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**To:** Planning Commission  
**From:** Loren Gordon, AICP, City Planner  
**Date:** Sept. 30, 2021  
**Subject:** Change Memo for the Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission Agenda

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**ITEM 8B – Ordinance regarding tree protection**

- The following comments was provided after the packet was distributed.
- The tree protection ordinance survey responses as of Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> are attached.

**From:** sabrina Harvey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 8:57 AM  
**To:** Susan Thomas <sthomas@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed tree ordinance

Hello Susan,

I have read the ordinance and taken the survey. I commend Minnetonka for caring for it's natural environment. It seems lowering the size thresholds for tree classification and adding new minimums for significant tree removal and removal during redevelopment are good things. But I have some concerns/questions:

1. Is it wise to classify trees only by size and not include species? There are species more valuable than others due climate suitability, value to wildlife, and resistance to pests and diseases.
2. I like that the city is proposing a penalty if a property owner is not able to plant all the mitigation trees on the property. But why not make that penalty mandatory, rather than at the "sole discretion of the city"?
3. Section 7c1 appears to give the city council a lot of power to remove trees if they perceive something else as a larger public good. How is "larger public good" going to be determined?
4. Section 8c says significant trees can be replaced by any tree approved by city staff. Why not make the criteria for tree selection the same as for high priority trees?
4. I'd like to see the city offer guidance, or link to a resource that can offer guidance, regarding trees that are best suited to our climate, to climate change, to specific conditions (light, soil type, moisture, etc.), and wildlife value.
6. And I'd love to see the city offer more incentives to property owners to preserve and plant trees - on their own property or even public property

Could you let me know the schedule and process for approving the ordinance? Will there be a time that these questions can be discussed publicly?

Thank you.

Sabrina Harvey

**From:** [Friends of Minnetonka Parks](#)  
**To:** [Loren Gordon](#); [Brad Wiersum](#); [Bradley Schaeppi](#); [Brian Kirk](#); [Susan Carter](#); [Kissy Coakley](#); [Rebecca Schack](#); [Deborah Calvert](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Tree Ordinance  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 9:32:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [TreeOrdinanceLetter 09 29 21.pdf](#)

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All,

We are writing to you regarding the Draft Tree Ordinance. Mr. Gordon please share this information with the Planning Commission.

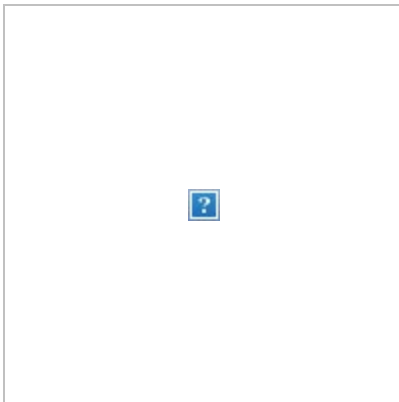
The time is right for engaging the public about the tree ordinance and we support your work on it.

The issues involving the ordinance are weighty, complex and nuanced and need substantial discussion with stakeholders to the issues such as Minnetonka government, home owners, developers and those that care about and use our parks, trails and open spaces. The timeline for feedback is very short—too short for adequate discussion we feel. Can this process be slowed down for more input and discussion? Also the way the information is presented is very challenging to decipher. Since the 2008 ordinance is not included, residents cannot compare the two very easily. It would have been much clearer if the authors of the new version would have utilized “track changes” to make the changes more transparent. This would have better facilitated the understanding of the key elements of the proposed ordinance and the suggested changes.

We look forward to continued discussion of this important ordinance.

John Mirocha, President

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Dear City of Minnetonka Planning Commission,

We are writing to you regarding the draft Tree Ordinance.

The time is right for engaging the public about the tree ordinance and we support your work on it. The issues involving the ordinance are weighty, complex and nuanced and need substantial discussion with stakeholders to the issues such as Minnetonka government, home owners, developers and those that care about and use our parks, trails and open spaces. The timeline for feedback is very short—too short for adequate discussion we feel. Can this process be slowed down for more input and discussion? Also the way the information is presented is very challenging to decipher. Since the 2008 ordinance is not included, residents cannot compare the two very easily. It would have been much clearer if the authors of the new version would have utilized “track changes” to make the changes more transparent. This would have better facilitated the understanding of the key elements of the proposed ordinance and the suggested changes.

Has the city considered having more active public engagement on the proposed ordinance by holding a town hall meetings, focus groups or other activities? The short survey in Minnetonka Matters is a good start to engagement but much more is needed.

We have discussed the proposed ordinance as a board of directors and offer these observations and questions to encourage a wider and deeper discussion and education of the issues rather than to promote or lobby for any specific outcomes other than better understanding and involvement.

#### Our Observations and Questions

The proposed ordinance:

1. Doesn't adequately state a goal of strongly planning for climate resiliency. Should it be stated more directly throughout the proposed ordinance?
2. Seems to lower size thresholds for categorizations as high priority and significant trees. What is to be gained by this? Has the city intentionally lowered the size threshold by removing language excepting mostly less desirable species and considered the possible consequences? Here's the language that was removed in 4j2: “High priority tree” ... a deciduous tree that is at least 15 inches dbh, except ash, box elders, elm species, poplar species, willow, silver maple, black locust, Amur maple, fruit tree species, mulberry, and Norway maple. The proposed ordinance says 10” dbh, with no species specification. So, on a property, all the giant silver maples would have higher priority than the oak, basswood, ironwood, etc.? It appears that less desirable trees may become the highest priority trees on a property based solely on size. Is the point that more trees get considered high priority based only on size and more limits have been placed on removal? Have you assessed the ecological implications of replacing truly significant trees such as oaks with less significant trees that are just larger? Can this practice lead to forest decline?
3. Adds a threshold (there wasn't one before) for removal of significant trees. What is to be gained by this?
4. Adds a threshold for removal when redeveloping a single family home. So in the case of replacing a smaller home with a larger one, residents can only remove 25-35% of the trees, until 2 years later, when apparently they could clear cut the entire property. How were the numbers determined? What if several home are being remodeled in a neighborhood? Do the percentages still apply? Is there consideration for incentives to homeowners and developers to preserve as many trees as possible at the time of development and on an ongoing basis?

5. If the required mitigation trees won't fit on one's lot, there's a new provision that requires residents to contribute money to the city's natural resources fund. It is not clear what criteria will be used in the phrase "at the sole discretion of the city" or what the cash amount will be. Where does this money go and how is it used?
6. Section 7c1 appears to give the city council a lot of power to remove trees if they perceive something else as a larger public good. It is not clear how this would be used in a practical situation. What is meant by the public good? Who determines this?
7. Section 8c suggests that replacing significant trees with any approved species should be approved by city staff. Can you explain why different criteria is used for high priority trees? Has the city considered granting some kind of incentive for homeowners/developers to maintain trees (not invasive or unhealthy) on their lot and to plant more trees, or to offer vouchers for the annual tree sale when , for example, road construction activities take down trees and they are not replaced like lawn irrigation and pet containment systems?
8. Addresses the city's tree cover. Is referencing the percent of tree cover city-wide adequate? It seems to be much more nuanced.
  - a. Has the city considered unique recommendations for residential/commercial properties versus parks and open space?
  - b. Does the city have a comprehensive residential/commercial tree coverage map that includes a breakdown of tree species, coverage by area/ward in the city? For residential/commercial areas, a comprehensive map would identify where more tree cover is needed based upon known threats and possibilities for mitigation (development, tree disease, noise pollution from highways). For example, a neighborhood with a 50-90% tree cover of species highly susceptible to pests or diseases such as ash trees would be mapped for low resiliency and tree cover.
  - c. What best management practices should be considered such as necessary tree removals/harvesting to meet ecological restoration goals and long term climate resiliency?
  - d. Could the city improve the Tree Sale supply? The annual tree sale does not supply the needs of the community and we are therefore not reaching capacity to reforest our community. If supply issues continue, then should trees be planted in neighborhoods with the greatest need (high percentage of ash trees, low tree cover, buffering from roadways, pollution mitigation)? Could this be addressed through a different tree sale? Has the city considered offering bare root trees instead of large, potted trees? The DNR supplies these at a very reasonable price. For the same cost as purchasing the large, 6' trees, the sale could offer at a minimum 10 times as many trees and better satisfy resident demand. Bare root trees are inexpensive, easy for residents to transport in their cars, and easy to plant. For critical keystone species such as oaks, the survival rate is also much higher than potted trees
9. Mentions the Woodland Preservation Area. Has the city considered providing a public map of the Woodland Preservation Areas (WPA)? Right now, a homeowner might have no idea if part of their property is designated as a WPA. A homeowner cannot help protect trees and follow ordinance requirements if a WPA occurs on their property if it is not identified as such. How can the proposed ordinance fix the loophole: 25% of trees in a WPA can be cut, as stated in 7b? When a resident sells the property, the next homeowner can cut 25% of the trees even if the home is in a WPA?
10. Refers to a tree Species Rating System. Has the city considered updating the high priority and significant tree list to ensure that developers are not credited with saving invasive species or trees highly susceptible to known diseases, for example, ash trees? The list could include a rating system of climate resiliency and ecosystem functionality (how well does that tree species support wildlife). Has the city factored in keystone species (species of trees that provide the most

ecological function) and species that are predicted to be climate resilient? (See DNR document link below). Has the city considered using a rating system such as:

