



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

April 2, 2024

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**SUBJECT: ORDINANCES AND PRACTICES RELATED TO THE PLANTING OF
NATIVE TREES AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING**

This report is in response to City Council's request to provide information on ordinances and practices related to the planting of native trees and native landscaping.

Landscaping on Private Property

The Zoning Ordinance (Appendix A, Chapter 6, Article 3, Section 6.301) specifies landscaping requirements for new construction, additions of more than 3,000 square feet, and floor area expansions of at least 30 percent. These requirements are applicable to commercial, institutional, industrial, and manufactured home developments. The Development Services Department reviews landscape plans for compliance when building permit applications are submitted. The utilization of native plantings is one of two options that may be utilized to meet the landscaping requirement. A minimum of 10% of net site area for commercial and institutional developments and a minimum of 4% of the net site area for industrial and manufactured home developments shall be landscaped by using one of the following methods:

1. One shrub, a minimum of five gallons in size, for every 50 square feet, or fraction thereof, of required landscape; or
2. For every 75 square feet, or fraction thereof, of required landscape area, a cluster of **native shrubs and/or grasses**, consisting of a minimum of five plants, three gallon in size and grouped with similar watering requirements from the approved native plant list. Where this option is chosen, temporary irrigation may be utilized.

Tree Planting on Private Property

The Zoning Ordinance (Appendix A, Chapter 6, Article 3, Section 6.302) specifies requirements for the planting of trees when trees are removed and to establish additional tree canopy in pursuit of the city's 30% tree canopy coverage goal. The Development Services Department reviews urban forestry plans for compliance prior to the permitted removal of trees or when building permit applications are submitted, whichever occurs first. In relation to trees, the ordinance contains a table of "desirable and adapted trees for the Fort Worth area". The majority of these trees are considered "native" to our region's environment with a select few being considered adaptable for our area. The city forester and urban forester may consider other tree species on a case-by-case basis.

Tree Planting on Park Property and in Public Rights-of-Way

The Park and Recreation Department has oversight for the planting of trees on park property and in public rights-of-way. The department utilizes a recommended planting list that is similar to the list in the Zoning Ordinance.

For additional information, please contact D.J. Harrell, Development Services Director at 817-392-8032 or LaShondra Stringfellow, Assistant Director at 817-392-6214.

David Cooke
City Manager