



**FIREWISE LANDSCAPE
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

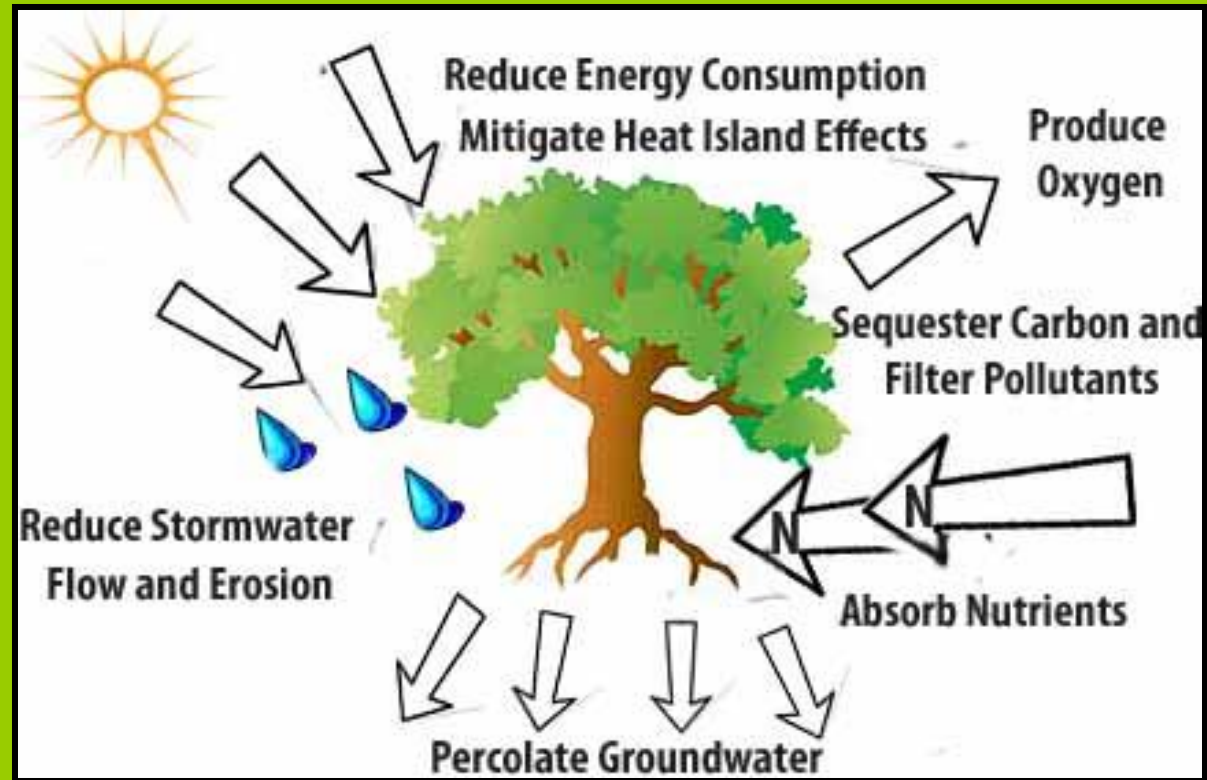
**AUSTIN'S
TREE ORDINANCES**

City Arborist Program
Planning & Development Review Department

February 13, 2013

Urban Forest Benefits

