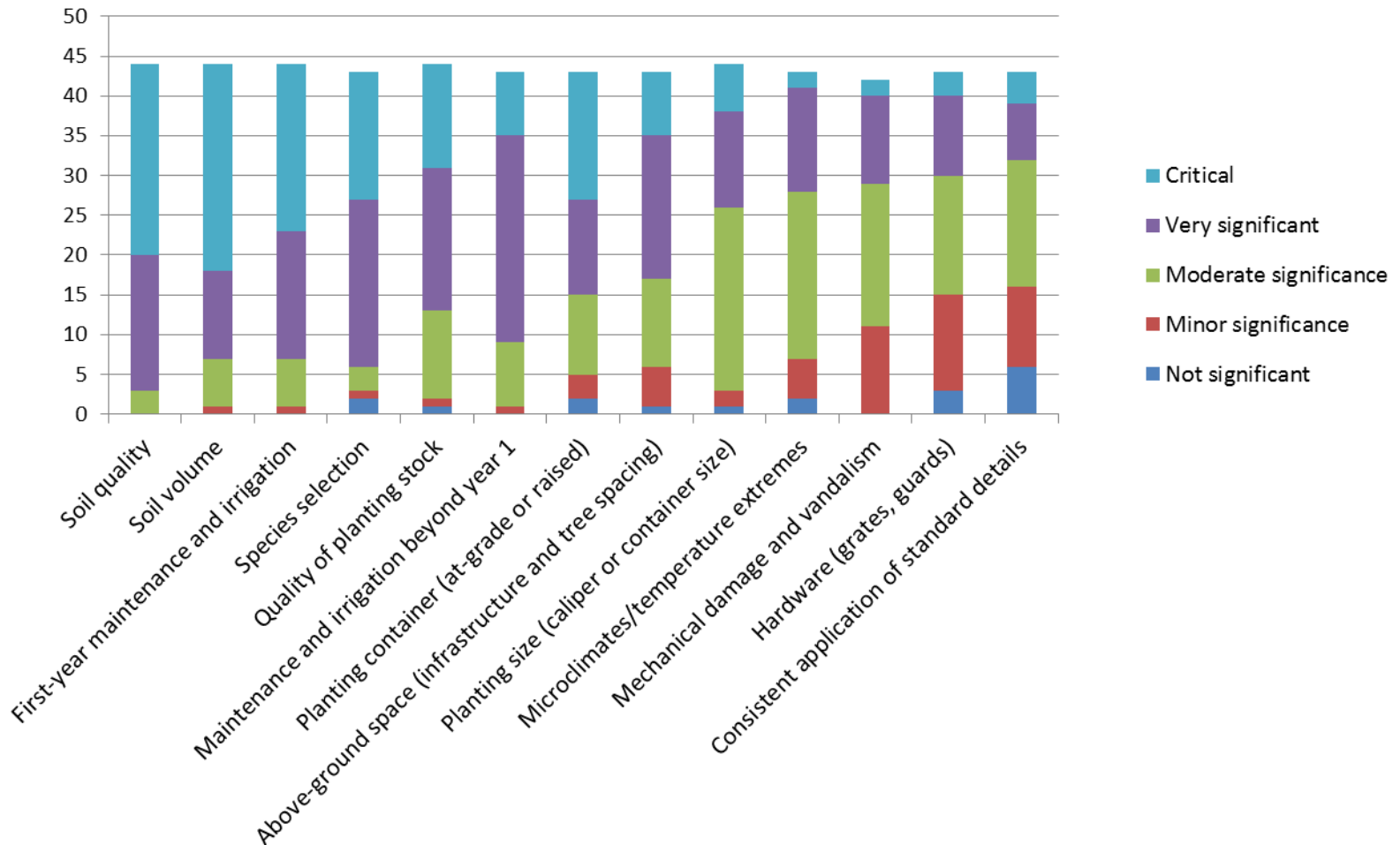
**What are the most important design functions of streetscape trees? (1=most important) (n=48)**





