### Bastrop Parks and Recreation / Public Tree Advisory Board Agenda

Bastrop City Hall City Council Chambers 1311 Chestnut Street Bastrop, TX 78602 (512) 332-8800



### **November 06, 2025**

### Agenda - Parks and Recreation / Public Tree Advisory Board at 5:30 PM

Bastrop Parks and Public Tree Advisory Board meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, please contact the City Secretary at (512) 332-8800 or write 1311 Chestnut Street, 78602, or by calling through a T.D.D. (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) to Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2989 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

#### 2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

At this time, three (3) minute comments will be taken from the audience on any topic. Anyone in attendance wishing to address the Board/Commission must complete a citizen comment form and give the completed form to the Board/Commission Secretary prior to the start of the Board/Commission meeting. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, if a citizen discusses any item not on the agenda, the Board/Commission cannot discuss issues raised or make any decision at this time. Instead, the Board/Commission is limited to making a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy in response to the inquiry. Issues may be referred to City Manager for research and possible future action.

It is not the intention of the City of Bastrop to provide a public forum for the embarrassment or demeaning of any individual or group. Neither is it the intention of the Board/Commission to allow a member of the public to slur the performance, honesty and/or integrity of the Board/Commission, as a body, or any member or members of the Board/Commission individually or collectively, or members of the City's staff. Accordingly, profane, insulting or threatening language directed toward the Board/Commission and/or any person in the Board/Commission's presence will not be tolerated.

#### 3. MINUTE APPROVAL

3A. Consider and act to approve Parks and Recreation / Public Tree Advisory Board meeting minutes from Thursday, October 2, 2025 Regular Meeting.
Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

#### 4. REPORTS

<u>4A.</u> Receive a report on the operations of the Parks & Recreation Department Monthly Update

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

4B. Receive a report on the operations of the Bastrop State Park.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Nathanael Gold, Bastrop and Buescher State Parks Complex Superintendent

4C. Receive a report on the Bird City Coalition

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Luke Thompson, Bird City Committee

#### 5. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

5A. Receive and discuss an update on the Tree Carving

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

<u>5B.</u> Consider and take action to recommend approval to the City Council of Article 5, Landscaping Requirements, for inclusion in Chapter 14 (Bastrop Code of Ordinances), replacing the current B3 landscaping provisions upon adoption of the Bastrop Development Code.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Brittany Epling, Senior Planner

5C. Consider and act on a recommendation to the City Council for Article 6, Tree Preservation and Mitigation, for inclusion in Chapter 14 (Bastrop Code of Ordinances), replacing the current B3 Code and Technical Manual tree preservation provisions upon adoption of the Bastrop Development Code to City Council.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:Alondra Macias, Planner I, Development Services Department

5D. Discussion on Designating part of Mayfest for Parkland for Veterans Memorial

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

5E. Discussion on Canceling January Meeting

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

<u>5F.</u> Discussion on Workshop in February

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

#### 6. ADJOURNMENT

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that this Notice of Meeting as posted in accordance with the regulations of the Texas Open Meetings Act on the bulletin board located at the entrance to the City of Bastrop City Hall, a place of convenient and readily accessible to the general public,

as well as to the City's website, <a href="www.cityofbastrop.org">www.cityofbastrop.org</a> and said Notice was posted on the following date and time: <a href="October 30">October 30</a>, <a href="2025">2025</a> at 2:30 p.m. and remained posted for at least two hours after said meeting was convened.

| /s/ Sandy Holder |
|------------------|
|------------------|

Sandy Holder / Parks and Recreation/PW Technician



MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025

#### TITLE:

Consider and act to approve Parks and Recreation / Public Tree Advisory Board meeting minutes from Thursday, October 2, 2025 Regular Meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:**

Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

#### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

Section 551.021 of the Government Code provides as follows:

- (a) A governmental body shall prepare and keep minutes or make a tape recording of each open meeting of the body.
- (b) The minutes must:
  - 1. State the subject of each deliberation; and
  - 2. Indicate the vote, order, decision, or other action taken.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve, amend, or correct the minutes of the October 2, 2025 Regular Meeting Parks and Recreation / Public Tree Advisory Board.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

October 2, 2025 Minutes

#### MINUTES OF CITY OF BASTROP PARKS AND PUBLIC TREE ADVISORY BOARD

#### October 2, 2025

The Bastrop Parks and Public Tree Advisory Board met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bastrop City Hall Council meeting room, located at 1311 Chestnut Street, Bastrop, Texas. Members present were Steven Fobert, Gail Sheehan, Deborah Jones, and Nathanael Gold. Staff present was Parks and Recreation Director Jason Alfaro. Council Member Cynthia Sanders-Meyer was present. Members Rick Rivera.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:31 p.m. Chair Deborah Jones called the meeting to order.

#### 2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments

#### 3. STAFF, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORTS

#### 3A. Parks and Recreation Report

Report was given by Parks and Recreation Director, Jason Alfaro.

#### 3B. Bastrop State Park Report

Report was given by Lost Pines State Park Complex Superintendent, Nathanael Gold.

#### 3C. Bird City Coalition Report

Report was given by Luke Thompson, Bird City Committee.

#### 3D. Discussion and changes in the operations of Mayfest Park

Report was given by Parks and Recreation Director, Jason Alfaro.