- the tree is native or not.
  - if the tree is considered a terrestrial invasive species or restricted noxious weed. The city could provide a published list to developers and homeowners.
  - if the tree is susceptible to a known pest such as dutch elm disease or emerald ash borer.
  - if the tree is considered undesirable and will impede growth of more desirable trees, for example, box elder.
11. Allows homeowners to clear cut their properties. Has the city discussed how this might affect the environmental resiliency of our city in the face of climate change? Could the proposed ordinance include a similar rating system for homeowners to help guide their decisions, such as a list of desirable trees (and explanation as to why they are desirable) and a list of undesirable trees (with explanations)? Has the city considered providing guidance and recommendations for tree removal on private property such as an extensive tree species removal list that includes all state-listed invasive terrestrial species and restricted noxious weeds, and undesirable native tree species such as box elder, ash, and elm? Homeowners might remove these species without any restrictions. A short list of high value, extremely desirable species such as oak trees would require similar replacement requirements as redevelopment. The city could develop habitat specific lists for homeowners such as trees for flooded areas, wet areas, dry areas etc. Those could be included in the ordinance and updated periodically as new climate resiliency information becomes available.
12. Does not seem to include tree protection monitoring and enforcement during redevelopment. Should the city strengthen the requirements for developers to protect trees during construction? Currently, protective fencing in the critical root zone is often removed for final grading, resulting in heavy equipment compacting soil on tree root systems. This negates any previous benefit of protection. Can the proposed ordinance improve the monitoring and enforcement of tree protection during construction such as periodic check-ins to ensure that adequate fencing is in place restricting activity in the critical root zone? Are the replacement requirements currently enforced? The city holds an escrow if builders violate the tree ordinance (harm or kill trees). Does the proposed ordinance cover what happens if builders do not follow through to ensure that new trees are planted to replace the ones lost? Has there ever been an example of when the city did not return the escrowed amount?
13. Does not seem to cover the long term assessment and metrics of ordinance outcomes. Should the city consider evaluating development projects 8 years or older to assess outcomes (tree loss) from construction? It takes at least 5-7 years for a large oak tree to die from construction-related damage. If we aren't measuring outcomes, how do we know if the current tree ordinance is working?

#### Additional Considerations

- The DNR has developed helpful material. Please review ([Trees Likely to Thrive](#) and [Best Yard Trees for Changing Climate](#)).
- Reviewing and discussing ideas from the Green Step Cities' [sample tree ordinance](#). (The city is a member of Green Step Cities.)
- Discuss whether all trees are equal in the value. For example, is there some rating system for tree species, or are all [non-invasive] species of trees "equal"?
- How might this ordinance be applied to restoration projects in parks, such as the Cullen Nature Preserve, where many trees will be removed? (The ordinance does apply to more than just development.) Should there be different considerations and criteria for projects like this that are part educational and research-oriented?

- Is the city subject to the same ordinance as others? Why or why not? Who holds the city accountable for their work in our forests?

We applaud the city for addressing the updating of the tree ordinance. The effects of climate change will clearly be a game changer for our city's forests. New ideas and behaviors will be required of all of us who live, work and recreate here. There are many questions needing further discussion as you can see from our very quick review.

We believe that the process of adopting the ordinance be slowed down so that there can be wider and more in-depth public discussion and education around the complex, weighty and nuanced issues.

**From:** Carol Schwarzkopf [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 10:51 AM  
**To:** Susan Thomas <sthomas@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Cc:** Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Susan Carter [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Tree Protection Ordinance

Hi- the link to the survey didn't work so here is my feedback on the proposed tree ordinance:

\*First and foremost, I believe this process should be carefully considered and that we should consider what other cities have successfully implement as well as consider the GreenStep Cities Model Landscape Ordinance <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/media/8>

\*Please avail yourselves of the many bright scientific minds within the city that have spent their professional lives keeping up with best practices. They are our best resources!

\*I'd like to know more about the Natural Resource Fund - The proposed ordinance requires a cash contribution to the natural resources fund for those mitigation trees that cannot be "fit" on a site....sounds like a good idea but how does that look in practice.

\*Who enforces this ordinance-how is that data collected, stored, etc?

\*Is there a separate ordinance for homeowners and developers? The GreenStep Cities AnyCity Landscape Guide seems to make sense as it "includes a comprehensive compilation of best practices and technical requirements. It is intended to serve as a one-stop portal of important information for all of the actors in the development review process."

\*What about incentives? Would they help to encourage homeowners and developers toward best practices?

Thanks for making this a priority-I know it's been a necessary step for many years.

Respectfully,  
Carol Schwarzkopf  
[REDACTED]



# Tree Protection Ordinance Survey

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

28 August 2021 - 26 September 2021

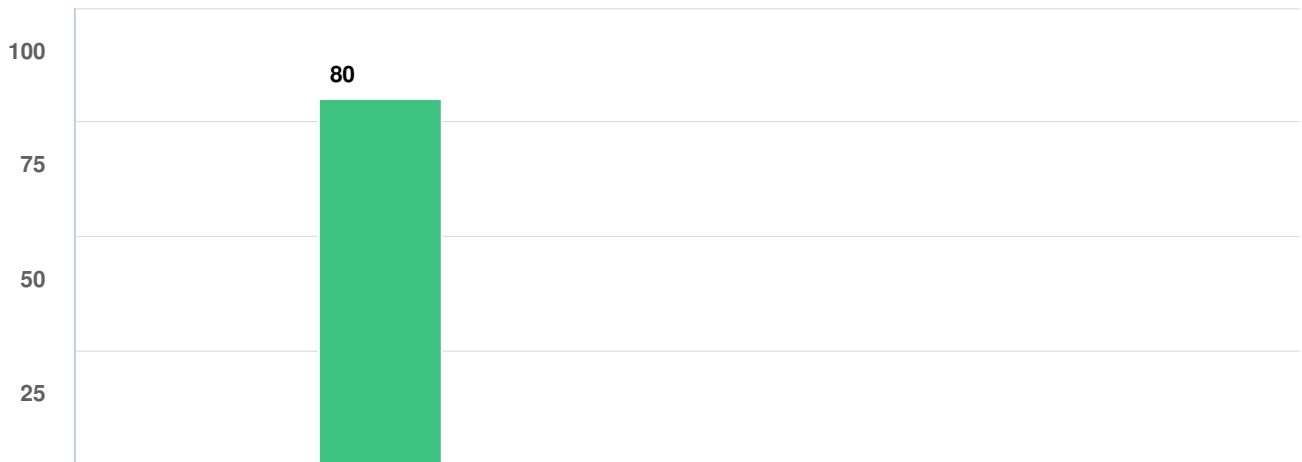
### **PROJECT NAME:**

Tree Protection Ordinance



SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1 Are you a resident of the City of Minnetonka?**

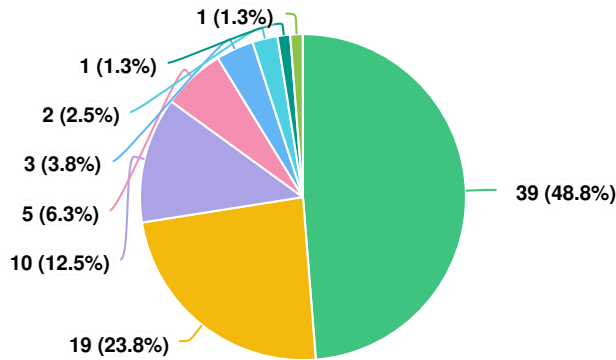


**Question options**

- Yes
- No

Mandatory Question (80 response(s))  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q2 What is your zip code?**