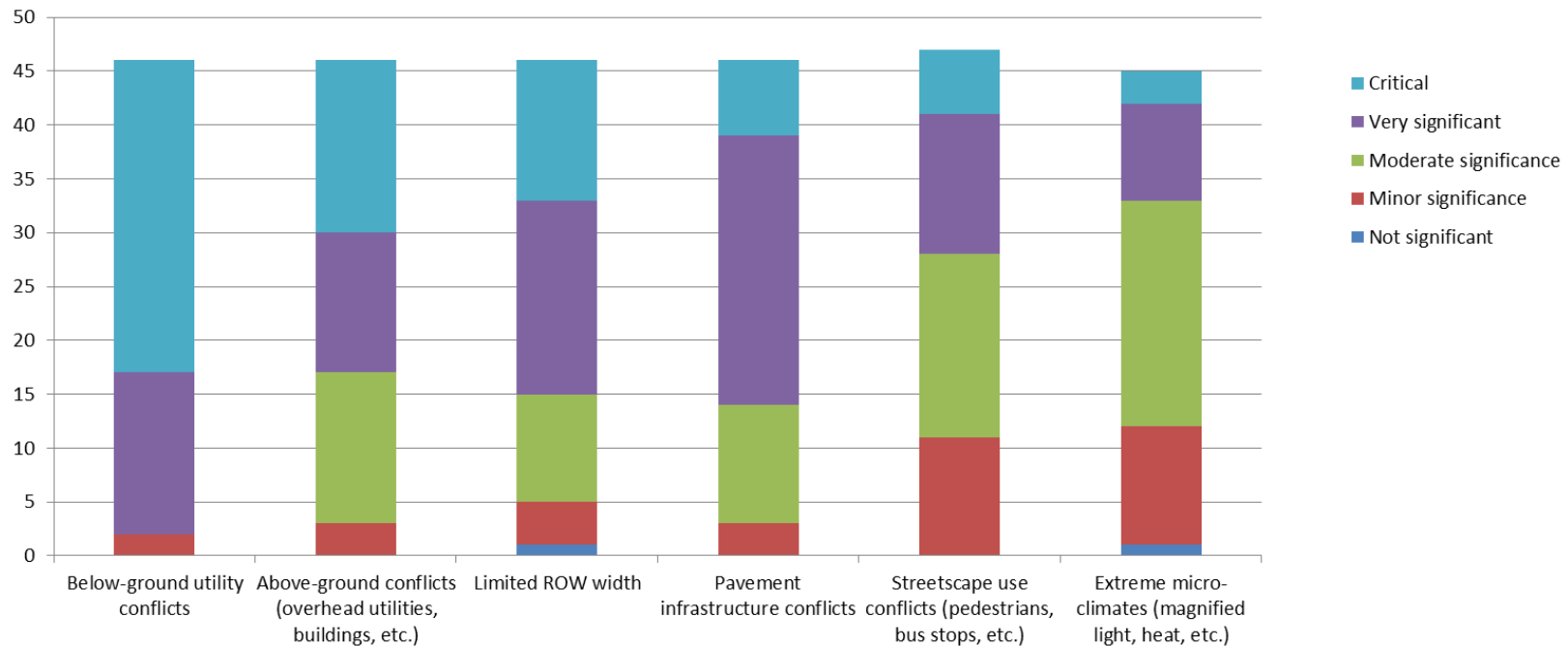
# Most Significant Impacts to Trees

**What do you believe are the most significant impacts to the growing conditions of streetscape trees? (n=44)**



# Most Significant Barriers

What are the most significant barriers to overcome in improving growing conditions and space provided to downtown streetscape trees? (n=47)



