

Sec. 146-136. - Tree preservation.

(a)

Purpose. The purpose of this section is to promote tree preservation through site design and by controlling indiscriminate removal of trees; and to contribute to the long-term viability of existing trees through their protection during construction or land disturbing activities; while balancing rights of property owners with the interests of the community. This section is specifically intended to:

(1)

Prohibit indiscriminate clear-cutting;

(2)

Protect and increase the value of residential and commercial properties within the city;

(3)

Maintain and enhance a positive image to attract new residences and business enterprises to the city; and

(4)

Protect healthy quality trees and promote the natural ecological, environmental and aesthetic qualities of the city.

(b)

Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning. Words and terms used in this section, but not defined in this section, shall have the meanings contained in the zoning ordinance or other ordinances of the city.

100-year fully developed floodplain means the area of inundation from a storm event having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, based upon fully developed watershed conditions.

Building pad means the actual base area of a building and an area not to exceed six feet around the foundation necessary for construction and grade transitions.

Caliper means the diameter measurement of a tree trunk. The caliper of the trunk shall be measured six inches above the ground for trees.

Clear-cutting means the removal of ten or more protected trees from a property within a 90-day period.

Critically alter, critical alteration means uprooting or severing the main trunk of a tree, or any act that causes or may reasonably be expected to cause a tree to die. This includes, but is not limited to: damage inflicted upon the root system of a tree by machinery, storage of materials, or the compaction of soil above the root system of a tree; a change in the natural grade above the root system of a tree;

an application of herbicidal chemical or the misapplication of beneficial chemicals; excessive pruning; placement of non-permeable pavement over the root system of a tree; or trenching within the primary root zone. Additionally, a tree may be considered critically altered if more than 25 percent of the primary root zone is altered or disturbed at natural grade, or more than 25 percent of the canopy is removed.

Cut/fill means areas where the natural ground level has been excavated (cut) or where fill material has been brought in.

Determination of exemption means a determination made by the landscape administrator or his designee that no tree permit or tree preservation is required for the site.

Diameter at breast height (DBH) means tree trunk diameter measured in inches at a height of 4.5 feet above the ground. If a tree splits into multiple trunks below 4.5 feet, the trunk is measured at its most narrow point beneath the split.

Drip line means whichever is greater:

(1)

A vertical line running through the outermost portion of the canopy of a tree and extending to the ground; or

(2)

If the tree is damaged or deformed, a circular area with a radius equal to two feet per inch of caliper.

Erosion hazard setback means the area along a drainage channel designated as an erosion setback under the city's stormwater ordinance.

Exemption area means an area that is clearly exempt from all tree replacement and tree protection requirements of this section, as approved by the landscape administrator.

FEMA 100-year flood plain means the area designated as being within the 100-year flood plain on the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood insurance rate map (FIRM) as of the effective date of the ordinance from which this section is derived. The boundary may be verified and established through field surveys based on elevation. Any changes made by FEMA to the 100-year flood plain boundary after the effective date of the ordinance from which this section is derived due to filling of the flood plain, channelization, or other drainage improvements shall not reduce the area in which tree preservation, replacement or protection requirements apply.

Grubbing means excavating or removing a significant part of the root system.

Landscape administrator means the person appointed by the city manager to administer city ordinances related to tree preservation, or the person's designated representative.

Municipal and public domain property means property in which title is held in the name of a governmental entity. Examples of this include city buildings, county property, public parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property, state rights-of-way, libraries, fire stations, water tower sites or similar properties.

Non-disturbance area means an area in which no development activity or vehicular traffic associated with the construction or development of land occurs.

NRCS lake tree preservation zone means the area within an elevation two feet above the emergency spillway elevation of any Natural Resources Conservation Service lake.

Owner means any person with an interest in land, or a lessee, agent, employee, or other person acting on behalf of the owner.