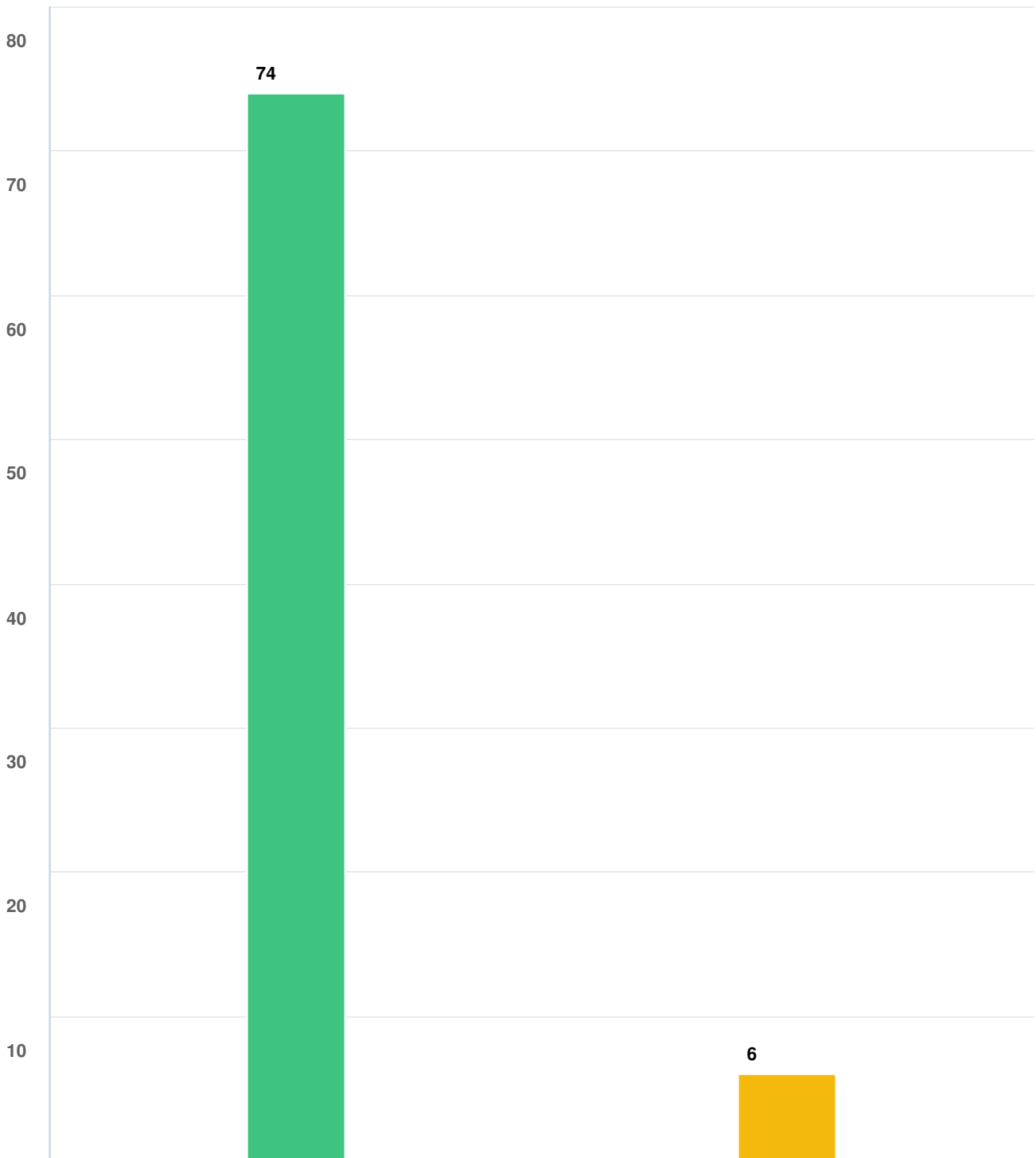


**Question options**

- Minnetonka, MN 55345
- Minnetonka, MN 55305
- Minnetonka, MN 55343
- Wayzata, MN 55391
- Hopkins, MN 55343
- Hopkins, MN 55345
- Hopkins, MN 55305
- Excelsior, MN 55331

Mandatory Question (80 response(s))  
Question type: Region Question

**Q3** Are you aware of the city's tree replanting efforts, including the annual tree sale, memorial tree planting and volunteer parking planting events?

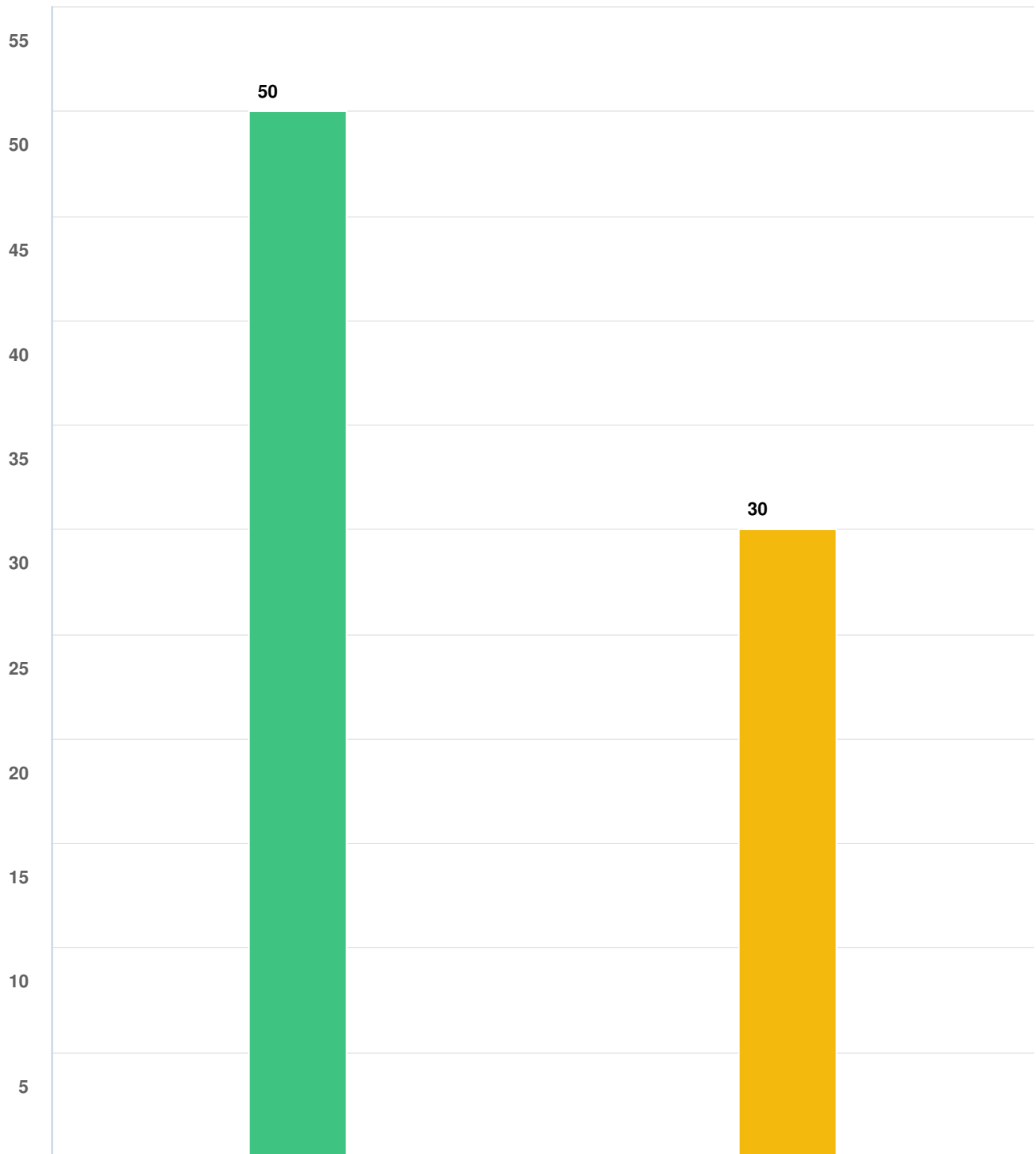


**Question options**

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (80 response(s), 0 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question*