## Others:

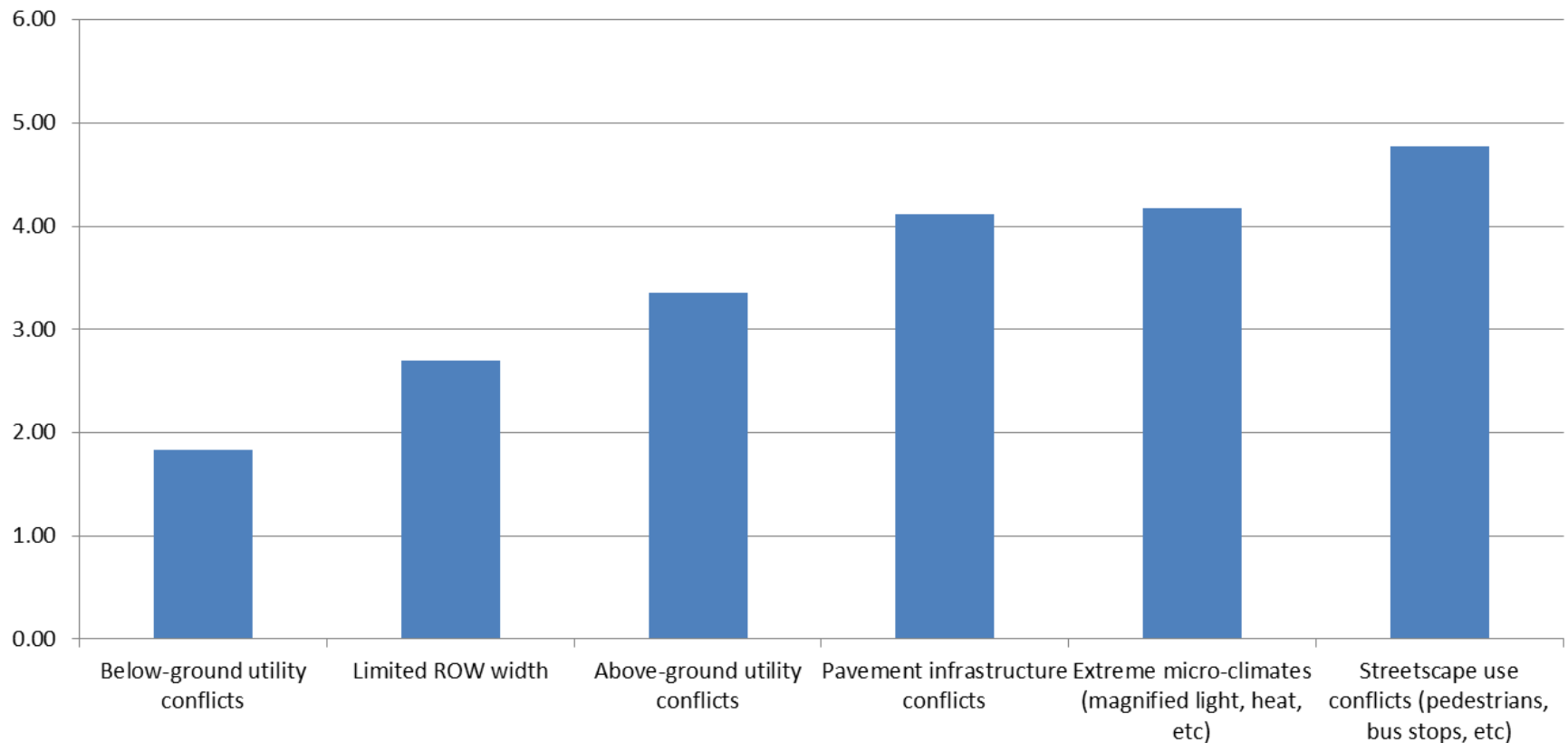
- soil quantity/quality
- Property ownership, access, politics, funding
- providing on-going maintenance - critical
- Soil compaction
- Due to the abundance of extreme micro-climates, overhead and underground utilities, streetscape trees should only be installed where they are not impacted by these existing, and sometimes proposed, conditions. For Streetscape Trees to thrive, they should be installed out of the heated micro-climates and away from overhead and underground utilities.
- Overall, soil volume, more horizontal soil space is needed vs depth in addition to organic matter availability