Protected tree means a quality tree with a trunk six inches or greater in caliper at four feet six inches above the ground. The caliper of a multi-trunk protected tree shall be determined by adding the total caliper of the largest trunk to one-half the caliper of each additional trunk.

Protective fencing means and includes chain link fencing, orange vinyl construction fencing or other fencing at least four feet high and supported at a maximum of ten-foot intervals by approved methods sufficient to keep the fence upright and in place. The fencing shall be of a highly visible material.

Pruning means the removal of dead, injured or diseased limbs or roots to maintain plant health or the removal of limbs or roots to control or direct vegetative growth.

Quality tree means a tree species that typically has significant positive characteristics worthy of preservation, as listed in this section (see section A-2 of appendix A to this chapter.)

Root zone, primary, means the area of undisturbed natural soil around a tree defined by a concentric circle with a radius equal to the distance from the trunk to the outermost portion of the drip line (see section A-3 of appendix A to this chapter.)

Tree means any self-supporting woody plant, which will attain a trunk caliper of two inches or more when measured at a point 4½ feet above ground level and normally an overall height of at least 15 feet with a canopy of at least 15 feet in caliper at maturity. A tree may have one main stem or trunk or several stems or trunks.

Tree board means a board appointed by the city council to carry out the duties and responsibilities set forth in this section. The planning and zoning commission shall constitute the tree board unless the city council appoints a separate tree board.

Tree protection sign means a sign describing prohibited conduct detrimental to trees and meeting specifications of the city's building official to be posted on the site upon approval of a tree permit.

Tree survey means a plan drawing that identifies the location of trees and contains the information set forth in subsection (e)(1) of this section. The tree survey shall be prepared by an arborist, a licensed surveyor, a registered landscape architect licensed by the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, or other qualified person approved by the landscape administrator. For projects of limited scope, the landscape administrator may approve a tree survey prepared by a non-professional if complete and accurate information is provided.

Tree topping means the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in caliper within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.

Utility company, franchise utility, or public utility means a company or entity, or agent for a company or entity, that provides a utility service such as the provision of gas, electric, cable, or telephone service within the city.

(c)

Permits.

(1)

Required. A tree permit shall be obtained from the landscape administrator before critically altering any protected tree, except under any of the following circumstances:

a.

The protected tree endangers the public health, welfare or safety and immediate alteration is required;

b.

The tree has disrupted a public utility service due to a tornado, storm, flood or other act of God. Critical alteration shall be limited to the portion of the tree reasonably necessary to reestablish or maintain reliable utility service;

c.

The tree was planted to be for sale and is located on the property of a licensed plant or tree nursery, which has trees planted and growing on the premises for the sale or intended sale to the general public in the ordinary course of the nursery's business;

d.

The tree is located on a lot of record on which a single family or duplex residence legally exists as the primary use, except that areas of such lots within a FEMA 100-year flood plain, NRCS lake tree preservation zone, erosion hazard setback zone, or for protected trees 27-inch caliper or greater in size shall not be exempt; or

e.

The tree is dead, unless the tree was required under a landscape plan or was a required replacement tree under this section.

(2)

Tree permit.

a.

Tree permit.

1.

Prior to any building, paving, grading, or construction of a subdivision or public improvements an application for a tree permit shall be submitted concurrent with a preliminary-final plat, and shall be approved prior to issuance of a development permit. A tree permit shall not be required prior to construction of a subdivision or public improvements if an application for a preliminary plat or preliminary-final plat has been filed prior to the effective date of the ordinance from which this section is derived.

2.

Prior to any building, paving, grading, or construction of a building an application for a tree permit shall be submitted concurrent with a detailed site plan, and shall be approved prior to issuance of a building permit. A tree permit shall not be required prior to construction of such a building if an application for a site plan has been filed prior to the effective date of the ordinance from which this section is derived.

3.

Authorization to critically alter trees on the site shall be limited to those trees identified and approved for critical alteration as shown on documentation submitted for the tree permit.

4.

