

Sec. 9-7. Tree board; regulations.

- (a) *Creation and establishment of a city tree board.* There is hereby created and established a city tree board which shall consist of nine (9) members, all of whom shall also be members of the park board.
- (b) *Term of office.* Each member of the city tree board shall serve for two (2) years, except for three (3) of the initial members appointed whose terms shall be for one (1) year and whose replacements shall be for two (2) years.
- (c) *Duties and responsibilities.* It shall be the responsibility of the board to study, investigate, counsel and develop and/or update annually, and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. Such plan will be presented annually to the city council and upon their acceptance and approval shall constitute the official comprehensive city tree plan for the city. The board, when requested by the city council, shall consider, investigate, make findings, report and recommend upon any special matter of question coming within the scope of its work.
- (d) *Meetings, chairman and quorum.* The tree board shall meet at least annually in conjunction with Arbor Day and at other times as necessary. At its first meeting, the tree board shall select a chairman. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum.
- (e) *Street tree species to be planted.* The following list constitutes the official street tree species for Grand Prairie. No species other than those included in this list may be planted as street trees without written permission of the city tree board.

TABLE INSET:

Small Trees	Medium Trees	Large Trees
Redbud	Golden Raintree	Live Oak
Crepe Myrtle	Bald Cypress	Bur Oak
Arizona Cypress	Sweetgum	Red Oak (Shumard)
Eastern Red Cedar	Caddo Maple	Chinese Pistachio
Mesquite	Big Tooth Maple	Cedar Elm
Mexican Plum	River Birch	Chinese Tallow
Aristocrat Pear	Southern Magnolia	Pecan
Eve's Necklace	Desert Willow	Pond Cypress
Holly varieties	Chinese Elm (Parvifolia)	Dawn Redwood
Native Persimmon	Thornless Honey Locust	Ginkgo
Rough Leaf Dogwood	Weeping Elm	
Texas Mountain Laurel	Western Soapberry	
Russian Olive	Eldarica Pine	

Althea	Marshall Seedless Ash	
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- (f) *Public tree care.* The city shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares and public grounds, as may be necessary to ensure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.

The city tree board may remove, or cause or order to be removed, any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest. This section does not prohibit the planting of street trees by adjacent property owners.

- (g) *Tree topping.* It shall be unlawful as a normal practice for any person or firm to top any street tree, park tree or other tree on public property. "Topping" is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three (3) inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical, are exempted from this section.
- (h) *Removal of stumps.* All stumps of street and park trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.
- (i) *Interference with city tree board.* It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, delay or interfere with the city tree board, or any of its agents, while engaging in and about the planting, cultivating, mulching, pruning, spraying or removing of any street trees or park trees, as authorized in this section.
- (j) *Definitions.* The following definitions shall apply to this section:
- (1) *Park trees* are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation in public parks, having individual names, or to which the public has free access as a city park.
  - (2) *Street trees* are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation on land lying between property lines on either side of all dedicated streets, avenues or ways within the city.
- (k) *Review by city council.* The city council shall have the right to review the conduct, acts and decisions of the city tree board. Any person may appeal from any ruling or order of the city tree board to the city council which may hear the matter and make final decision.
- (l) *Penalty.* Any person violating any provision of this section shall be, upon conviction or a plea of guilty, subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

(Ord. No. 3535, § 1, 11-15-83; Ord. No. 4669, § 1, 4-17-90; Ord. No. 5456, § 3, 8-1-95; Ord. No. 5631, § 1, 8-20-96)

Sec. 9-8. Perennial landscaping and maintenance in public right-of-way by neighborhood associations, clubs, organizations and corporations.

Any landscaping material provided in the public right-of-way by a neighborhood association, club, organization or corporation in the city shall conform to the following requirements:

- (1) The city may enter into a landscaping program with clubs, neighborhood associations, organizations and corporations to provide perennial plant material for the purpose of improving the aesthetics of the city's medians and gateways, as identified in the master thoroughfare plan of the city.
- (2) The landscaping program shall be a jointly sponsored project between the city and clubs, neighborhood associations, organizations and corporations in which the city may provide plant materials for planting, if available, and the clubs, neighborhood associations, organizations and corporations will also be responsible for planting, watering and weeding of the plant material during the growing seasons.
- (3) Landscaping is allowed in designated areas within city medians and gateways, as shown on the master thoroughfare plan of the city if such landscaping is approved by the director of parks and recreation of the city.
- (4) The clubs, neighborhood associations, organizations and corporations shall make application to the parks and recreation department. A recommended site shall be submitted with the application for review and consideration.
- (5) If the application is approved, a perennial landscape design plan shall be developed by the parks and recreation department. A plant list will be developed to identify the quantity, variety and size of the plant materials required for the landscape site.
- (6) The clubs, neighborhood associations, organizations and corporations will provide all labor, materials and equipment required to prepare the planting bed.
- (7) At the time of planting, the clubs, neighborhood associations, organizations and corporations will be responsible for the delivery of the plant materials to the planting site as allocated by the city.
- (8) The clubs, neighborhood associations, organizations and corporations will be responsible for providing protection of plant material from damage or loss prior to installation in the designated area or areas.

- (9) The parks and recreation department shall determine the appropriate planting seasons for this program based on accepted horticultural standards for the variety of plant materials proposed for each site.
- (10) Installation of plant materials in the designated area or areas must be completed within twenty-one (21) days after the plant materials have been received from the city.
- (11) The clubs, neighborhood associations, organizations and corporations will be responsible for weeding the planted bed a minimum of two (2) times per year.
- (12) Landscape areas shall contain an automatic underground irrigation system. The system shall be designed by a certified irrigator and plans submitted for review to the parks and recreation department.
- (13) No landscaping material provided for in the right-of-way shall exceed thirty (30) inches in height from the street gutter flow line, as stipulated in the thirty-foot visibility triangle.

(Ord. No. 4327, § 1, 3-1-88; Ord. No. 5631, § 2, 8-20-96)

**Cross references:** Divisions and director of parks and recreation established, § 2-70; land development, Ch. 14; parks and recreation, Ch. 18; streets, alleys, sidewalks, Ch. 23; trees, shrubs and sight obstructions, § 23-5.