

Proposed Supplemental Tree Board Motion for 1202 Greenville Highway Development

The developer has provided an article (HortTechnology Journal) comparing tree growth and establishment of various sizes of transplanted trees. Based on that article, the developer is requesting to reduce the caliper of planted trees from 3-3 ½ inches to 2 inches for common space areas and to use 1.5 inch caliper trees for open space areas. There have been a number of research studies on the topic of tree growth rate and establishment for various caliper sizes at time of planting. These studies have come to different conclusions as indicated in the provided journal article. The journal author also recommends further research be done to provide better answers. We have discussed this issue in the past (with our two previous certified arborist members and now with our current certified arborist member) and concluded that the research conducted to date does not consistently show any dramatic growth rate increases or more effective establishment by favoring small caliper trees over larger calipers. We believe that using larger caliper trees, as long as they come from quality nursery stock and are properly planted and cared for, are effective in improving tree canopy more quickly, improving the landscaping of the development, and improves the chances of survivability of transplanted trees. The Tree Board recommends that trees planted in this development be a minimum of 2-2 ½ caliper inches.