A tree permit shall be valid for the period of the site plan, development permit, or building permit's validity, or a maximum of two years, whichever is less.

(d)

Scope and administration.

(1)

Applicability. Provisions of this section shall apply to all new and existing development as stated herein. The following shall be exempt from tree preservation and replacement requirements, but not from the tree permit requirements:

a.

Hike/bike trails, if the alignment has been approved by the parks department;

b.

City owned, parks and sports fields open for public use, such as soccer, baseball, football and the like;

c.

Golf courses;

d.

Critical alteration of any protected tree by a utility company in order to maintain appropriate existing utility service;

e.

Construction of public utilities;

f.

Stabilization measures to creeks and streams as required by the city engineer; and

g.

Construction of thoroughfares as shown on the city thoroughfare plan.

(2)

Conflicts with other ordinances. All applicable provisions of the comprehensive zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, storm water ordinance, building codes and other ordinances, as they exist or as amended, shall apply. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall confer any vested rights on any property subject to this chapter. Where the provisions of other ordinances conflict with this section, this section shall control.

(3)

Administrative official. Provisions of this section shall be administered by the landscape administrator or designee.

(e)

Tree preservation permit submittal and review.

(1)

Submittal requirements. The landscape administrator shall establish administrative procedures necessary to implement and enforce this section.

a.

An application for a tree permit shall include:

1.

The completed application form; and

2.

The tree survey at same scale as site plan or preliminary-final plat with building pad, pavement areas, and other construction features which will disturb the land indicated. The tree survey shall include the following information:

(i)

The applicant's name, address, and phone number;

(ii)

The name and phone number of arborist, licensed surveyor, or landscape architect that prepared the survey;

(iii)

The location map;

(iv)

The property lines, with dimensions;

(v)

The engineering scale (not larger than one inch equals 200 feet, or the same scale as the site plan);

(vi)

The location of all rights-of-way, and easements (existing and proposed);

(vii)

The location of all buildings, structures, pools, parking and vehicular maneuvering area, utilities, sidewalks, and other improvements (existing and proposed);

(viii)

The adjacent land uses, and zoning of adjacent properties;

(ix)

The creeks, lakes, and other water features (existing and proposed);

(x)

The location of FEMA 100-year floodplain, NRCS lake tree preservation zone, or erosion hazard setback easement;

(xi)

Any proposed non-disturbance area; and

(xii)

The caliper size of all trees six inches or greater.

b.

In specific situations, tree survey requirements may be reduced as follows:

1.

Non-disturbance areas. The landscape administrator may approve a non-disturbance area to be designated on the tree survey. The non-disturbance area is an area in which no construction will occur. Trees within the non-disturbance area are not required to be individually identified on the tree survey unless they will be used as credits.

2.

Aerial photograph. For property containing large, heavily wooded areas, the landscape administrator may, in lieu of a tree survey, authorize the submittal of an aerial photograph accompanied by a transparent plan of the development at the same scale as the photograph, showing all non-disturbance areas and proposed exemption areas where no trees will be critically altered; provided that a tree survey of all other areas is submitted to the landscape administrator prior to any grading or construction. The landscape administrator may approve the submission of photographs in phases for a multi-phased project.

3.

No trees. If a property contains no trees, the applicant may indicate on the application for a tree permit that there are no trees on the property and submit the application for a tree permit in lieu of a tree survey. Such an application shall act in lieu of a tree survey upon a determination by the landscape administrator that no trees exist on the site.

c.

A tree preservation plan shall be submitted showing major site construction features, existing trees to remain, trees being removed, and replacement trees with type, location, number and size of replacement trees indicated. The tree preservation plan information may be included on the tree survey if all information can be clearly delineated. The tree preservation plan shall include the following information:

1.

The major site construction features;

2.

The proposed and existing contours;

3.

Identification of the caliper, species, and location of trees that are to remain;

4.

Identification of the caliper, species, and location of trees to be removed;

5.

The tree protection measures; and

6.

The letter of intent.

