

Tree Ordinance Evaluation¹ Checklist^{2,3,4}

Local Government: _____ Ordinance Name: _____ Date Adopted: _____
 Check all that apply _____ Municipality or Other On-line Source: _____ Evaluated by: _____

Check	Component or Standard	Description (Requirements/Restriction/Permission)
Administrative		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activate Ordinance	The permitting, protection and replacement components of the ordinance begin when the developer/owner applies for a land disturbance permit, building permit, preliminary plat approval, or similar activity.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Procedures	Organized administration of the law; Permits, guidelines, inspections.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appeals (Reviews)	The process for appealing applicability, interpretation; Review process.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Authority Specified ⁴	Legislative or promulgation authority is specified in the ordinance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget	Budget authorized/required for tree board, tree maintenance, or tree planting.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Definitions	Arboricultural and tree related definitions are referenced or included in the ordinance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enforcement Mechanism ²	Enforcement mechanism and authority (i.e. stop work) for compliance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inspection	May be: post-inventory/survey inspection required; pre-plan approval inspection required; Inspection of tree requirements prior to issuance of certificate of occupancy (CO).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Management Position ²	City forester, city arborist, tree manager position required by ordinance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Penalties	Disincentives in place to encourage compliance/compensate public.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Performance Bond	Bond required for trees or landscaping; specific \$ per tree assessed for bond.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Board or Commission ²	Establishes a board for public participation (advisory or with authority).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Removal Permit	Permit required for tree removals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Protection	Requires protection of conserved (credited) trees during construction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timber Harvesting Regulation ²	Permit/bond may be required for timber harvesting within the urban/interface area; other forest management restrictions.

¹ Adopted from the LSU Green Laws Standards ([www. HTTP://WWW.GREENLAWS.LSU.EDU/](http://www.greenlaws.lsu.edu/)).
² Indicates a standard added to the original LSU list by USDA Forest Service.
³ Review and revisions by Connie Head, Technical Forestry Services, Commerce, Georgia.
⁴ 2006 revisions based on APA Zoning Practice Vol. 23 No. 7; Got Trees?

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Protection Mechanism⁴		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Tree	Ordinance protection based on tree size or species.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Canopy	Ordinance establishes minimum canopy coverage of the developed site; either current or based on some future time (i.e. with growth).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Density	Ordinance protection uses a formula and relies on some form of tree (stem) density (e.g. number of trees/acre or basal area/acre).
Applicability		
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Development	Tree protection/replacement on new developments (residential, commercial).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-development (Private)	Ordinance applies to trees on private property when not related to construction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Property	Ordinance addresses publicly owned trees.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Safety Issues (Private)	Ordinance addresses risk and hazard (trees) whether on public or private property.
Exemptions		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural Operations	Requirements waived for removal or maintenance of trees to support agricultural activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Tree Operations	Trees grown specifically for sale, such as Christmas trees and nursery stock
<input type="checkbox"/>	Detention Ponds & Drainage Areas	Exemption or development site credit given for stormwater control areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Management	The ordinance has exemptions for tree management in emergency situations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Imminent Hazards	Property owners must abate imminent hazards; property owners may address hazard prior to permit application if permit required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Infill and Redevelopment Addressed ⁴	Ordinance includes language (and methods) to either exempt or establish a lower standard for tree protection on small lots.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Family Residential Lots	Ordinance requirements waived when a single residential lot is being developed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utility Related	Exemption for the installation, repair or maintenance of above and below ground utilities.
Environmental		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carbon Accounting (Offsets, Credit) ⁴	Community's carbon sequestration program/policy has a connection to the tree ordinance in some form.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disposal or Recycling	On-site or off-site recycling of wood waste, or disposal restrictions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open Space	In a development, the area set aside for permanent protection; also referred to as greenspace.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protect Sensitive Areas	Preservation of wetlands, steep slopes, prime or fragile soils.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Zones ²	Additional tree protection required in riparian zones; Buffers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil Protection (Conservation) ²	Soil protection or replacement (in excess of other state environmental laws for erosion & sedimentation).