Trees are critical to Austin's quality of life

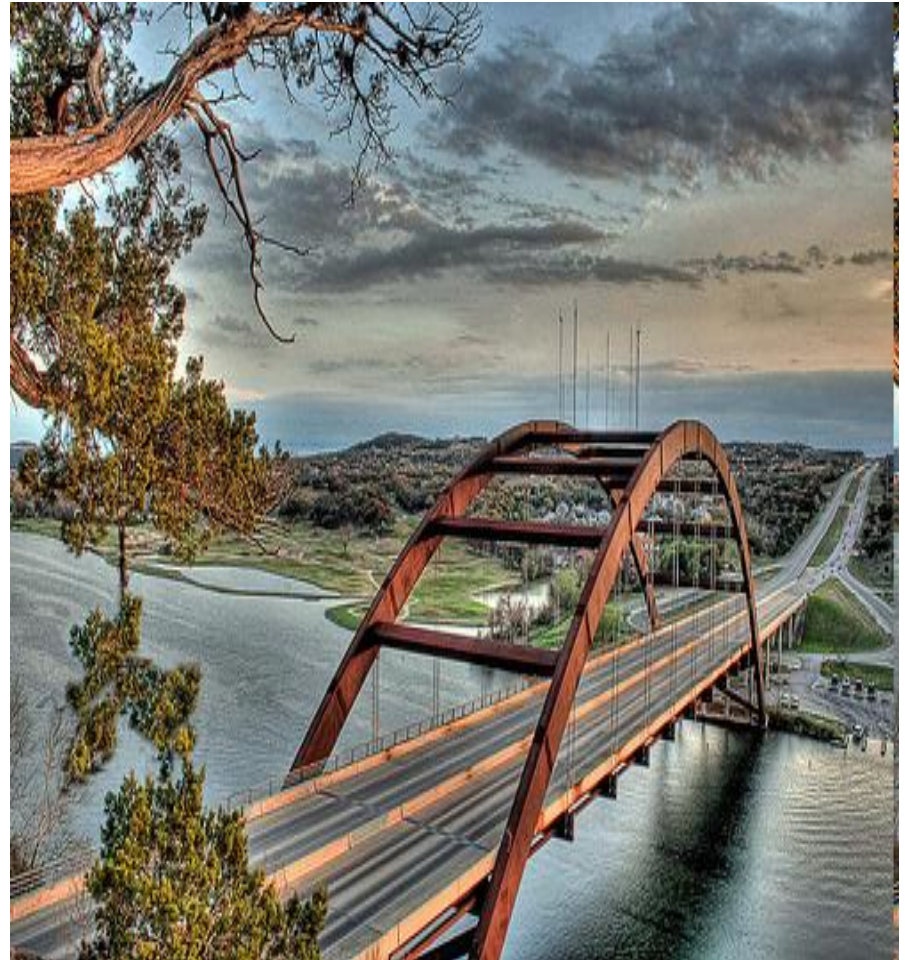


Also:

- Wildlife habitat
- Screen views & noise
- Property value
- Sense of place
- Aesthetics
- Added ecological value of mature trees
- Infrastructure which improves with time