(2)

Review of application.

a.

Tree permit applications. The landscape administrator shall grant a tree permit, provided the requirements of this section are met.

b.

Grievances. An applicant aggrieved by a decision of the landscape administrator may appeal the decision to the board of adjustment for an interpretation as provided for in [section 146-165\(2\)](#).

c.

Waivers. An application for a waiver to the terms of the tree preservation section may be made. The application for a waiver shall be reviewed by the tree board, and a recommendation for approval or denial shall be forwarded to the city council. The decision of the city council shall be final. A public hearing shall be required. The tree board and city council shall consider the following factors in determining whether a waiver should be granted:

1.

The literal enforcement cannot be accomplished;

2.

The extent to which the application meets other standards of this section;

3.

The positive or negative impact of the proposed project on surrounding properties; and

4.

The extent to which the waiver would be mitigated by other proposed or existing landscaping.

d.

Non-substantive changes. The landscape administrator shall be authorized to work with owners, developers, and builders to make non-substantive changes, within the scope of this section, to plans, permits and other requirements after approval by staff, city council or the tree board, as appropriate. These changes are intended to provide the greatest reasonable protection toward achieving the purposes of this section.

e.

Posting tree protection sign. After the tree permit is issued, the permit holder shall post a tree protection sign at each entrance to the property upon which one or more trees is situated, and at any other location designated by the landscape administrator.

(f)

Standards.

(1)

Clear-cutting. Clear-cutting is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a tree permit.

(2)

Developments with an existing single family or duplex residential structure. All protected trees 27 inches in caliper or greater shall be subject to tree preservation requirements regardless of location.

(3)

All other developments.

a.

Perimeter tree zone. If a quality tree six inches or greater exists within 15 feet of the boundary line between an existing platted single family residential development and a proposed development, a perimeter tree zone shall be provided. The perimeter tree zone shall extend 15 feet out from each quality tree six inches or greater onto the proposed development for a maximum 30-foot wide perimeter tree zone. No tree within the perimeter tree zone may be critically altered.

b.

Floodplain. Within the 100-year fully developed floodplain, 70 percent of quality trees that are six inches DBH or greater may not be critically altered. However, if the floodplain lies within the interior of property that is zoned for commercial uses, and construction of buildings or parking is to occur on both sides of the creek, there is no limitation on the number of trees that may be removed.

Additionally, construction of roads that are required by the city to provide cross access to adjacent properties or to provide for a second point of access shall not count against the percentage that can be removed.

c.

Specimen trees. Trees greater than 42 inches DBH may not be removed, nor may the critical root zone be altered. As part of a tree permit application the city arborist with the input of the director of planning and city engineer may approve the removal of specimen trees based on the type of tree, health of the tree, location of the tree on site, elevation of the tree, impact of the tree on the proposed site or development plan. If the city arborist denies the request to remove a specimen tree, the owner/applicant may appeal the decision to the city council.

d.

Other trees. Notwithstanding the above provisions, all other quality trees greater than six inches DBH are subject to tree replacement and protection except where protected trees must be critically altered to:

1.

Install and maintain any utility lines;

2.

Dedicate public rights-of-way;

3.

Construct any public or private streets or alleys at the minimum required width only;

4.

Provide any required easement up to the minimum width needed to accommodate the required service;

5.

Construct any fire lanes at the minimum required width only;

6.

Construct any sidewalks;

7.

Construct any driveways;

8.

Construct fences and screening walls;

9.

Construct patios;

10.

Construct swimming pools and associated deck areas;

11.

Construct required parking;

12.

Install a building pad site;

13.

Construct any hike/bike trails; or

14.

Achieve cut and fill drainage as designed in master drainage construction plan, including required detention or retention ponds. Transitional slopes to the original grade, which are less steep than the maximum allowed slope shall not be exempt.

(4)

Demolition. The landscape administrator may issue a limited purpose tree permit to allow critical alteration of a protected tree if such critical alteration is necessary to allow demolition of a structure. The protected tree covered by the permit shall be exempt from the tree replacement and tree protection requirements of this section.

