



United Neighborhoods of the Historic
Arlington Heights, West Adams,
and Jefferson Park Communities
Neighborhood Council

Approved June 2, 2022

Tree Policy

The United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council recognizes the significant contributions including the environmental, aesthetic and economic benefits provided by a large and thriving tree canopy and understands that maintaining and increasing the shade tree canopy is essential to the health and vitality of our stakeholders. We therefore, in land use matters, have established building guidelines to provide design standards for preserving, maintaining and increasing our tree canopy.

Creativity and thoughtfulness regarding our tree canopy are on par to requests for height, density and parking considerations and projects adhering to these guidelines will receive preferential treatment during our review process.

Guidelines

- Protect existing mature trees and incorporate them as a design feature.
- Plant trees and/or install shade structures to increase comfort and provide passive cooling opportunities.
- Provide canopy trees in planting areas for shade and energy efficiency, especially on south and southwest facing façades.
- Plant shade-producing street trees at the minimum spacing permitted by the Division of Urban Forestry to create a consistent rhythm.
- Retain existing healthy, mature street trees to the extent possible.
- Select trees that are suitable for the climate and capable of attaining the largest canopy size possible given spatial constraints, in consultation with Urban Forestry Division.
- Submit tree planting design, exclusive of landscaping design, during review process.
- Priority given to native tree species with special consideration to species that provide large leafy canopies, including Coast Live Oak and Western Sycamores, both of which support wildlife and encourage biodiversity.
- Design efforts be made for inground planting, including subterranean considerations; including simple accommodations at the sublevel to accommodate inground trees.
- Efforts be made to preserve existing trees at the perimeter of property.

Tree Policy Continued

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- Water and maintenance commitment of five (5) years for any new tree plantings, including street trees.
- Design efforts be made to increase tree well size to accommodate large canopy trees.
- Tree replacement ratios including number and size are based on number and size of tree(s) requested for removal.
- Consideration for waiving side yard setbacks requirements to encourage preservation of all trees along the lot lines.
- Guarantee of new tree planting success, under certain circumstances, may require a bond and/or covenants for maintenance of newly planted trees.
- Design efforts be made to create bump-outs to accommodate large mature trees.
- Design efforts in right of way to accommodate large canopy trees.
- Consideration of driveway placement to retain existing street trees.
- Creative design efforts be made to look for every possible opportunity to increase shade tree canopy.
- In the rare exception when the loss of a tree cannot be avoided, a community benefit package may be required as a possible mitigation.

There is an exponential increase in the value of large, mature trees and their associated environmental and health benefits. The impact of removing large, mature, viable trees cannot be overstated and cannot be mitigated by planting small individual trees. The deep and cyclical benefits that an individual, large mature tree offers to the community in which it is situated are infinite. Damage and disregard of individual trees, on a site-specific basis, pose dire cumulative impacts when contextualized by the many similar actions that remove trees throughout a community. The UNNC will continue to make every effort to preserve our tree canopy and looks forward to working with those who share in this endeavor.