



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	7/14/2022
Originating Department	Planning & Building Department
Contact Person	Steve Bennett, Planning Director Kim Adams Pratt, City Attorney
Title	Ordinance 1245 amending chapter 16.14 LFPMC, Tree Canopy Preservation and Enhancement

Legislative History

- First Presentation: April 28, 2022, Council regular meeting
- Second Presentation: June 9, 2022, Council work session
- Third Presentation: July 14, 2022, Council regular meeting

Attachments:

1. Ordinance No. 1245 amending chapter 16.14 LFPMC, Tree Canopy Preservation and Enhancement

Executive Summary

Ordinance 1245 proposes to make amendments to chapter 16.14 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code ("LFPMC"), Tree Canopy Preservation and Enhancement (the "Tree Code"). The draft Ordinance would amend the "Policy" section of the chapter by adding a statement regarding the importance of trees in mitigating climate change and explaining the particular importance of "Exceptional" trees. Throughout the Ordinance the phrase "stand of trees" is replaced with the phrase "grove of trees" defined as a continuous grouping of trees of a certain size with overlapping canopies that occupy a defined amount of space.

The proposed Ordinance would also amend the process for appealing an approved tree permit by not allowing the tree to be removed until the appeal period for a major tree permit has expired (14 days). For removal of trees in critical areas, the proposed ordinance authorizes the city to require review by the appropriate professional but eliminates the mandatory requirement that a geologist or geotechnical engineer certify all permit applications on steep slopes, landslide hazard areas, or their buffers. The Ordinance also amends the "Tree replacement" section of the Tree Code by adding an emphasis on choosing native replacement tree species. Lastly, the Ordinance changes the assessment of tree canopy coverage from annually to once every five years. The Ordinance does not amend the threshold

diameter of Exceptional trees, leaving the issue for further review after Council’s receipt of the results of additional assessment and analysis.

Background

In March of 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1152, repealing and replacing chapter 16.14 LFPMC. After months of city staff and citizens using the Tree Code, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1157 in August of 2017, amending the Tree Code to decrease the number of Exceptional tree species and decrease the threshold diameter of Exceptional trees.

Most recently, in April 2022, the City’s Tree Board recommended to the City Council amendments to the Tree Code. These recommendations include an expanded policy statement, reducing the threshold diameter for certain Exceptional tree species, making the requirement for a geotechnical report discretionary when a tree on a steep slope is proposed for removal, and replacing the phrase “stand of trees” with “grove of trees.” T

Fiscal & Policy Implications

Costs updating the municipal code.

Alternatives

<i>Options</i>	<i>Results</i>
• Approve the Ordinance.	Adopt amendments to the Tree Code.
• Do not approve the Ordinance	Continue review and study of proposed amendments to the Tree Code.

Staff Recommendation

Approve and adopt Ordinance 1245 amending chapter 16.14 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code, Tree Canopy Preservation and Enhancement.