**Q4** Are you familiar with the city's Plant Pest Program and efforts to manage tree diseases?



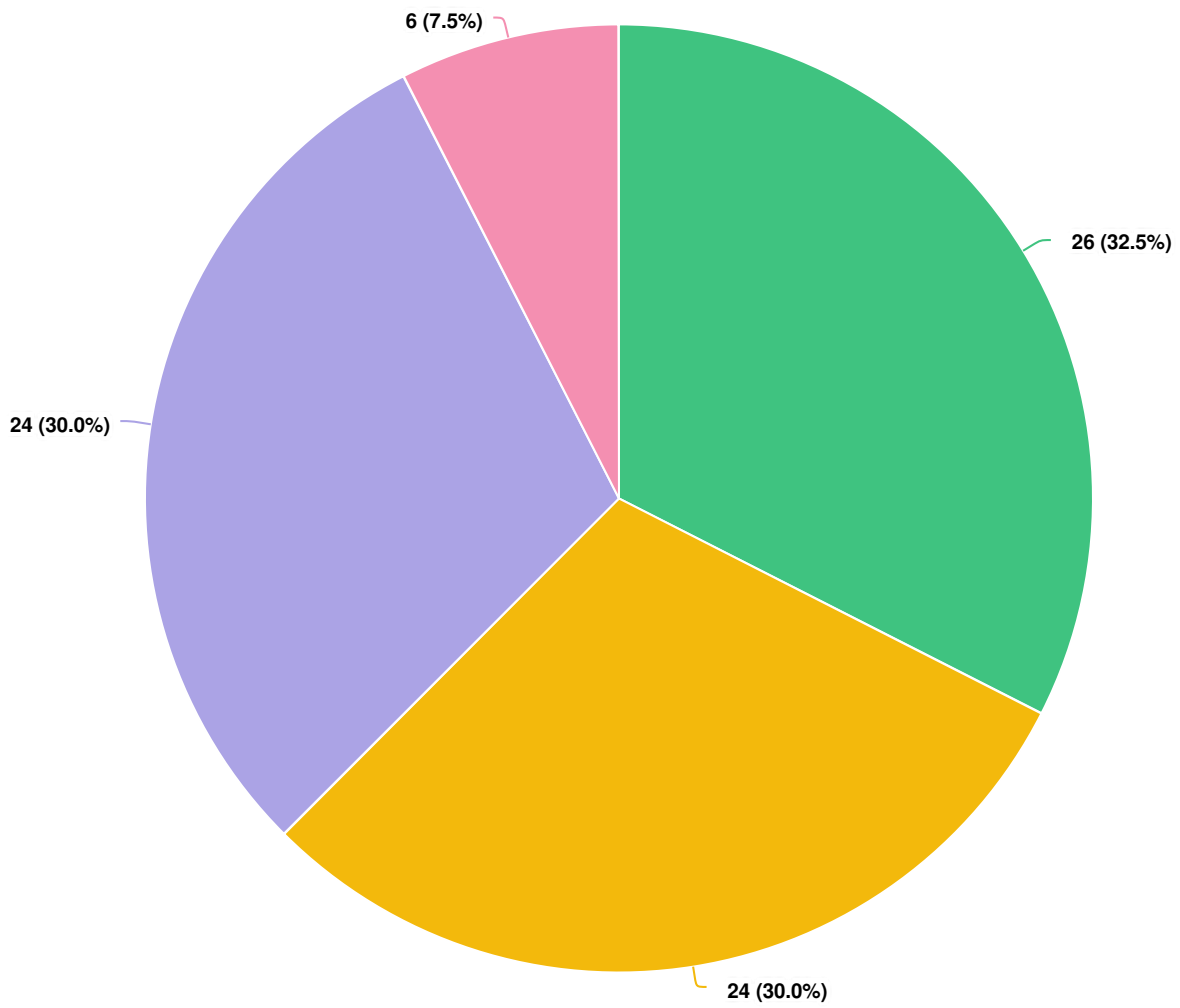
**Question options**

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (80 response(s), 0 skipped)*

*Question type: Checkbox Question*

**Q5** What do you consider the most important when it comes to tree protection?



**Question options**

- Limiting tree removal
- Maintaining the existing tree canopy
- Expanding the tree canopy
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (80 response(s), 0 skipped)  
Question type: Dropdown Question

**Q6** What do you believe are the greatest threats to the community's tree and tree canopy?

Gayle

9/24/2021 06:13 AM

New construction

aaronscholl2009

9/24/2021 06:13 AM

New construction homes

Trish22

9/24/2021 06:19 AM

Developers and home builders

Teeps

9/24/2021 06:21 AM

Tree infestations, Tree removal with new building

dougandsandyjohnson

9/24/2021 06:23 AM

Redevelopment tree removal; both residential and commercial.

ldtmtka

9/24/2021 06:27 AM

Home construction, both new and remodeling. Lot subdivision and larger homes

Timmington

9/24/2021 06:29 AM

Tree removal for building

alexkossett

9/24/2021 06:31 AM

Development, pests, and climate change

Bob

9/24/2021 06:31 AM

Unnecessary and illegal tree removal be developers and replacement of trees that have died due to climate change

Jayna Locke

9/24/2021 06:31 AM

Climate change, pests, and development

LB

9/24/2021 06:32 AM

Disease and development

Lisa

9/24/2021 06:35 AM

Removal due to development, climate change, invasive pests

mollystern

9/24/2021 06:36 AM

Climate Change, Development

jimlind

9/24/2021 06:39 AM

Plant diseases compounded by climate change as well as new construction and expanded roads removing well established trees.

Amy Duncan Lingo

9/24/2021 06:53 AM

Climate, pests, uncontrolled (thoughtless) building, single sex species of trees (makes allergies so much worse)

Singing Bear

9/24/2021 07:06 AM

Construction

Jim H

9/24/2021 07:15 AM

Pests and development involving tree removal

Michael

9/24/2021 07:18 AM

Lack of new tree planting is the greatest threat. Trees don't live forever and many die well before their time so start planting new trees along boulevards and roadways. You cannot win the battle through loss prevention.

tom tree

9/24/2021 07:19 AM

pest

JaxieBoy13

9/24/2021 07:29 AM

Tear downs of existing homes to build bigger homes that take up most of the lot

spumilia

9/24/2021 07:34 AM

The city.

farleyhm

9/24/2021 07:36 AM

disease

djgaley

9/24/2021 07:37 AM

disease

EC1

9/24/2021 07:39 AM

DeveDeveloper appetite for building and lack of progressive thinking on part of city officials and staff.



fhblab

9/24/2021 07:40 AM

pests/climate change

Jesseamber

9/24/2021 07:40 AM

Development, pests and diseases

Yockers

9/24/2021 07:47 AM

Climate change, lack of a more aggressive strategy to replace trees in Minnetonka

Kevin

9/24/2021 07:56 AM

Pests and development

Kade

9/24/2021 08:20 AM

New construction and home removal/new construction

agruber

9/24/2021 08:20 AM

Residential, commercial, and agricultural expansion at the expense of natural habitat

lucdave

9/24/2021 08:34 AM

neighbors not taking prevention for emerald ash borer, new development not saving some trees

Citizen

9/24/2021 08:45 AM

I suspect that climate change will hit some of our trees hard due to temperature stress and different insects. Anything we can do to enhance resilience is worth considering.

Chuck

9/24/2021 09:01 AM

New construction and redevelopment

Betty & Don Cooke

9/24/2021 09:17 AM

Land development and tree diseases. We are particularly concerned about potential tree removal due to land developers.

kvv

9/24/2021 09:22 AM

Residents who do not share the city's respect for trees

Peg Houle

9/24/2021 09:31 AM

Overdevelopment and climate change are the greatest threats.

Jay

9/24/2021 09:45 AM

Climate change. Tree pests and disease.

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mdvorak

9/24/2021 09:50 AM

Tree disease

KAW

9/24/2021 09:54 AM

New Construction! So many trees are taken down for multiple houses that were previously a single home property.

dpdeering

9/24/2021 09:54 AM

Subdividing Lots

Parkyj1

9/24/2021 09:58 AM

Building all these new apartment buildings in the Opus area

Kimh

9/24/2021 10:21 AM

Development putting in short lived trees, and NOT managing buckthorn and replacing w natives on project sites.

KathyP

9/24/2021 10:34 AM

Insect infestation buckthorn

BLH

9/24/2021 10:37 AM

Climate change, development and above-ground power line trimming

pcradell

9/24/2021 10:37 AM

Residents not taking care of their woods, invasive species, and development

SHarvey

9/24/2021 10:49 AM

Development, invasive species, climate change and disease

tcbrown

9/24/2021 11:14 AM

Developers and the failure by city councils to hold them accountable (a developer can promise x number of trees but then, after approval, change plans). Failure to inoculate trees at risk. Stupidity.

Eric

9/24/2021 11:49 AM

Global warming; invasive species competition; inadequate investment in tree planting; lack of education of populace about planting trees to mitigate global warming.

Mary R

Cutting on private property; once wooded lots are being turned into

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9/24/2021 12:41 PM

stretches of grass.

Dale

Disease

9/24/2021 01:49 PM

Robert Werner

Invasive tree pests

9/24/2021 02:08 PM

Klwenne

Construction/developers/road widening

9/24/2021 03:37 PM

BDB

Age of the trees

9/24/2021 05:18 PM

Ruth Carp

development

9/24/2021 05:19 PM

Cate

construction and development, climate change, pests

9/24/2021 05:19 PM

Larry Koch

New construction that causes removal of existing trees unnecessarily.

9/24/2021 06:25 PM

Gilman77

Development and pests

9/24/2021 07:51 PM

Diane Bancroft

pests and new developments

9/24/2021 09:33 PM

CelticChica

Removing what may be considered "low value" trees in parks like box elders, which provide protection during drought conditions

9/24/2021 09:54 PM

joshnpowell

Pests, disease, and development

9/25/2021 03:39 AM

Kj.anderson3311

Diseases, Development, Pests,

9/25/2021 06:19 AM

Nikki W

New developments and disease

9/25/2021 06:46 AM

Berris

Climate change and pests

9/25/2021 06:58 AM

Raven

New construction

9/25/2021 07:08 AM

nature\_nel

No restrictions placed on homeowner removals after two years. No metrics to determine whether trees protected during construction are still alive seven years later. Invasive species and the mismanagement of land resulting in tree injury or loss.