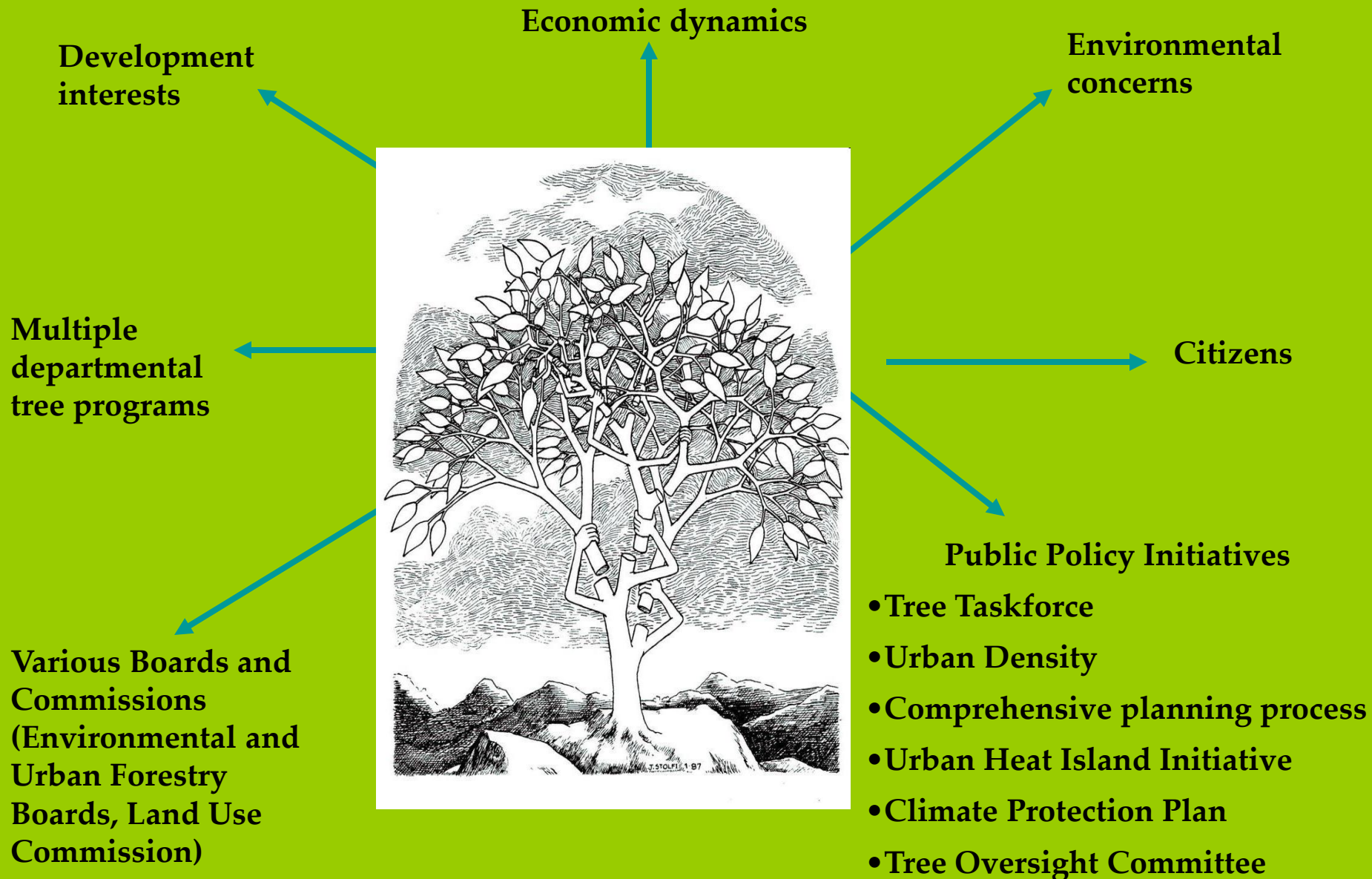
Tree Conservation Goals

- Safeguard public health, safety, and welfare
- Recognize the ecological and aesthetic values
- Manage the urban forest (via preservation, maintenance, and replanting)



Preserve the character of Austin's urban forest and protect its current health and increase its longevity

Tree Conservation Puzzle



Impacts on Urban Forest

Fire
Weather
Habitat Change
Disease and Pests
Biological Competition

Development



Jurisdiction and Authority

City Limits

Tree Preservation

Tree Protection

Tree Replacement



TREE & ROOT PROTECTION ZONE

Per City of Austin code (Chapter 25-8, Subchapter B, Article 1) this protective device is to remain in place for the entirety of the development project and illegal removal is subject to fines and work suspensions. Additional information can be obtained at the:

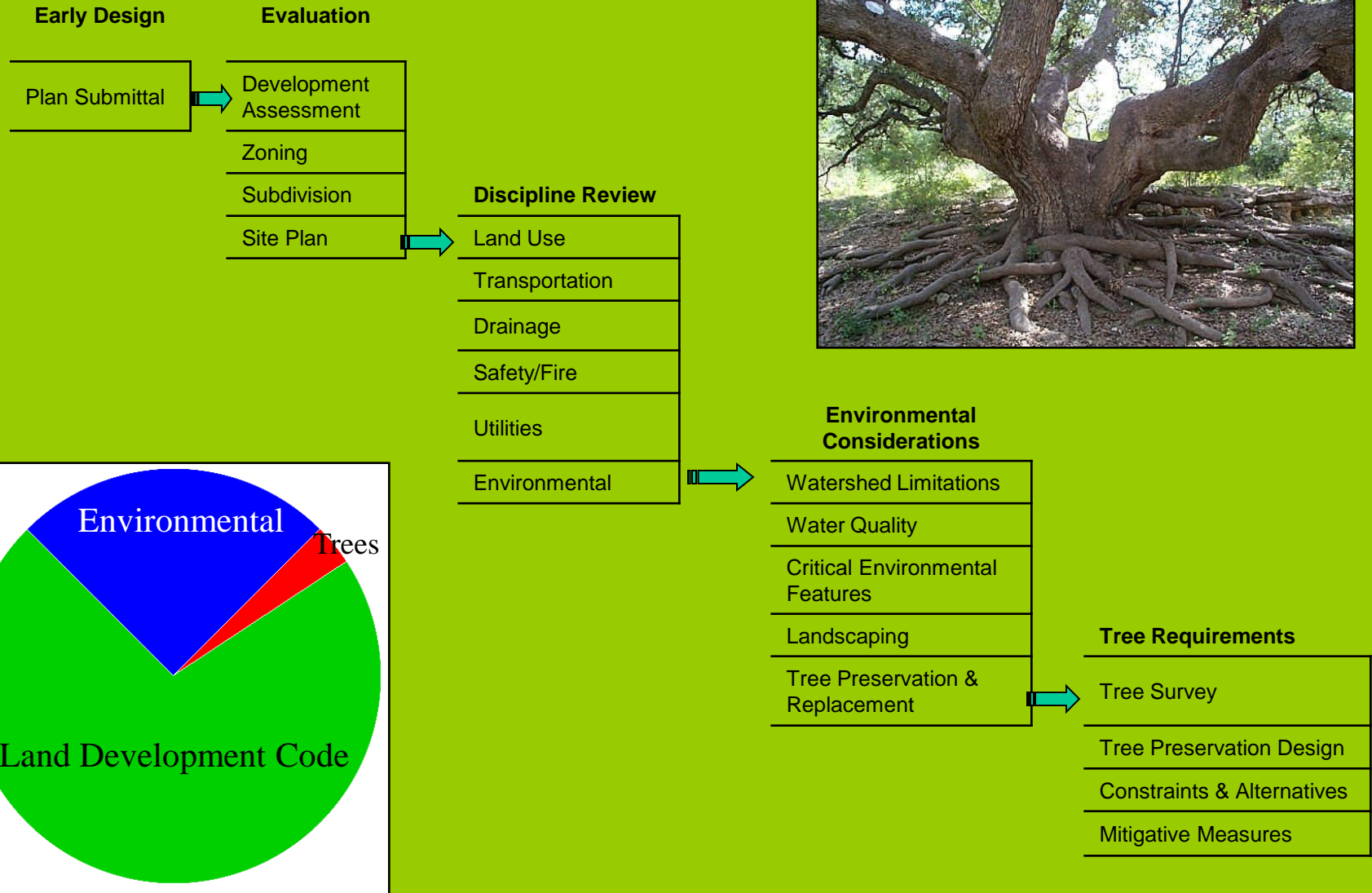
City Arborist (512-974-1876)

web site (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees>).

Zona de Protección del Árbol y las Raíces el dispositivo protector debe quedarse en el lugar para la totalidad del proyecto de la construcción. Para información adicional, contacta la Arborista Municipal (512) 974-1876 o http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/trees_spanish.htm.

