Grow Green Landscape Professionals Training

Navigating Tree Regulations

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July 16, 2014
Urban Forest Benefits

Trees are critical to Austin’s quality of life

Also:
- Wildlife habitat
- Screen views & noise
- Property value
- Sense of place
- Aesthetics
- Added ecological value of mature trees
- Infrastructure which improves with time
Tree Protection Ordinance Goals

- Ensure public health, safety, and welfare
- Conserve (preservation, maintenance, and replanting)

Preserve the character of Austin’s urban forest, protect its current health, and increase its longevity
Major Tree Initiatives

- Tree Preservation Ordinance (1983)
- City Council’s Urban Heat Island Resolution (2005)
- Tree Taskforce (2006)
- Mayor’s Climate Change Initiative (2007)
- Urban Forestry and Environmental Boards Joint Resolution (2008)
- Tree Summit (2009)
- Heritage Tree (2010)
Urban Forest Impacts

Fire
Weather
Habitat Change
Disease and Pests
Biological Competition

Development
Commercial Development Process

Development Conceived
Plan Submittal

Compatibility Evaluation
Development Assessment
Zoning
Subdivision
Site Plan

Discipline Review
Land Use
Transportation
Drainage
Safety/Fire
Utilities
Environmental

Land Development Code Considerations
Watershed Limitations
Water Quality
Critical Environmental Features
Landscaping
Tree Preservation & Replacement

Specific Interests
Tree Survey
Tree Preservation Design
Constraints & Alternatives
Mitigative Measures
Overlapping Requirement

SLOPES

DETENTION

50' SETBACK

10' UTILITY EASEMENT

50' SETBACK

SLOPES

DETENTION
Residential Subdivisions
Block View – Post Development
Balancing Act?

Land development requirements

Vs.

Tree preservation requirements

“tree preservation is inherently less definitive”  ECM 3.5.3
Tree Assessment Variables

- Size (trunk diameter)
- Species
- Location
- Health
- Form
- History
- Susceptibility to change
- Density on lot
- Hazards
- Targets
Root System
Critical Root Zones

1/4 CRZ - no impact

1/2 CRZ - no cut/fill > 4"

Critical Root Zone - preserve 50%
Ordinance Generalities
(native healthy trees)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trunk Size</th>
<th>Determined By</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 – 19</td>
<td>Applicant</td>
<td>Where Feasible</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 &lt;</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Trees Reviewed</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 – 30*</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Preserved</td>
<td>300%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30* &lt;</td>
<td>Commission</td>
<td>Public Hearing</td>
<td>300%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Select Species (Heritage Trees)
Mitigation Options

- Planting Trees
- Natural Area Preservation
- Soil Care Plan
- Transplanting
- Tree Fund

Proposed developments are reviewed to assure that a final product is achieved which results in a diversified and sustainable urban forest.
Important Players

- Citizens
- City Council
- Design Professionals (Landscape Architects, Engineers, Architects)
- City Personnel (Management, Plan Reviewers, Inspectors, Long Term Planners)
- Home Owner Associations
- Certified Arborists
THANK YOU
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