9/25/2021 08:43 AM

Ang

Climate change, development, disease, invasive species

9/25/2021 09:53 AM

lindamtka

Invasive species that are not well managed (buckthorn, honeysuckle, mulberry, etc).

9/25/2021 09:56 AM

Beth Baldwin

Climate changes due to human generated pollution; uninformed community members and lack of taking action to help out; grass lovers who favor a watered green lawn over community members who take ecological action to help our trees & see it as a civic duty

9/25/2021 03:47 PM

LuAnne K

Redevelopment

9/25/2021 05:23 PM

Sonialabs

Construction, new development, and pests

9/25/2021 05:38 PM

dralidvm

construction

9/25/2021 06:25 PM

Burwell Drive

removal of trees for building expansion of existing and new construction

9/25/2021 06:41 PM

Arborist

Residents, commercial properties, and the city removing trees with no replanting

9/25/2021 08:32 PM

Gitchigumi

9/26/2021 09:56 AM

New Construction takes down well established trees and replants small trees which destroys the canopy for years

FredReu

9/26/2021 10:02 AM

Pests and poorly planned development

Cheryl

9/26/2021 12:22 PM

Developers and housing development cutting down trees.

JaneT

9/26/2021 12:34 PM

lack of education for Minnetonka residents about trees and tree canopy

bvos1

9/26/2021 07:11 PM

over development, poor buckthorn control, poor re-planting plan

**Optional question** (78 response(s), 2 skipped)

**Question type:** Single Line Question

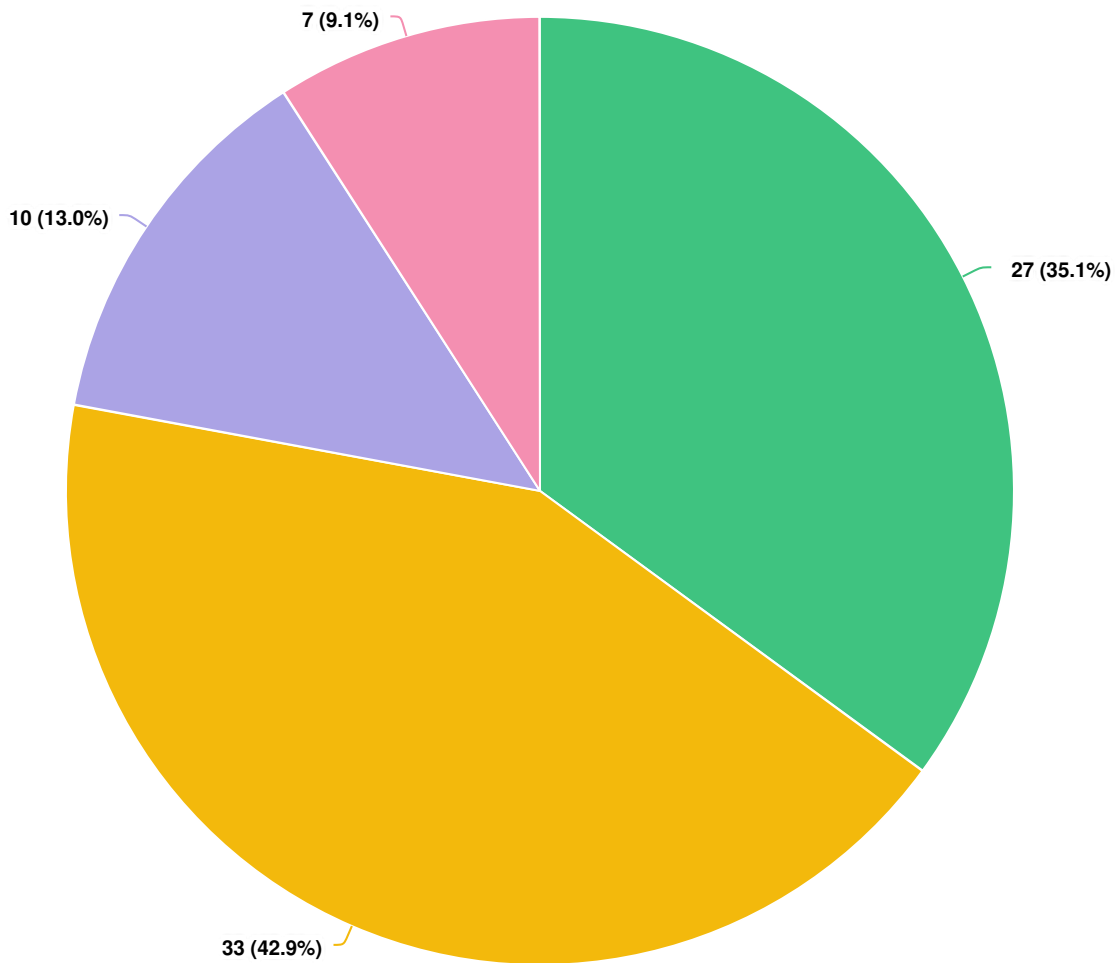
**Q7 | How impactful do you believe the city's tree policies and regulations are in preserving trees in the community?**

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
3 - Neutral	1.26
1 - Not at all impactful	1.36
2 - Not impactful	1.36
4 - Impactful	1.41
5 - Very Impactful	2.07

*Optional question (70 response(s), 10 skipped)*

*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q8** Under the existing tree protection ordinance, single-family homeowners are allowed to remove trees on their properties without city review. (However, trees located in conservation easements cannot be removed.) Should the proposed ordinance:



**Question options**

- Use incentives to persuade property owners to plant more trees
- Establish restrictions to limit tree removal on private, single-family home property
- Take a neutral stance on tree removal on private, single-family home property
- Other (please explain)

Optional question (77 response(s), 3 skipped)  
Question type: Dropdown Question

**Q9** | As drafted, the proposed tree protection ordinance would change the limits for the removal of deciduous trees over four inches in diameter and coniferous trees over 10 feet in height during: Subdivision of property; Development/construction of new buildings (including single-family homes) and redevelopment (the removal and reconstruction of a building, including single-family homes). Do you think limiting tree removal during these activities is an appropriate? Please explain.

Gayle

9/24/2021 06:13 AM

Yes because new owners need to understand the significance of large trees to our community.

aaronscholl2009

9/24/2021 06:13 AM

Yes

Trish22

9/24/2021 06:19 AM

Absolutely! The City needs to do a much better job of limiting removal of trees and close loop holes that developers work around. I cringe every time I think of all the old growth trees Cudd was allowed to cut down at the farm on Orchard Road. I'm sure it's happening all over the City.

Teeps

9/24/2021 06:21 AM

Policies should limit the number and size of trees permitted to be removed during construction and re-development

dougandsandyjohnson

9/24/2021 06:23 AM

Absolutely. It might also include other activities on the property such as shed, fence, deck, patio, permanent swimming pool construction. Those activities in our neighborhood have resulted in significant tree removal.

ldtmtka

9/24/2021 06:27 AM

Yes

Timmington

9/24/2021 06:29 AM

Yes. We have lived here for 30 years and have sadly watched too many healthy trees be removed for construction of homes or simply to have grass lawn.

alexkossett

9/24/2021 06:31 AM

Yes. These activities are destructive to our common environment. It only makes sense for there to be limits and reviews in place.

Bob

9/24/2021 06:31 AM

Yes, we all must do our part to preserve the environment of our city, state, country and of the planet

Jayna Locke

9/24/2021 06:31 AM

Yes, we should have limits on tree removal during subdivision and construction.

LB

9/24/2021 06:32 AM

Yes, tree protection is an important part of what the city is, and we want to maintain and for the future.

Lisa

9/24/2021 06:35 AM

Yes, I think greater impact would result from limits on tree removal due to subdivision and new builds rather than limits on single tree removal on established residential lots. Incent planting on established lots rather than punitive measures.

mollystern

9/24/2021 06:36 AM

Yes appropriate. All hands on deck to preserve the canopy.

jimlind

9/24/2021 06:39 AM

In general I agree, though the health of the tree (as determined by a city forester), not just the size, should be taken into consideration.

Susan Goll

9/24/2021 06:51 AM

Yes very appropriate

Amy Duncan Lingo

9/24/2021 06:53 AM

Llimiting is appropriate but there should be a waiver process and not just a flat out denial.

Singing Bear

9/24/2021 07:06 AM

Absolutely

Jim H

9/24/2021 07:15 AM

Since Minnetonka is fully developed, I believe we really need to limit major property changes and tree removal

Michael

9/24/2021 07:18 AM

No it is not appropriate. A simple 1:1 strategy of removal and replacement is all that is necessary. For each tree removed, simply plant another. You cannot successfully regulate this initiative. The city must immediately start planting new trees so that tree loss (assuming we are actually losing our trees) is not an issue in the



future.

tom tree

9/24/2021 07:19 AM

No.