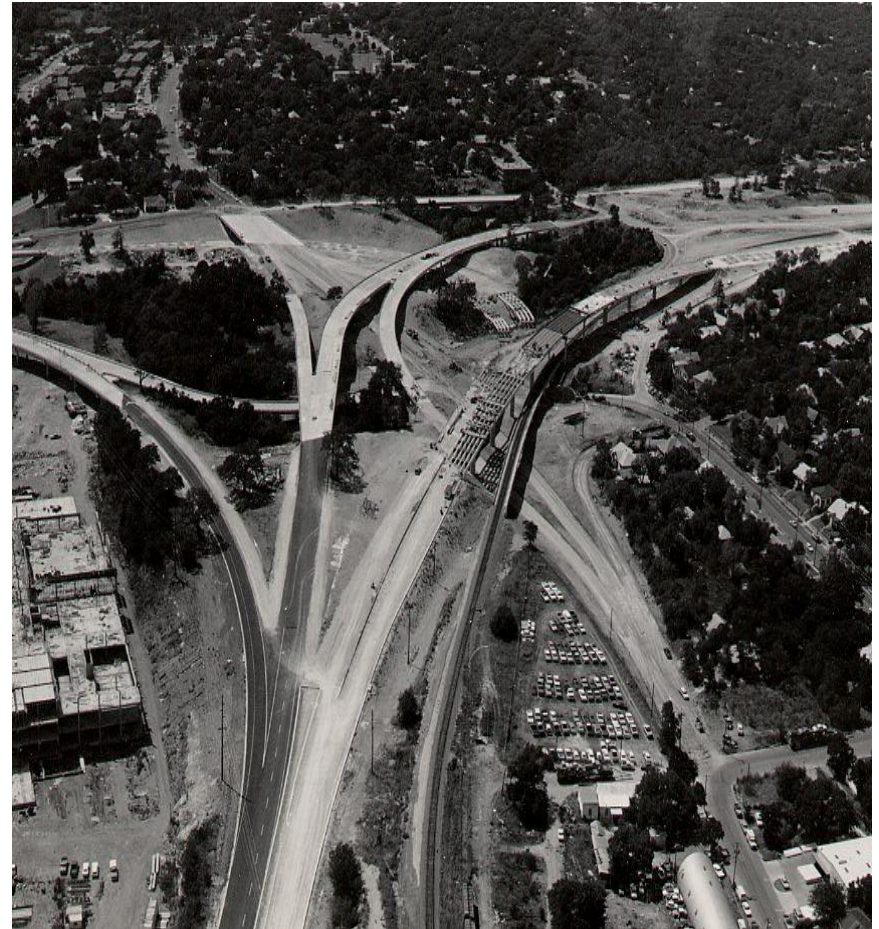


Commercial Development Process



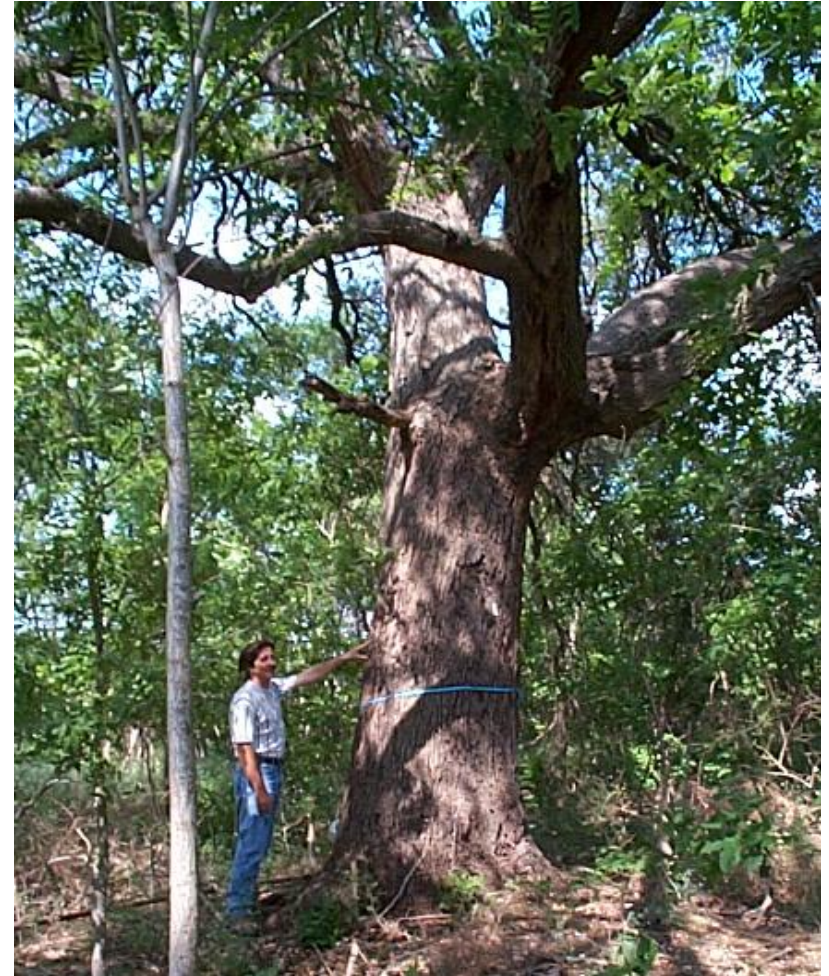
Variable Development Requests

- ❖ Economy
- ❖ Volume of Development Permits, phone calls, emails...
- ❖ Austin mindset
- ❖ Citizen adjusting to changes “of what use to be”



Variable Tree Conditions

- 19-inch DBH
- 8-inch DBH
- City location regs.
- DBH only qualifier
- Critical Root Zones
- 30% canopy removal
- Unique attributes (i.e. species, location, health, canopy position, DBH size)



Balancing Act

Land development rights and requirements (feasible design, zoning, setbacks, water quality/detention, etc.)