(5)

Selective thinning. The landscape administrator may issue a limited purpose tree permit for selective thinning of certain protected trees from a densely forested area. The landscape administrator will, as part of the tree permit review process, determine whether the selective thinning proposed will be performed in a professionally accepted manner that will enhance the likelihood of survival for the remaining trees. If the landscape administrator issues a permit for selective thinning, the protected trees covered by the permit shall be exempt from the tree replacement and tree protection requirements of this section.

(6)

Diseased trees. Upon issuance of a limited purpose tree permit, a diseased protected tree may be critically altered to reduce the chances of spreading the disease to adjacent healthy trees. If the landscape administrator issues a limited purpose tree permit for such purpose, the protected trees covered by the permit shall be exempt from the tree replacement and protection requirements of this section.

(7)

Ground level cuts. Tree trunks must be cut at ground level where removal of a tree may damage root systems of an adjacent tree. Stump grinding in such situations is allowed with the approval of the landscape administrator.

(8)

Removal of underbrush. Removal of underbrush, not including grubbing under drip lines, shall not require a tree permit.

(9)

Grubbing under drip lines. The landscape administrator shall issue a limited purpose tree permit allowing the clearing and grubbing of brush located within or under the drip lines of protected trees.

(g)

Tree replacement.

(1)

Unless specifically exempted, the following tree replacement procedures shall apply to any person who critically alters a protected tree for which a permit is required. Replacement trees shall be in addition to trees required under the landscape section of the zoning ordinance.

a.

Generally. The protected tree shall be replaced with a quality tree or trees as approved on the tree preservation plan.

1.

Size and number. A sufficient number of trees shall be planted to equal or exceed, in caliper, the caliper of each tree critically altered, measured at four feet six inches above ground level. Each replacement tree shall be a minimum of four-inch caliper at six inches above ground level and 12 feet in height when planted. The following formula shall be used to calculate the number of trees to be replaced:

	Caliper of critically altered tree	Replacement ratio (in inches of caliper)	Minimum caliper of replacement tree
Existing single family and duplex residential development	>27"	1:1	4"
All other development	6"—16"	1:1	4"
	>16"	1:2	6"

2.

Credits. When any quality tree of four (4) inches or more in caliper is preserved that would otherwise have been exempt, credits toward the total inches of caliper of replacement trees required for the development site will be given as per the following formula. Credits shall not reduce the minimum size of any replacement tree planted.

3.

Location. Each replacement tree shall be planted on the same property as the tree that was critically altered. However, if the landscape administrator deems that the replacement tree cannot be planted on the same property in accordance with accepted arborists' standards, the landscape administrator may, as part of the city's reforestation plan, allow the following:

(i)

Replacement on public property;

(ii)

Replacement on private property if also approved by the chief building official; or

(iii)

Require payment to the reforestation fund in accordance with subsection (g)(1)c of this section.

4.

Responsibility to replace trees. The requirement to replace trees shall apply to both the person altering a protected tree and the owner of the property.

5.

Replacement of dead trees. A replacement tree planted on the same property as the critically altered tree must be replaced if it dies. This requirement applies to the owner of the property.

b.

Scheduling of replacement trees. Replacement trees shall normally be planted within 90 days of critical alteration. If replacement trees cannot be planted within 90 days of critical alteration, the landscape administrator may approve a delay in replacement of up to six months after the date of critical alteration. The applicant shall provide the landscape administrator with an affidavit that all replacement trees will be planted within six months. The landscape administrator may require the applicant to furnish the city a cash deposit or surety bond in the approximate amount of the cost to replace the trees.

c.

Reforestation fund. If an applicant cannot replace trees on the same property, and if the landscape administrator does not approve replanting on an alternate site, the applicant shall make a payment into the reforestation fund.

1.