JaxieBoy13

9/24/2021 07:29 AM

Yes. Lately there seems to be a trend to build large homes in area, with total disregard to tree removal. Our trees help make Minnetonka a beautiful city; we do not want to become a Plymouth or Lakeville or even a Chanhassen (ie. treeless home development on Prince's former land)

spumilia

9/24/2021 07:34 AM

No. I do not see a problem which requires more ordinances and more regulation.

farleyhm

9/24/2021 07:36 AM

Old trees will not be replaced in our lifetime. They should be preserved.

djgaley

9/24/2021 07:37 AM

Yes, appropriate, but with a provision similar to wetlands for replacement at alternate locations. On heavily wooded sites, some amount of clearing is necessary.

EC1

9/24/2021 07:39 AM

Yes but invasive species should not be a part of the limiting. Need to qualify the importance of the tree species.

fhblab

9/24/2021 07:40 AM

Yes, limiting removal is important. To maintain the existing canopy, anything removed must be replaced.

Jesseamber

9/24/2021 07:40 AM

I took down two large trees when I remodeled my home. It was not a decision I took lightly and I would not have wanted the city to restrict my ability to do so. On the other hand, a new neighbor in a subdivision adjacent to me says he doesn't like trees so he cut down a bunch of established trees so he could grow a better lawn. No restrictions there as the subdivision process was already completed. Every situation is different so blanket rules are hard to apply. Also there is a huge difference between work done by developers during subdivision (which I deem to be one of the largest threats to our community) vs work being done by homeowners. Place restrictions on developers and flippers, and less on actual residents.

Yockers

9/24/2021 07:47 AM

Yes

Kevin

9/24/2021 07:56 AM

Yes, it is too easy just to remove all and build

Kade

9/24/2021 08:20 AM

Very appropriate, should continue after home is built.

agruber

9/24/2021 08:20 AM

Yes. It takes years for new trees to establish and grow. When construction sites clear cut all trees to make construction easier, it makes the whole site very ugly. The beauty of the huge old trees can't be replaced for decades. Huge amounts of carbon are released with the removal and destruction of the existing trees. Old trees provide a bigger canopy, food source, and habitat for many more species than any small replanted trees can provide. There likely needs to be some removal to facilitate proper access or landscape design, but just like we protect historic old buildings from being destroyed, developers can learn to protect natural elements as well.

lucdave

9/24/2021 08:34 AM

yes

Citizen

9/24/2021 08:45 AM

The size limits strike me as a bit low, but the principle makes sense.

Chuck

9/24/2021 09:01 AM

Yes. The first priority should be to preserve existing trees. If hardship is established, then tree replacement may be an option.

K

9/24/2021 09:03 AM

No. The city should not have powers that deny private property owners the right to decide which trees can be removed!

Betty & Don Cooke

9/24/2021 09:17 AM

Yes we definitely think limiting tree removal during these activities is very appropriate. We have many beautiful established trees in Minnetonka which we value for environmental beauty and privacy, and we want to see that legacy continue.

kvv

I see too many lots purchased, perfectly good houses torn down,

9/24/2021 09:22 AM

trees clear cut, and oversized houses built. In addition, the 100+ year old trees removed often cannot be replaced in the remaining landscape.

Peg Houle

9/24/2021 09:31 AM

Yes, this is appropriate as it will eliminate the possibility of a developer clear-cutting an area.

Jay

9/24/2021 09:45 AM

It is appropriate. Trees add economic and property value. Air quality value. Micro-climate value. Wildlife value.

mdvorak

9/24/2021 09:50 AM

yes

KAW

9/24/2021 09:54 AM

I think when new construction is happening in a previously well treed lot. . Replace if trees are taken due to expansion.

dpdeering

9/24/2021 09:54 AM

Absolutely. Many of us purchased our homes based upon the beauty of the trees on the property, and the wooded atmosphere of the broader neighborhood. subdividing lots and clearing out trees especially for tear down home construction can change the entire feel of a neighborhood if not done thoughtfully.

Parkyj1

9/24/2021 09:58 AM

Within reason. I am more concerned about apartment building

Kimh

9/24/2021 10:21 AM

Yes. Also, should REQUIRE developers to remove all buckthorn on their site correctly, AND replace with mature native plants. Costly, but absolutely necessary to allow for expanding tree canopy.

KathyP

9/24/2021 10:34 AM

Our lot originally was covered with box elder trees, elm trees and way to many buckthorn trees. Over the years the box elder trees have leaned in towards our home and we have had to trim or remove them , the elms have become diseased and have had to remove them and the buckthorn has been very invasive . We have removed them and planted pine and birch trees .

BLH

9/24/2021 10:37 AM

Certainly....but this saddles some new homeowners with trees that were originally planted in the wrong place, due to poor design, needed driveway changes, too close to power lines, etc. Some

original owners loved trees a bit too much and ended up with unnatural, but personal arboretums of their own. Need permitted flexibility!

pcradell

9/24/2021 10:37 AM

Yes, I do. Some trees in Minnetonka are over 100 years old. They are part of the city's history and necessary to control climate change. Homeowners should be required to maintain their woodlands and prairies to a standard. Remove dead or diseased trees, invasive plants, and replant indigenous trees and plants. Our neighbors are destroying the woodland buffer which is on their property. They do not take care of it and what once was full of natives is overrun. They leave down trees and do not replace them.

SHarvey

9/24/2021 10:49 AM

Yes, because trees are important to human and nonhuman health, and too often developers and homeowners just cut them down because working around them is more difficult.

tcbrown

9/24/2021 11:14 AM

Any tree removal during development/construction/redevelopment should (1) always require city approval; (2) be difficult to obtain approval for; (3) strictly monitored and penalty assessed and enforced. If someone purchases land they should be required to maintain the canopy on that land. If they do not want to do so, they should not buy that land. In subdividing property no tree removal should be allowed. It is, after all, unnecessary.

Eric

9/24/2021 11:49 AM

Yes, it avoids clear cutting properties. Specific tree types are less important than quantity and size. But people and developers only care that the buildings are sited right on the properties. And some people prefer different tree types from other people (conifers, exotics, smaller deciduous for fewer leaves). This shouldn't matter to the City.

Mary R

9/24/2021 12:41 PM

The native trees are what keeps Minnetonka separate from other suburbs. Please set aggressive limits on tree removal.

Dale

9/24/2021 01:49 PM

Yes

KIwenne

9/24/2021 03:37 PM

Yes, preserve larger trees and plant more in other areas when unable to preserve

BDB

9/24/2021 05:18 PM

Maybe, They have incentive to keep as many trees a possible because it adds value to the lots. Not sure the City needs to regulate. There are just not that many developments occurring in Minnetonka, it's pretty much built out.

Ruth Carp

9/24/2021 05:19 PM

Definitely. Otherwise we will continue to lose trees. This has already happened in my neighborhood. A neighbor was panning to remove another tree & I begged her not to do that. So far she has not cut that one down.

Cate

9/24/2021 05:19 PM

Yes, it is appropriate and necessary in order to retain the Minnetonka environment that we all moved here for and that makes us unique among suburbs. Also, existing trees contribute to clean atmosphere and to the maintenance of the current ecosystems. I would also like the council to maintain Minnetonka's commitment to limiting development in general. I don't want to live in another Bloomington!

Larry Koch

9/24/2021 06:25 PM

Yes - Minnetonka's trees need protection that construction companies, architects, and residents many not provide, placing construction placement and development over the need to maintain a healthy tree population.

Gilman77

9/24/2021 07:51 PM

Yes. I think if you start allowing developers to cut down whatever they want, trees will not be any priority to them.

Diane Bancroft

9/24/2021 09:33 PM

yes, but each case should be looked at

CelticChica

9/24/2021 09:54 PM

Yes, to preserve the unique character and benefits inherent in the city of Minnetonka.

joshnpowell

9/25/2021 03:39 AM

Yes, limiting tree removal associated with property development is an important way to maintain the city's tree canopy.

Kj.anderson3311

9/25/2021 06:19 AM

Protecting our trees and the tree canopy is of benefit to the whole community.

Nikki W

9/25/2021 06:46 AM

Yes. Given how long it takes a newly planted tree to become established, I think preservation of existing trees is crucial to our community and the environment. That being said, requiring new trees to be planted at the time of development or shortly after would also benefit the community and the environment.

Berris

9/25/2021 06:58 AM

No. Unless the City owns the property, I do not believe that the City should have a right to restrict the owners rights to do what they want on their property. If the City wants to keep trees on private property, they should purchase the land instead of allowing developers to purchase it in the first place.

