Grow Green
Landscape Professional
Training Session
Trees & Plants

Austin’s Tree Regulations

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PDRD Tree Program

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Urban Forest Benefits

Trees are critical to Austin’s quality of life

And:
- Wildlife habitat
- Screen views & noise
- Property value
- Sense of place
- Aesthetics
- Added ecological value of mature trees
- Infrastructure which improves with time
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)
# City Programs Which Impact The Urban Forest

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<tr>
<td>GREAT STREETS</td>
<td>DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>CITY ARBORIST PROGRAM</td>
<td>ROW MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>LARGE BRUSH &amp; YARD TRIMMINGS PICK-UP</td>
<td>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</td>
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<td>DILLO DIRT</td>
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<td>ROAD IMPROVEMENTS</td>
<td>WILDLAND CONSERVATION</td>
<td>URBAN HEAT ISLAND</td>
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<td>LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION</td>
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<td>STREAM RESTORATION</td>
<td>TREATY OAK PROJECT</td>
<td>BULK BRUCH</td>
<td>INSPECTION</td>
<td>WATER CONSERVATION</td>
<td>CYCLE PRUNING</td>
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<td>URBAN DESIGN</td>
<td>SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>LANDSCAPE INSPECTION</td>
<td>CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING</td>
<td>SIDEWALK EASEMENTS</td>
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<td>ANNEXATION</td>
<td>CREEK MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>MAINTENANCE &amp; PARK AND TRAIL PLANNING</td>
<td>ROW &amp; ALLEY: DEBRIS REMOVAL</td>
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<td>AUSTIN COMMUNITIES</td>
<td>GROW GREEN</td>
<td>MEMORIAL DEDICATION TREE PLANTING</td>
<td>TRAFFIC SIGNS/SIGNALS CLEARANCE</td>
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<td>FLOOD CONTROL</td>
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<td>MASTER PLAN</td>
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Tree 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
Urban Forest Impacts

- Fire
- Weather
- Habitat Change
- Disease and Pests
- Biological Competition

Development
Residential Subdivisions
Block View – Pre-Development
Residential Subdivisions
Block View – Post Development
Home Building
Tree Assessment Variables

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

1/4 CRZ - no impact

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

Critical Root Zone - preserve 50%
Minimizing Impacts

- Plan
- Continual Oversight
- Private Certified Arborist
- Mulch/Plywood
- Watering
**Reality**

**POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

- Design (roads, buildings, parking spaces, utility lines, ponds)
- Activities (demolition, grading, cut and fill, construction, spoil storage, landscaping)

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

- Chain-link fence
- Prune limbs and roots cleanly
  - 8 inches of mulch
- Strap boards to trunk
- Private arborist care
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trunk Size</th>
<th>Determined By</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
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<td>8 – 19</td>
<td>Applicant</td>
<td>Where Feasible</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>19 &lt;</td>
<td>With Staff</td>
<td>Trees Within Project</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>24–30*</td>
<td>With Staff</td>
<td>Preserved</td>
<td>300%</td>
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<td>30* &lt;</td>
<td>With Commission</td>
<td>Public Hearing</td>
<td>300%</td>
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*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.
Tree Planting

- Reforesting
- Voluntary
- Development
- Diversification
- Challenges
Tree Planting
Right of Way
Important Players

- Concerned Citizens
- City Personnel (i.e. reviewers, inspectors, planners)
- City Council
- Upper Management
- Design Professionals
- Landscape Architects
- Engineers
- Architects
- Home Owner Associations
- Certified Arborists
Thank you
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cityarborist@austintexas.gov

http://austintexas.gov/department/city-arborist/