

DRAFT

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Goals for Recommended Changes to Article X Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance

- Revise the purpose statement to reflect current and projected needs for a Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance.
- Establish a Department of Urban Forestry by FY 2012.
- Remove and/or replace words and phrases in the definitions section of the ordinance that are vague and leave application and enforcement to interpretation. Construct a working document where the letter of the ordinance and the spirit of the ordinance are synonymous. Add the appropriate definitions to terms corresponding to recommended changes.
- Where practical, restructure ordinance to contain reference Tables that can be revised without formally amending the ordinance.
- Significantly increase the number of tree species in the Approved Replacement Tree List to encourage a more diverse urban forest.
- Create tools to provide neighborhoods a method to form districts with landscape and tree conservation regulations that are more restrictive than Article X.
- Provide city arborists tools for more affective tree protection and full enforcement during construction.
- Incentivize the conservation of mature trees as opposed to removal and mitigation.
- Create alternative, incentivized method of determining tree mitigation based on the sustainability of the developed site.
- Incentivize the use of native plants and drought tolerant plants.
- Establish a “First Step” conceptual site design review between developer and city arborist to determine conservation opportunities that can reduce mitigation costs.
- Require landscape design and tree mitigation that avoids utility/tree canopy conflicts.
- Provide adequate planting areas for trees to develop a root system that supports a mature tree canopy.
- Provide the city arborist the authority to modify or make exception to mandatory landscaping requirements when real site conditions make specific requirements impractical.
- Increase the ratio of parking lot trees to parking spaces, and allow for a greater reduction in parking spaces when site design includes sustainable landscaping.
- Incentivize tree transplantation and “tree banking” as a form of mitigation.
- Standardize inconsistencies that address tree preservation and conservation.
- Recommend changes for the use of the Reforestation Fund.
- Create an Article X handbook for developers.
- Create an Article X handbook for homeowners.