Raven

9/25/2021 07:08 AM

Yes. Replacing trees with buildings is not a good thing. New buildings should fit in with existing trees.

nature\_nel

9/25/2021 08:43 AM

Yes, but it is dependent upon the context/ecology of the site and appropriate tree species. Consult with an ecologist when making recommendations to city council. If you are allowing CC to have some discretion in certain situations, the site-specific context is extremely important to take into consideration. Strengthen the requirements for developers to protect trees during construction. Currently, protective fencing in the critical root zone is removed for final grading resulting in heavy equipment compacting soil on tree root systems. This negates any previous benefit of protection. Witnessing redevelopment in my neighborhood over the past sixteen years, the ordinance requirements were not enforced. Trees have died because they were not properly protected. Fencing was not placed in the crz, elevations were altered, piling feet of soil on root systems, final grading further compacted soil on protected trees. Drive by any redevelopment site and the protected trees are buried in too much soil. At a glance this is evident because the natural trunk flare is missing, buried under soil. Please consider reviewing the specifications for soil removal/site stock piling. Too much soil is left on site and spread around during regrading altering the natural, pre-development grade and impacting trees. Replacement trees are suffering and not growing because of they were planted in highly compacted soils. The tree ordinance could include specifications for soil remediation. The City of Eagan has requirements for remediating soil compaction and adding compost. Improve the monitoring and enforcement of tree protection during construction such as periodic check-ins to ensure that adequate fencing is in place restricting activity in the critical root zone. Tree replacement requirements are not enforced. The city holds an escrow if builders violate the tree ordinance (harm or

kill trees) but does not follow through to ensure that new trees are planted to replace the ones lost. Evaluate development projects 8 years or older to assess outcomes (tree loss) from construction. It takes at least 5-7 years for a large oak tree to die from construction-related damage. We have four dead oaks in our neighborhood that died 7 years later after redevelopment. If we aren't measuring outcomes, how do we know if the current tree ordinance is working?

Ang

9/25/2021 09:53 AM

Yes it is important to balance development with tree canopy community benefits. It is extremely important to prioritize trees that will be resilient and provide benefit for the ecology of the city. Look at the DNR trees for climate resilience based on region of the state.

Beth Baldwin

9/25/2021 03:47 PM

Absolutely! So many of the land now available for development is wooded forested land of former larger estates being subdivided. it's a sad shame that all the trees are clear cut and grass planted. Each new home development should be required to have a tree preservation and mitigation plan approved by the City. I would also require any new developments or commercial construction to do buckthorn removal or contribute a certain percentage/amount to buckthorn removal for Minnetonka City government programs.

LuAnne K

9/25/2021 05:23 PM

Yes

Sonialabs

9/25/2021 05:38 PM

Yes

dralidvm

9/25/2021 06:25 PM

yes. Climate change is real. Birds are disappearing. We have a moral and ethical obligation to save as many trees as possible

Burwell Drive

9/25/2021 06:41 PM

Yes, though each plan will need review, it is important that property owner be aware of why their plans may not be accommodated, and to not allow building where trees have been removed before plans are proposed.

Gitchigumi

9/26/2021 09:56 AM

No. Removing trees is contributing to global warming and should be extremely limited. You can't replace a 75 year old oak with a 4 inch tree.

FredReu

Yes

9/26/2021 10:02 AM

Cheryl

Yes

9/26/2021 12:22 PM

JaneT

Yes, I do.

9/26/2021 12:34 PM

bvos1

yes--it is super sad to see the big trees cut just to put up a new house, we need more green space

9/26/2021 07:11 PM

**Optional question** (77 response(s), 3 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q10 | Please provide comments about the specific requirements outlined in the draft ordinance.**

aaronsholl2009

We need an ordinance about trees overhanging on homes from another property

9/24/2021 06:13 AM

dougandsandyjohnson

Extremely well written and reasoned ordinance. It strikes a good balance between the rights of property owners and the public health, safety and welfare interests.

9/24/2021 06:23 AM

ldtmtka

I am in agreement

9/24/2021 06:27 AM

Timmington

The woods we enjoyed when we chose to live in this area are disappearing due to development or residents simply preferring grassy lawns thus removing mature healthy trees. It is very sad. Requiring "replacement " trees of a few small trees does not equal the removal of a wooded area. Please stop!

9/24/2021 06:29 AM

Bob

No comment

9/24/2021 06:31 AM

Jayna Locke

I applaud and approve. Let's protect our trees and natural habitat, and do our part to help prevent or reverse climate change. I don't

9/24/2021 06:31 AM

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know enough about what Minnetonka is doing to plant more trees, but I will be looking into it.

LB

9/24/2021 06:32 AM

I think the new draft requirements are good and needed.

Lisa

9/24/2021 06:35 AM

I have seen the negative impact of tree removal on subdivided property. The Hicks property on Mahoney Ave was clear cut, every single tree on a 5 1/2 acre wooded lot was removed. How was this allowed under the ordinance? One can only assume that the resulting storm water runoff incident last year (collapse of a large retaining wall supposedly built to prevent water flow issues and then water mitigation construction at what cost) was due to the removal of the trees on this lot. Plus it looks horrible. 3 wooded lots on Spring Lane were also essentially clear cut for development. Only 1 house has been built (with minimal tree replanting, so much for replacement requirements), the remaining 2 lots minus trees have become weedy overgrown bare lots for several years. Please enforce the ordinance in force, be it the current standard or a new one.

mollystern

9/24/2021 06:36 AM

Under the proposed ordinance, a tree will be considered high priority or significant, based solely on size. The size thresholds are also lowered, protecting the "forest of the future" by protecting trees previously perceived as "small" that are, in fact, quite old. For example, a 10-inch basswood may be 45 years old, and a 10-inch white oak may be 65 years old. In other words, achieving the replacement value of even these somewhat smaller trees will still take many, many decades. This is VERY important. I approve.

jimlind

9/24/2021 06:39 AM

I like the changes, particularly the part about removing references to "high priority tree species". We don't know which species will be preferred down the road. Grow them all, add diversity. This will be so important in a changing climate. Prioritizing species has the effect of reducing diversity.

Susan Goll

9/24/2021 06:51 AM

I think there may need to be some clarification about "nuisance trees". For example, we have buckthorn in our neighborhood that is more than 10 ft in height, or other somewhat undesirable trees could be excluded like box elder.

Singing Bear

9/24/2021 07:06 AM

One of the reasons I choose to live in Minnetonka is our steep slopes, tree canopy and wildlife.

Michael

9/24/2021 07:18 AM

Minnetonka will not be able to successfully regulate the elimination of trees. The very best solution is to establish an exciting tree-planting initiative. Decide when and where to plant them and begin the process. If a tree needs to be removed, replace it on a 1:1 basis. Seek fast-growing and climate-resistant trees.

tom tree

9/24/2021 07:19 AM

You cannot demand homeowners to plant trees. Retired and low income individuals do not have sufficient funds to buy, plant the trees. Some properties are fairly inaccessible do the ravine and gullies in Mntka. It would be helpful to Read the actual proposal. The devil is in the details. This is s very poor method of communication with the ordinance NOT attached. Very disappointed.

JaxieBoy13

9/24/2021 07:29 AM

Would be a good move for the future. Would give developers & builders something to consider before major tree removal. Would also give future residents healthy trees

spumilia

9/24/2021 07:34 AM

Our taxes and regulation are already high enough. The city is fine as it is.

EC1

9/24/2021 07:39 AM

The draft seems to water this ordinance down which makes us fall behind other cities. This is not better or best practice in any sense.

fhblab

9/24/2021 07:40 AM

4" for deciduous trees maybe too small. I a number of smaller ash trees that are bigger than 4" but less than 8" that I don't expect to survive much longer with the ash borer present but they are a small percentage of the canopy on my property. I would like to be free to remove and replace them without undo oversight from the city.

Yockers

9/24/2021 07:47 AM

Proposed Tree Ordinance Page 6 a) 4) Note: When a tree preservation plan is created on a private property - invasive plants should be noted on the document. This situation is brought to the attention of the landowner. Page 7 c) 1) allowing for the creation or rehabilitation of a public park - not sure there is a need to create new public parks - not sure what is meant by rehabilitation - it might be necessary if native plant communities are being restored.

What about city natural areas that are not parks?

Kevin

9/24/2021 07:56 AM

Are contractors for town road and other construction projects have to adhere to the restrictions in section 9 (construction)? It would seem appropriate that the town should have these restrictions in place for the town prior to a general imposition on all construction. Lead by example and find out first hand what unintended issues arise.

Kade

9/24/2021 08:20 AM

As stated above, I think greater protection of large trees is hugely important and should be in place always, not just during construction. Watched a home tear and rebuild and they took many large trees. As birders know, dead trees are important too, don't need to cut every dead tree if it is in a safe wooded area. Another house was built and many trees cut, after period of time they cut more to create a grass area. So sad to see trees go.

agruber

9/24/2021 08:20 AM

I don't think it is a good use of time to require the city to review individual home owners choice to remove trees. It is an administrative burden on both parties, and given the cost of tree removal, it would be unlikely a homeowner would remove all of their trees. The biggest issues likely stem from new construction and huge redevelopment projects. Protecting old and established trees is key to providing beauty, reducing carbon dioxide, protecting the natural habitat, so I appreciate the thoughtful approach to expanding the reach of the limitations beyond just a specific species or large size.

