Tree Ordinance - 1983

Protected trees:
Residential 19" >
Commercial 8" >
Environmental Criteria Manual

- https://library.municode.com/tx/austin/codes/environmental_criteria_manual?nodeId=S3TRNAAQR

- Rules to implement Tree Ordinance
Heritage Tree

- 24”>
- Texas Ash, Bald Cypress, American elm, Cedar Elm, Texas Madrone, Bigtooth Maple, all Oaks, Pecan, Arizona Walnut, Eastern Black Walnut
- Mitigated at 300% if removed in good condition
- A 30 inch heritage tree cannot be removed in good condition without the approval of the Environmental Commission
No Mitigation Trees

- All trees 19 inches or greater require a tree permit for removal
- The following trees do not require mitigation
  - Tree of heaven, Mimosa, Paper mulberry, Russian Olive, Chinese Parasol, Golden Rain Tree, Ligustrum, Chinaberry, Nandina, Photinia, Chinese Pistache, Pyracantha, Salt Cedar, Chinese Tallow, Siberian Elm, Lilac Chaste
Tree Removal

- To remove a protected size tree a tree must be dead, diseased, an imminent hazard or preventing reasonable use of the property.
- This condition must be documented photographically and or by a certified arborist.
Protecting the Canopy

The ECM limits the removal of canopy to 25% of the total canopy

before  after
Protecting the Roots

- Critical Root Zone (CRZ)—Area of the roots protected around the tree
- The closer to the tree the more building restrictions in the root zone
- ¼, ½, full critical root zone
- 1 inch of diameter is 1 foot of root zone in every direction of the tree. 20” diameter, 20 ft crz
You can construct without limitations within the full critical root zone

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½ Critical Root Zone

- No cut/fill 4 inches or greater
- Piers allowed on a case by case basis
- No slab on grade foundations
- Floating / cantilevered slabs permitted on a case by case basis
Cantilever / Floating Slab
Pier and Beam Foundation
¼ Critical Root Zone

- No impacts allowed at all
- Most sensitive area of tree
Airspade: Utilities
50 % of the total root zone must be preserved at grade with natural ground cover
Types of Tree Permits

- Stand alone Tree Permit:
  - Used for non development related tree permits requesting removal of trees due to condition
  - Utility permits

All stand alone Tree Permits can be filed online through Austin Build Connect

- Development Related tree Permits – Automatically included in Residential Plan Review
Residential Construction Application
Residential Tree Review: Depictions

- Tree species / size
- Root zones of trees
- Site access, material staging, toilets
- Proposed/ existing utilities
- Tree protection fencing
Review Process

- Request access to the site
- Visit site, verify tree condition/ size, check for adjacent trees
- Photograph trees during site visit
- Document site visit findings / photographs
- Review development plans for compliance with tree ordinance
- Reject Plans: provide comments on compliance issues
- Approve plans, creating a tree permit
Tree Inspections

- Applicant calls for a layout inspection triggering a pre construction tree inspection
- Inspection verified tree protection fencing, pass or fail
- Construction occurs after inspection is passed
- Final tree inspection is called to verify tree condition post construction
Protection During Development
Construction Mitigation / Violations

- Environmental Code Violation (ECV) - $$
- Stop Work Order
- Delay in review
- Mitigation - $200 per inch- Heritage $600
- Tree Care Plans from a certified arborist
Questions?