



CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

April 20, 2023

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action approving the first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Fair Oaks Ranch Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1 “General Provisions”, Article 1.07 “Trees And Shrubs” to include updated definitions and the responsibility of public trees

DATE: April 20, 2023

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Kelsey Delgado, Environmental Program Manager

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

Tree City USA® by the Arbor Foundation is a national program which was founded in 1976 to celebrate cities and towns who are committed to growing their urban canopy. The program provides direction, assistance, attention, and recognition to urban and community forestry efforts. By publicly demonstrating the city’s commitment to preserving public trees this recognition can build pride among residents, as well as reinforce one aspect that makes our community an attractive place to live.

By amending Chapter 1 Article 1.07 to include the authorities and responsibilities for trees on public properties, the City is one step closer in obtaining Tree City USA® recognition. A copy of the proposed ordinance amendment is included as part of this agenda item.

The City’s Public Works Department currently maintains the majority of trees within the City’s right-of-ways, parkways and public properties. HOAs and adjacent property owners are also allowed to plant and maintain trees in the vicinity of their subdivision/property so long as the trees don’t obstruct driver sight distance, pedestrian walkways or create a safety hazard. This proposed ordinance amendment solidifies this by recognizing the city’s authority and responsibility for trees on public properties, and adjacent owner responsibilities. No new enforcement mechanisms will be implemented as a result of the adoption of this amendment. Our Public Works Department will continue to notify and request HOAs/property owners trim trees that become an obstruction or safety hazard prior to taking any action.

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

- Protection of public trees helps maintain the rural hill country aesthetic that the city is known for and what attracted residents to this area.
- One step towards obtaining Tree City USA® recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Demonstrates the city’s continued commitment to environmental stewardship.

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL ANALYSIS:

City Attorney has reviewed and approved the ordinance as to form.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Fair Oaks Ranch Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1 "General Provisions", Article 1.07 "Trees and Shrubs" to include updated definitions and the responsibility of public trees.