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Stormwater Credit ²	Provides credit for tree reduction in stormwater runoff (directly or indirectly measured).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woodland/Forest (Requirement, Credit) ⁴	Requirement or development site credit for undisturbed, and protected sites (e.g. by conservation easement in perpetuity).
Inventory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canopy Inventory ²	Periodic canopy inventory and assessment required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inventory and Evaluation	Predevelopment inventory and evaluation for permit(s); or Periodic.
Plan Requirements		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Management Plan ²	Requires initial or periodic management plan; Planning process.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Retention and Replacement Plan	On development sites, a plan is required for retention or protection of existing trees, an/or a plan for tree replacement or tree planting.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Planting Plans	Plans required for planting on public lands.
Retain, Remove, Replace		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Off-site Mitigation ⁴	Ordinance tree requirements can be made off-site (as an alternative to paying into a Tree Bank (Fund)).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Speculative Clearing	Clear-cutting to prepare property for sale or development is prohibited; may be a time limit or waiting period specified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Bank ² (Fund)	Provisions for payment into a fund to establish trees on public property; or, off-site planting in lieu of on-site planting.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Formula	Incentives for saving tree cover (Individual tree or canopy); Formula; Tree Density Requirement.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Preservation (Conservation)	Requires some minimum preservation of trees on development sites.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Survival Requirement	Survivability (or planted trees) must be guaranteed for a specified period of time.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Street Trees	Street trees required on commercial, or industrial, residential development streets.
Standards		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ANSI	Reference is made to ANSI Standards for arboricultural practices, safety, or Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1) (any or all).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arborist Standards	Standards of practice for arborists (i.e. Certification).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Best Management Practices ²	Establishes or references tree maintenance BMPs (i.e. comprehensive standards).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canopy Cover Goals ²	Canopy cover standards established.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Design Standards	Standards for design that specifically require trees; standards for tree placement (i.e. location).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fertilization and Mulching	Fertilization or mulching standards required for conserved & planted trees.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Irrigation	Irrigation required for tree planting on new development sites.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minimum Planting Area	Minimum required root zone area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minimum Tree Size	Minimum caliper for tree replacements, and/or minimum size of existing trees to receive tree density or canopy credit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Native Tree Preference ⁴	Preference or requirement for all or portion of planting to be native species. Or tree preservation of natives indicated.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parking Lot Tree Requirement	Ordinance specifically addresses tree requirements (e.g. density, species, location, or spacing) for parking lots.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting Standards	Planting and transplanting standards required/specified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pruning Standards	Pruning standards required for conserved & planted trees.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Removal Standards	Infrastructure damage, stump grinding, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Root Barriers?	Required for specified planting sites.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Root Protection Zone (CRZ)	Defines adequate root protection zone; Critical Root Zone (CRZ).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Species Diversity	Suggests or requires diversity of plant material.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structural Soils?	Required for specified planting sites.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Topping	Prohibits topping or other internodal cuts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Quality Standards	Written standards for tree selection at nursery in addition to Z60.1.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Species List	Identifies and publishes a list of the most desirable, recommended, and/or preferred species (may include native and non-native species); alternatively, a list of species prohibited.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utility ROW Management	Requirements for planting, pruning, and/or removal of trees within a utility ROW.
Tree Designations		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landmark Trees	Preserve historic, unique and ancient trees.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Trees	Covers trees in parks and in public spaces (other than streets).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prohibited Species	Identifies species not desirable in the community.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protected Trees	Provides additional protection based on sizes or species.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Species	Identifies most desirable species (native and exotic).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shade Tree/Canopy Tree	Designation of trees based on their crown position in the canopy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Specimen Tree	Tree of a high or special quality or a tree of a specific species and/or size defined by the community.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Storm Resistant	Identifies or requires species that can withstand storms (e.g. wind and ice).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Street Trees	Regulates the care and/or protection of street trees.