The amount of payment required for each replacement tree shall be calculated based on a schedule published and reviewed annually by the landscape administrator which sets forth the average cost of a quality tree added to the average cost of planting a tree.

2.

It shall be the responsibility of the landscape administrator to develop and administer a written plan for the planting, growing, replanting, and appropriate irrigation of trees on all municipal and public domain property. The tree board shall present the plan to the council and, when adopted by the council, the plan shall represent the reforestation plan for the city.

3.

Reforestation funds shall be expended only for purchasing, planting, growing and/or irrigating trees as per the city's reforestation plan. Reforestation funds shall not be used for routine maintenance.

4.

Funds paid into the reforestation fund shall be spent within three years of payment or shall be returned to the payer.

5.

The landscape administrator shall submit periodic reports to the city council of the deposits and disbursements from the reforestation fund.

(h)

Tree protection.

(1)

The following procedures shall apply to any protected tree for which a permit is required, unless specifically exempted.

a.

Construction plan requirements. All construction plans shall indicate tree protection measures.

b.

Prohibited activities in primary root zone. The following activities are prohibited within the limits of the primary root zone of any protected tree subject to the requirements of this section.

1.

Material storage. No materials intended for use in construction or waste materials shall be placed within the limits of the primary root zone of any protected tree.

2.

Equipment cleaning/liquid disposal. No cleaning or other liquids shall be deposited or allowed to flow over land within the limits of the primary root zone of a protected tree. This includes, but is not limited to paint, oil, solvents, asphalt, concrete, mortar or similar materials.

3.

Tree attachments. No signs, wires or other attachments, other than those of a protective nature, shall be attached to any protected tree.

4.

Construction equipment/vehicular traffic. Unless otherwise approved by the landscape administrator, no vehicular and/or construction equipment traffic or parking shall take place within the limits of the primary root zone of any protected tree other than on existing street pavement. This restriction does

not apply to single incident access within the primary root zone for purposes of clearing underbrush, establishing the building pad and associated lot grading, vehicular traffic necessary for routine utility maintenance, emergency restoration of utility service, or routine mowing operations. No heavy equipment, including, but not limited to, trucks, tractors, trailers, bulldozers, and bobcat tractors, shall be allowed inside the drip-line of any protected tree on any construction site without the specific approval of the landscape administrator.

5.

Grade changes. Unless specifically allowed by this section, no grade changes shall be allowed within the limits of the primary root zone of any protected tree unless the landscape administrator and/or the city engineer approves adequate construction methods.

6.

Impervious paving near nonexempt trees. Unless a health, safety and welfare issue arises due to access and circulation requirements, no paving with asphalt, concrete or other impervious materials may be placed within 75 percent of the limits of the primary root zone of a protected tree except as otherwise allowed in this section.

7.

Impervious paving near exempt, preserved trees. For any exempt tree that is being preserved the following shall apply:

(i)

No paving with asphalt, concrete or other impervious materials may be placed within a five-foot radius of the trunk; and

(ii)

A total of 400 square feet of area on the primary root zone shall be kept free of impervious materials. This pervious area may be in the shape of a circle, rectangle, or other shape, and shall include and be contiguous with the area within a five-foot radius of the trunk.

c.

Protective measures required prior to construction. Prior to construction, the contractor or subcontractor shall construct and maintain, for each protected tree on a construction site, a protective fence and where necessary, bark protection (see section A-3 of appendix A to this chapter). All protective measures shall be in place prior to commencement of any site work and remain in place until all exterior work has been completed.

d.

Construction methods.

1.

Boring. Boring of utilities under protected trees shall be required in those circumstances where it is not possible to trench around the primary root zone of the protected tree. When required, the length of the bore shall be the width of the primary root zone at a minimum and shall be a minimum depth of 48 inches.

2.

Grade change. The landscape administrator may approve a grade change within the primary root zone of a protected tree as per this section and/or the city engineer.

3.