# Most Significant Barriers to Overcome

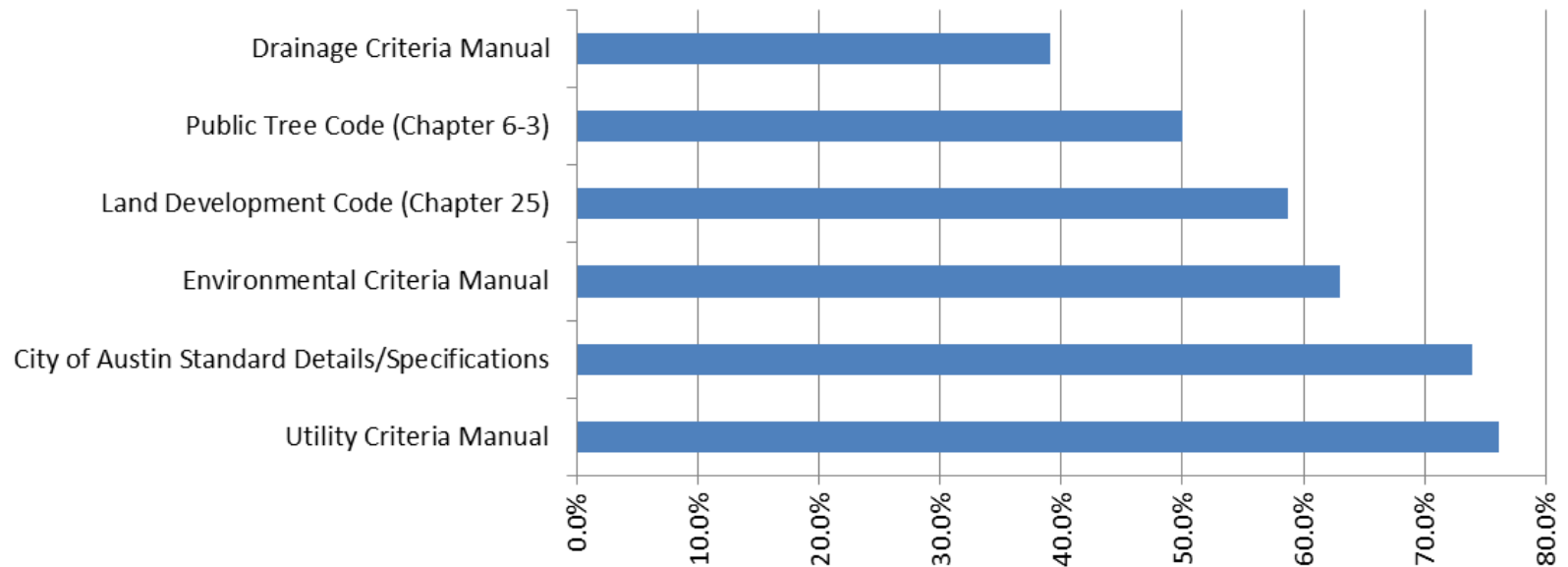
**Rank those barriers according to which you think are the most difficult to improve upon or mitigate? (1=most difficult) (n=47)**





# Influential Regulations & Programs

**Which city regulations and programs have a critical impact on downtown streetscape plantings? (select all that apply) (n=46)**



**Other:**

- The word "critical" is difficult to answer here. they are all critical.
- Transit Oriented Development Regulations
- when updating city regulations, tree height, spread and root growth area needed should be part of the regulation\policy and implementation
- Transportation Criteria Manual



# Comment Themes

- Great Streets criticism
  - Need for innovation and science to solve this issue
  - Importance of trees to downtown economy
  - Willingness to continue participating in this discussion
  - ROW widths
  - Need for soil volume minimums, examples of cities which have them
  - Regulation modifications are a strategy
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