V.

Tree preservation requirements (type, size, form, location, health, etc.)



“...tree preservation is inherently less definitive..”

#1 Subdivision
Pre-development

~100 acres



SOUTH BOG

MANCHACA RD

DAVIS LANE

Subdivision Post-development

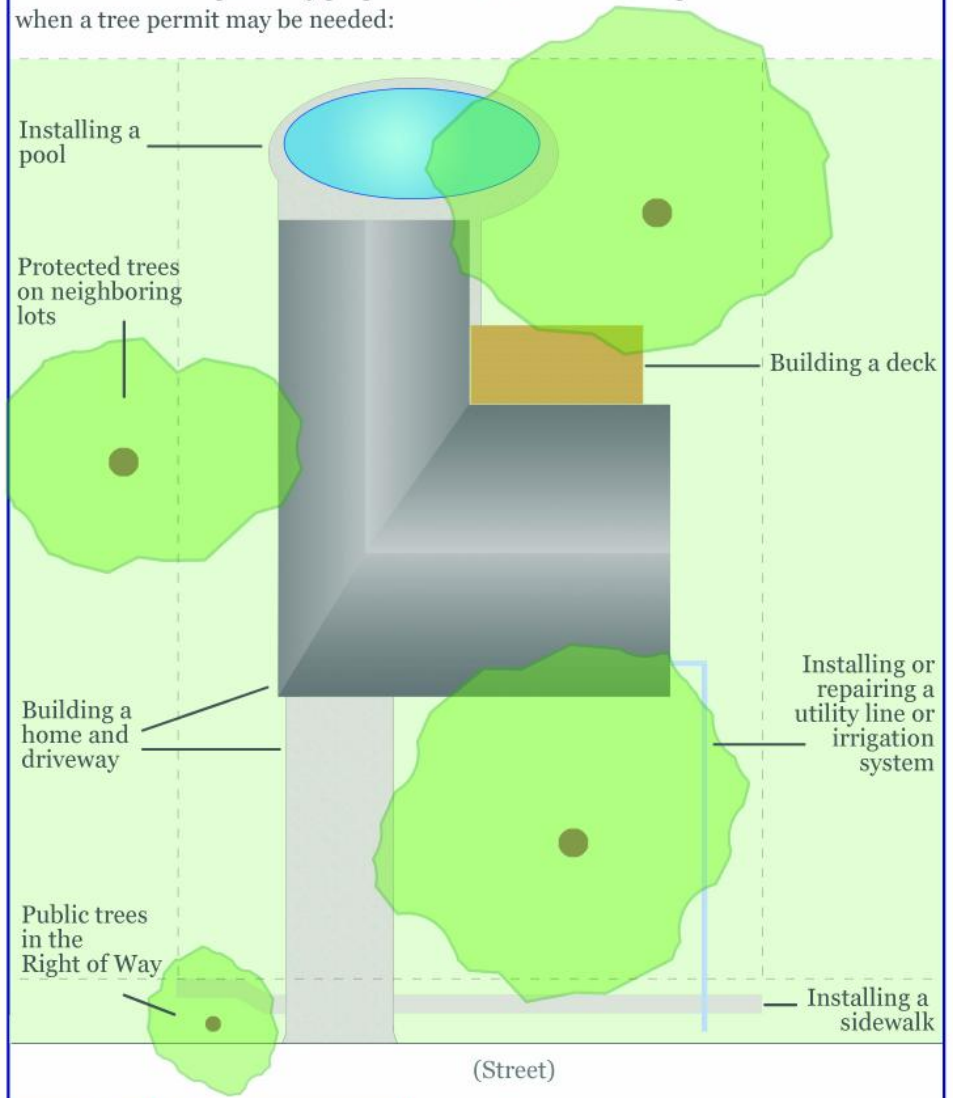


Residential Development

Trees 19-inches and larger



A tree permit is required when the canopy or roots of a protected size tree will be impacted by proposed work. Below are examples of when a tree permit may be needed:



A **protected size tree** measures 19 inches and greater in diameter at 4.5 feet from the ground

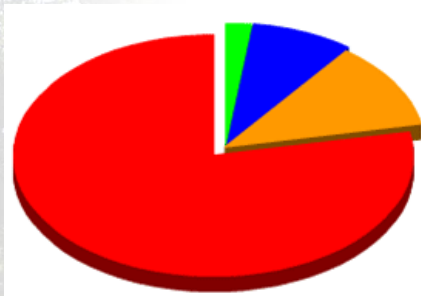
Critical Root Zone



Ordinance Generalities

(native healthy trees)

Trunk Diameter	Determined	Interpretation
8 – 19	Applicant	Where Feasible
19 <	With Staff	Trees Within Project
24 – 30*	With Staff	Preserved
30* <	With Commission	Public Hearing



*Select Species (Heritage Trees)

Tree Preservation & Protection

Mitigation Options

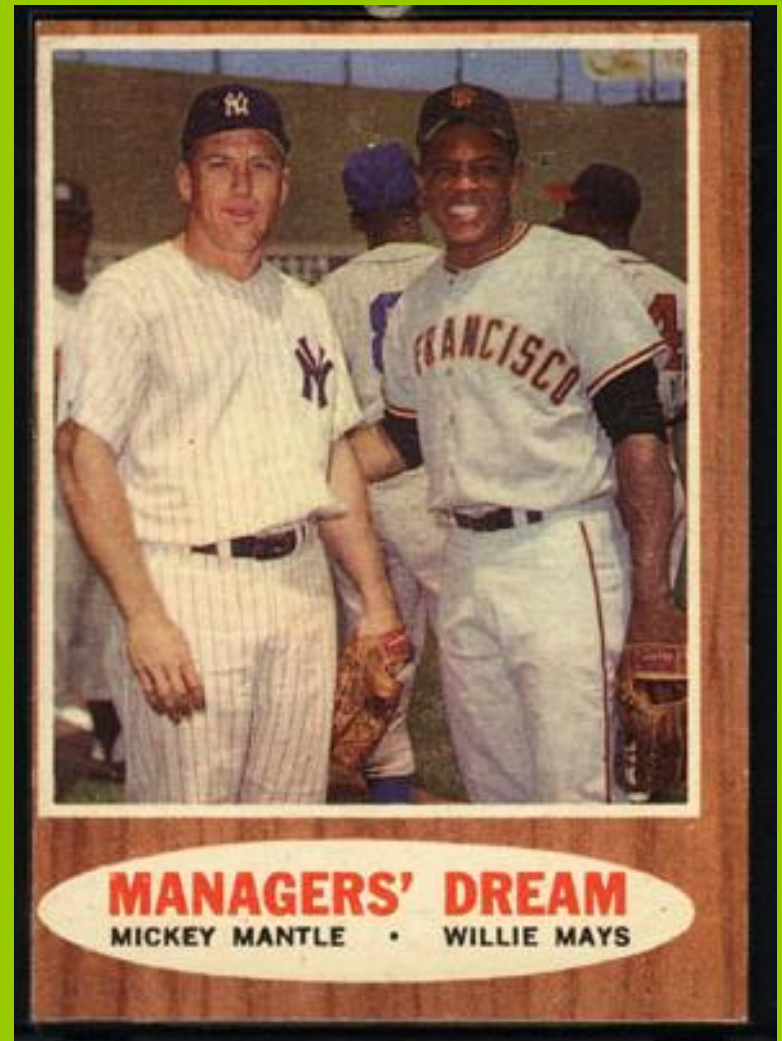
- Planting Replacement Trees
- Natural Area Preservation
- Tree Maintenance
- Special Construction Techniques
- Transplanting
- Tree Fund



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
- ❖ Boards & Commissions
- ❖ Upper Management
- ❖ Engineers & Architects
- ❖ City Employees
- ❖ Home Owner Associations
- ❖ Certified Arborists
- ❖ Citizen Foresters
- ❖ Master Gardeners



Thank You



City Arborist Program
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974-1876