Trenching. All trenching shall be designed to avoid trenching across the primary root zone of any protected tree, unless otherwise approved by the landscape administrator. Mechanical trenching within the primary root zone shall not be allowed. Trenching by hand shall not critically alter the root system. The placement of irrigation systems and underground utility lines such as electric, phone, gas, etc., shall be located outside of the primary root zone of protected trees. The minimum required single head supply line for irrigation systems is allowed to extend into the primary root zone perpendicular to the tree trunk and in the manner that has the least possible encroachment into the primary root zone.

4.

Root pruning. All roots two inches or larger in caliper, which are exposed as a result of trenching or other excavation, shall be cut off square.

(i)

Tree planting.

(1)

In addition to the tree preservation and tree replacement provisions of this section, all applicable tree planting requirements of the landscape section of the city zoning ordinance shall apply.

(2)

Selection and planting of all replacement trees shall comply with [section 146-135](#).

(j)

Enforcement.

(1)

Development agreement. The city shall not approve a development agreement unless it provides that all construction activities shall meet the requirements of this section.

(2)

Building permit or development permit.

a.

No building permit or development permit shall be issued unless:

1.

A construction tree permit has been approved;

2.

An affidavit of no trees has been submitted and approved; or

3.

A determination of exemption has been made by the landscape administrator or designee.

b.

No building permit or development permit shall be issued unless the applicant signs an application or permit request which says that all construction activities shall meet the requirements of this section.

The building official shall make available to the applicant:

1.

A copy of the tree preservation ordinance or a condensed summary of the relevant aspects pertaining to the type of permit requested; and

2.

Specifications for tree protection signs.

(3)

Acceptance of improvements. The city may refuse to accept any public improvements until the person pays all penalties for violations of this section; provided, however, that acceptance of public improvements shall be authorized before all trees shall be replaced if, with the landscape administrator's approval, the person furnishes the city with a cash deposit or surety bond in the approximate amount of the cost to replace the tree.

(4)

Certificate of occupancy. No certificate of occupancy (CO) shall be issued until any and all penalties for violations of this section have been paid to the city. No CO shall be issued until all required replacement trees have been planted or appropriate payments have been made to the reforestation fund; provided, however, that a CO may be granted before all trees have been replaced if, with the landscape administrator's approval, the person furnishes the city with a cash deposit or surety bond in the approximate amount of the cost to replace the tree.

(k)

Violations.

(1)

A person commits an offense if the person critically alters a protected tree not meeting an exception listed in this section without first obtaining a tree permit from the city.

(2)

A person commits an offense if the person critically alters a tree in violation of a tree permit.

(3)

Any person who violates subsection (k)(1) of this section by critically altering a protected tree without first obtaining a tree permit from the city, or subsection (k)(2) of this section by critically altering a tree in violation of the permit, or subsection (g) of this section by failing to follow the tree replacement procedures, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined \$100.00 per caliper inch of the tree critically altered, not to exceed \$500.00 per incident. The unlawful critical alteration of each protected tree shall be considered a separate incident and each incident shall subject the violator to the maximum penalty set forth herein for each tree.

(4)

Any person, firm, corporation, agent or employee thereof who violates any provisions of this section other than those listed in above, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction hereof shall be fined not to exceed \$500.00 for each incident. The unlawful critical alteration of each protected tree shall be considered a separate incident and each incident subjects the violator to the maximum penalty set forth herein for each tree.

(5)

Allegation and evidence of a culpable mental state is not required for the proof of an offense defined by this section.

(Code 1982, § 41-212; Ord. No. 2001-02-013, § 1A, 2-6-2001; Ord. No. 2002-08-084, § I.59, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2002-08-084, § I.59, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2004-09-103, § IV, 9-21-2004; Ord. No. 2006-10-115, § I, 10-3-2006; Ord. No. 2008-07-066, § 1, 7-14-2008; Ord. No. 2010-12-053, §§ 27—29, 12-7-2010; Ord. No. 2014-12-096, § 2, 12-1-2014)