

Goals within the Tree Ordinance Review:

1. To review the underlying philosophy of the current ordinance in maintaining the urban forest. To assess the merits of this philosophy and determine areas for change/improvement;
2. To review/revise a definition of Urban Forest for purposes of the ordinance;
3. To review/revise the current legal authority granted the City Administration, and to assign responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of such authority to include criteria and formularies set forth in the law, and to the greatest extent possible, ensure clarity and simplicity in the language of the law. The authority should include appropriate means for the public to manage the trees on their property or trees affected by the appropriate use of their property. It will also include penalties for failure to meet obligations under the law. It will allow property owners the maximum degree of discretion in the landscaping and development of their property, consistent with the objectives of the law. To review/revise the current means of appeals for citizens denied benefits under the ordinance protections;
4. To ensure that a single set of standards applies to all actors under the jurisdiction of the City Administration, to ensure that the ordinance is followed in actions taken by any party to include residential and commercial property owners, as well as the City Administration, in management of public lands;
5. To identify the means of incorporation of strategic planning activities, with the possible addition of education and outreach, that empowers the public to participate in maintenance and growth of the Urban Forest;
6. To review the role of the Urban Forest Manager in the execution of the ordinance. This will include a review of regulations regarding urban forest management promulgated by the city administration.
7. Review/revise Section 2 mandate enabling the creation of the Tree Commission, establishing its mission, and defining its structure and composition.