



CITY OF ATLANTA
Department of Planning &
Community Development

Tree Protection

Ordinance Update

FACT SHEET



The City of Atlanta's Tree Protection Ordinance establishes clear rules and official public policy for tree preservation, maintenance, protection, planting and removal on both public and private property. This policy ensures that citizens, visitors and business owners continue to enjoy the benefits our urban forest. The Tree Protection Ordinance is currently being updated by the Department of Planning and Community Development's Arborist Division in coordination with the Departments of Law and Parks and Recreation.

Benefits of Atlanta's urban trees:

- Natural management of storm water and reduction in the incidence of flooding
- Mitigation of air pollution
- Reduction of the heat island effect in the urban environment
- Protection of habitat for native birds and other wildlife
- Enhancement of the visual quality of the city and its neighborhoods
- Strengthening of the city's economic base by increasing property values
- Improvement of the overall quality of life and environment for Atlanta's residents, businesses, and visitors

Why are we updating the ordinance?

The last significant revision to the ordinance occurred in 2001. The proposed update will improve the ordinance and make it easier to understand. In addition, the update will:

- Clarify existing terms and define new ones
- Provide new incentives for tree protection and planting on private and public property
- Update the requirements for parking lot plantings
- Authorize the use of tree recompense funds for purchase of forested land
- Provide for tree canopy research and assessments