Citizen

9/24/2021 08:45 AM

Would just like a bit more clarification about removal/ replacement of trees that represent a safety hazard or that can be replaced by newer, more resilient alternatives that will enhance the canopy in the future.

Betty & Don Cooke

9/24/2021 09:17 AM

We are supportive of the proposed changes reflected in the draft ordinance as we understand them. A particular concern we have is that we do not want to see developers allowed to cut down protected trees by paying an additional fee.

kvv

9/24/2021 09:22 AM

The character of the city is significantly represented by mature trees. I think there needs to be clear, enforceable deterrents to damaging the current environment.

Peg Houle

9/24/2021 09:31 AM

There is an area in the ordinance that says removal exceptions may be considered if removal would “promote a greater public good.” How is that “greater good” determined? The language is very nebulous.

Jay

9/24/2021 09:45 AM

The draft ordinance appears quite thorough and has many levels of detail that may be difficult for homeowners, builders, and developers to understand so some educational time and study will be needed. I'm in favor of the tree type, size, and one-for-one replacement or enhancement guidelines.

Kimh

9/24/2021 10:21 AM

Great ideas!

KathyP

9/24/2021 10:34 AM

I don't like the diameter requirement restrictions, many of our icky box elder trees are way bigger than the restrictions listed. We will need to take ours down eventually

BLH

9/24/2021 10:37 AM

Most importantly, the natural resources team should develop more guidance about tree species, perhaps hold workshops, publish in the Minnetonka Memo, so homeowners can make suitable decisions as Minnesota's landscape changes. The University predicts we will have a more savanna-like population of trees here overtime and they too could be replaced by mostly grasslands. Trying to hold on to 58% will make no sense. Trees simply will not be able to survive new conditions in the future.

pcradell

9/24/2021 10:37 AM

Apply the requirements to 1 acre or greater. Include a requirement and program for current subdivisions that have woods to clear invasives (buckthorn and garlic mustard) and restore and maintain. Offer services to maintain the woodlands.

SHarvey

9/24/2021 10:49 AM

This is the first I heard of this ordinance. Will there be a chance for public input before voting on it? I am concerned about 7c1, which seems to give the city council a lot of power to make exceptions to removal thresholds. Also, in section 8c, the replacement for a significant tree should NOT be any tree species approved by city staff, but it should be the same standard as for replacing a high priority tree.

tcbrown

9/24/2021 11:14 AM

The requirements should be far stricter. All the evidence one needs can be found in "Bird Song" development, which is a disgrace.

Eric

9/24/2021 11:49 AM

1. I don't see anything in the ordinance about what part of government is responsible for following up with homeowners for compliance and levying penalties, nor about the timing. 2. Trying to preserve large old oaks is difficult at best if grading occurs around them; they die off or partly die back within 3-5 years as they did on my property. 3. There is no point in trying to promote using native trees around housing because the understory will be gone, so it's no longer a specific micro-environment. 4. Giving developers and homeowners a specific dollar amount for mitigation to fund tree planting elsewhere is a great idea. But given how rarely the ordinances are updated, the dollar amounts should be indexed to inflation every 5-10 years.

Mary R

9/24/2021 12:41 PM

I'm glad you are considering being more active about this. I hate to see all the native forest being cut for grass, chicken coops and jungle gyms. Please protect what remains of the native forest.

Robert Werner

9/24/2021 02:08 PM

Species that, in the near future, would be subject to death such as elm, ash and others as defined by the city forester should be allowed to be removed without being required to be replaced either by current property owners or new development.

BDB

9/24/2021 05:18 PM

Ruth Carp

9/24/2021 05:19 PM

I agree that it is imperative that we encourage a diversity of species and sizes of trees. The younger trees are needed for the future as older trees die.

Cate

9/24/2021 05:19 PM

What does "good of the community" mean? I'm guessing, for example, it means one thing to business interests and another to residents. I need the meaning of this to be clarified before I know if I am in favor of the new ordinance.

Larry Koch

9/24/2021 06:25 PM

This is a good measure for protecting and maintaining the beautiful city of Minnetonka that we love.

Diane Bancroft

9/24/2021 09:33 PM

They sound good.

CelticChica

9/24/2021 09:54 PM

The new requirements will be more impactful in helping protect the community in the coming years.

Kj.anderson3311

9/25/2021 06:19 AM

I support the addition of "smaller" tree sizes to the protection category.

Berris

9/25/2021 06:58 AM

When your policy allows the City to grant variances, you open the door for corruption, pay backs, and behind the door handshakes. No variances should be granted if you have a clearly defined policy unless it is if for the public safety. I would remove any language from the policy that allows your local elected officials and City leaders a say in the process. Often, most of the City leaders do not even live in Minnetonka. Also, the responses for Question seven are not working. I don't understand what it is I am ranking as it only shows five boxes to select 1 - 5. If this was on purpose, it is not very clear what five items I am ranking when the question only has one statement.

nature\_nel

9/25/2021 08:43 AM

"The city forester prioritizes – and maintains a prioritization list of – native and culturally significant trees species above non-native native trees." This list was not published with the draft ordinance. Please include this list in the forthcoming Planning Commission and City Council packets. The updated ordinance states that all trees provide some benefit but does not mention the impacts of invasive tree species such as Siberian elm, black locust, Norway maple, and white mulberry. Redevelopment is an opportunity to rid properties of invasive species that pose a threat to nearby natural areas. Update the high priority and significant tree list to ensure that developers are not credited with saving invasive species or trees highly susceptible to known diseases, for example, ash trees. The ordinance mentions buckthorn and honeysuckle but no other invasive terrestrial woody plants. Include a rating system of climate resiliency and ecosystem functionality (how well does that tree species support wildlife). Focus on keystone species (species of trees that provide the most ecological function) and species that are predicted to be climate resilient. Include the following in a species list/rating system: 1) the tree is native or not 2) if the tree is considered a terrestrial invasive species or restricted noxious weed. Provide a published list to developers and homeowners. 3) if the tree is susceptible to a known pest such as dutch elm disease

or emerald ash borer. 4) if the tree is considered undesirable and will impede growth of more desirable trees, for example, box elder. 5) climate resiliency. Evergreens in central Minnesota are not climate resilient. I realize Minnesotans love evergreens but most species should not be rated as high priority or significant trees. Please have an ecologist review this ordinance. You could consult with the ecologists preparing the Natural Resources Management Plan. The proposed ordinance needs to be filtered through many experts. The annual tree sale does not meet the needs of the community and we are therefore not reaching capacity to enhance our urban tree canopy in residential neighborhoods. If supply issues continue, then trees should be planted in neighborhoods with the greatest need (high percentage of ash trees, low tree cover, buffering from roadways, pollution mitigation). The city could offer bare root trees instead of large, potted trees. The DNR supplies these at a very reasonable price. For the same cost as purchasing the large, 6' trees, they could offer at a minimum 10 times as many trees and satisfy resident demand. Bare root trees are inexpensive, easy for residents to transport in their car, and easy to plant. For critical keystone species such as oaks, the survival rate is also much higher than potted trees.

Ang

9/25/2021 09:53 AM

I think if the goals are to increase diversity, enhance the canopy of the city for climate mitigation, and increase resiliency against disease and the stress of climate change, the language of the ordinance has to answer these goals in clear language and with measurable goals. For example, to solve the concern of diversity of species, there could be a cap on a percentage of any priority individual species that could be removed without mitigation. Of course invasive species such as buckthorn, Siberian elm, mulberry, amur maple, etc would be exempt from any cap.

Beth Baldwin

9/25/2021 03:47 PM

Ten inches diameter seems too large. I would dial it back to even smaller trees. On the Natural Resources fund if you can't fit a tree on your property, I want to see a direct tie not just to the fund but to ensure the planting of two trees for every one chopped down/that dies. Not just "general" budget money to the fund. The City can budget property tax money to the fund for personal and equipment. I strongly support the Removal Thresholds section that includes renovations/replacements of single family homes. I am pleased the City is taking a strong environmental stance here. Please make all decisions on this ordinance - for the best interests of our trees and tree canopy for our mutual future in the long run - over any short term interests especially those related to making money or individual taste/preference. I am looking for value driven

government that transcends money and power considerations.

Sonialabs

9/25/2021 05:38 PM

I think older trees should be protected and the city should offer help for saving trees, as well.

JaneT

9/26/2021 12:34 PM

The new ordinance is too much, too soon. Better to mandate "tree education" for new residents first. A property owner should be able to remove a single tree without getting approval from the city. The city needs to start offering, ASAP, neighborhood meetings to EDUCATE residents on WHAT trees do, WHY the ordinance is being proposed, and ANSWER questions.

bvos1

9/26/2021 07:11 PM

thinking of the future and green space is super important. Everyone likes trees in their yards and around the areas they live in. Park lots are not why people move to this area.

**Optional question** (49 response(s), 31 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question