

Recommended Changes to Rollingwood Tree Maintenance Ordinance from the Tree Ordinance Subcommittee of the CRCRC.

1. Change the name of section to “Residential Landscape and Tree Canopy Management.”
Approved.
2. Introduce the concept of xeriscape landscape into the ordinance with some suggestions to consider regarding using native and adapted low water use plants, and drought tolerant turf grasses for lawns. (no regulations, only suggestions) “ **Landscape: Because the city experiences frequent drought conditions, low water demanding landscapes (Xeriscapes) are encouraged by using native and adapted low water use plants from the Grow Green Guide https://services.austintexas.gov/watershed_protection/publications/document.cfm?id=198301. Consideration should also be given to planting turfgrass on less than 50% of the landscaped areas, with turf grass preferably having summer dormancy capabilities such as Buffalo grass, Zoysia grass, or non-seeding varieties of Bermuda grass.” **Approved.****
3. Insert definition for a “heritage tree” category into ordinance with trees 24 inches in diameter measured 4 ½ feet above natural grade. **A heritage tree means a tree that has a diameter of 24 inches or more, measured four and one-half feet above natural grade, and is one of the protected species. **Approved.****
4. Change the criteria for planting alternatives to protected species (utility setback trees) to limit it to only areas 20 feet from a utility line. In other words, a protected species removed from setbacks, right of way and buildable area must be replaced with a protected species if not removed from the 20 ft utility setback area. **For protected trees planted removed from within 20 feet of an above-ground power, cable, or telephone line the following species can be used for replacement: These species CANNOT be used to replace a protected tree removed from areas that are not 20 feet from an above ground power cable, or telephone line. **Approved****
5. Adding a definition for Critical Root Zone (CRZ) that is area around tree trunk with a radius of one foot for every inch of diameter. **Critical Root Zone (CRZ) means an area around the trunk with a radius of one foot for every inch of trunk diameter. No construction or disturbance shall occur within an area that constitutes more than (50%) of the total critical root zone, and one half the radial distance of the CRZ for each tree being preserved as a protected tree or heritage tree. **Approved.****
6. Emphasize the role of a city arborist in the review, approval, and implementation of all tree removal permits. The definition of “City Arborist” used throughout has been amended to include a city development official. **City Arborist means an ISA certified arborist, or a development services officer of the city appointed by the city council to perform the duties of a city arborist. **Needs Review again.****
7. Remove Sections (d) and (e) of Section 107-373 as we believe all protected trees and heritage trees removed from a lot should be replaced on that lot, if possible, and unless a variance is obtained to replant elsewhere. **Approved.**
8. Removal of Heritage trees requires a **separate “Heritage Tree Removal Permit”** that can only be **approved** by a majority vote of the city council. **Approved**

9. (A proposal that the permit for removal of Protected trees and Heritage trees together with the replacement plan must be reviewed by the city arborist and approved before any demolition can occur on the lot). ~~Removed from Recommendations as redundant.~~ **Approved**
10. Protected trees removed from the buildable area must be replaced by one protected species tree. ~~Replacement of a Heritage tree removed from the buildable area with City Council approval must be replaced with one tree 6 inches in diameter, or more, for every 12 inches in diameter of the removed tree. For example: 24 inches = 2 trees, 36 inches = 3 trees, etc. to be replaced We will also come up with a definition of how to measure multi-trunk trees and branched trees , which occur below the 4 ½ foot measuring height.~~ **Needs to be reviewed again by CRCRC**
11. If a protected or heritage tree straddles the boundary between setback line and buildable area line, it shall be considered removed from the setback area if 25% or more of the trunk diameter is in the setback area. **Approved.**
12. An application for a tree removal permit must include a tree survey that shows all trees that are at least 12 inches in diameter 4 ½ feet above natural grade and indicate the Critical Root Zone of these trees as well. **Approved.**
13. Inserted statement that “the site plan and project design will preserve the existing natural character of the landscape and the retention of protective trees as much as possible. **Approved and moved to “Purpose Section.”**

Review at CRCRC meeting 2/3/24 ended here due to lack of time.

14. Either increase the maximum number of trees that need to be replaced to 10 or 12 or remove this limitation altogether. Currently it is 7 no matter what the size of the lot. See section 107-375 (h).
15. Change the requirement for replacement of protected trees removed from the setback areas to 2 replacement trees for each removed. Currently it is 3:1.
16. Development application requirements must include a tree survey indicating the location of all protected and heritage trees together with their CRZ. A protection plan must be submitted for these trees to include evidence that sufficient care must be demonstrated to ensure survival of these protected trees including adequate watering during construction.
17. All replacement trees must survive for at least three years, and the city arborist or other suitable city employee shall keep tract of these replacements, so that at 3 years post planting their survival and health can be assessed.
18. Include a section on intent to implement a program for the city, at its expense, to plant trees in the right of way of residences (with owner approval), and/or a program to plant “commemorative trees” on city property where the cost would come through citizen donations.
19. Section 107-380 requiring all vendors doing tree trimming, removal, or demolition, have a annual permit to do so from the city secretary should be enforced or removed from ordinance.