#### 3E. Receive and discuss an update on the Tree Carving

Report was given by Member Gail Sheehan that the project would start on 10/3/2025 and would take approximately 4-5 days. Unveiling ceremony would be at 9:00am on 10/11/2025.

#### 4. WORKSHOP

#### 4A. Workshop discussion on potential City of Bastrop park improvement projects.

Discussion was for a Walking trail near the Bark Park, Arts in the Park Memorial Structure, and the addition of a park near Old Austin Highway.

#### 5. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

#### 5A. MINUTE APPROVAL

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the Thursday, September 4, 2025 Regular Meeting by Member Gail Sheehan. Motion was seconded by Member Steven Fobert. Motion passed unanimously.

#### ADIOURNMENT

| Chair, Deborah Jones   | Secretary, Nathanael Gold            |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| APPROVED:  | ATTEST:                              |
|  |                                      |
| Member Nathanael Gold made a motion to adjourn the mees seconded. Motion passed unanimously. | eting at 6:55pm. Member Gail Sheehan |
| ADJOURINIVIENT   |                                      |



MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025

TITLE:

Receive a report on the operations of the Parks & Recreation Department Monthly Update

#### **AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:**

Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

#### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

Review the City of Bastrop Parks & Recreation monthly operational report

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

N/A

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Parks & Recreation Operations Report

Date: November 6, 2025

Subject: Parks and Recreation/Streets & Drainage – Monthly Operational Report October 2025

#### **Parks**

Parks crews pulled weeded and removed a small tree at City Hall.

Parks Crews repaired the gate at the playground at Fishermans Park.

Parks Crew Cleaning and pick up Tree carving debris and brush debris in Fishermans Park.

Parks Crew completed painting the iron fence in Fishermans Park.

Parks Crew installed safety rails in Piney Creek.

Parks Crew powerwashed the limestone rocks in Fishemans Park.

Parks Crew trimmed trees in Mayfest Park and Little League Park.

Parks crew painted over graffiti in Fishermans Park.

Parks crews power washed the playscape at Hunters Crossing Park.

Parks Crews did weed control at Bob Bryant Park volleyball court.

Parks Crew painted light pole on Riverwalk near Neighbors.

Parks Crew painting the iron fence in Fishermans Park.

Parks Crew Trimmed trees at the parking lot at Fishermans Park and at Bob Bryant Park Parks Crew shaped and trimmed the rose bushes at City Hall.

Parks Crew painted the black iron fence along the Riverwalk.

Parks Crew cleaned light poles along the Riverwalk.





#### Recreation

Upcoming Programs, Events, and Partnerships

- October
  - Discovery
    - Every 2nd & 4th Monday @ 4:30PM
    - Ages 6-12
  - Step by Step 5K Prep Course
    - Wednesdays, Oct. 1-Nov. 19
    - 5:30PM alternating between Fisherman's & Bob Bryant
  - o Pumpkin Painting
    - Oct. 24 @ 5PM
- November
  - o Boot Scootin'
    - Wednesdays Nov. 5-Dec. 17 (skip Thanksgiving week)
    - 6:45PM Basics
    - 7:30PM Blitz
  - Self Defense w/ Bastrop PD
    - Nov. 7 @ 6PM
  - Thyme Around the Table
    - Nov. 10 @ 1PM
  - Spero Rehab Workshop
    - Nov. 12 @ 1PM
  - Letters to Santa
    - Nov. 14 @ 5:30PM
  - Tiny Connections
    - Noc. 15 @ 11:45AM
  - Cooking for Change w/Family Crisis Center
    - Nov. 17 @ 4:30PM
  - Santa's Workshop
    - Nov. 21 @ 1PM
  - Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
    - Nov. 28 @ 6PM Fisherman's Park
  - River of Lights
    - Nov. 28-Jan 4













REC CLOSED NO CLASSES





MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025

#### TITLE:

Receive a report on the operations of the Bastrop State Park.

#### **AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:**

Nathanael Gold, Bastrop and Buescher State Parks Complex Superintendent

#### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

Review the Bastrop State Park monthly operational report.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review the Bastrop State Park monthly operational report.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Bastrop State Park Monthly Operational Report

#### Lost Pines State Park Complex Visitation through September 2025:

| Park Name         | YTD Fiscal<br>Year 2025 | YTD Fiscal<br>Year 2024 | Increase/Decrease | Percentage inc/dec |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Bastrop SP        | 8,197                   | 9,311                   | (1,114)           | (12%)              |
| Buescher SP       | 2,764                   | 4,117                   | (1,353)           | (32.9%)            |
| Complex<br>Totals | 10,961                  | 13,428                  | (2,467)           | (18.37%)           |

- It's been hot and dry, we have been battling the heat, mowing, shredding fire lanes, and watching out for wildfires. Hopefully we get some rain with this front moving through.
- We have been treating portions of the park for wildfire and prescribed fire season, applying herbicide, mechanical thinning, hand clearing, shoring up pond dams, mulching, and shredding burn lanes.
- We are hosting the Lone Star Trail Building School on November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at Buescher State Park. If you're interested in attending, tuition is \$150 and here is the <u>link</u>. The practical application will be building a trail around the Buescher SP lake to allow pedestrian access to the areas on the Eastside of the Lake.
- Our fiscal year ended at the end of August, that's why the visitation numbers are so small. I believe we saw a decrease in visitation from last year because it has been so hot and dry. Hoping for rain.
- We are about to begin construction for a tribute putting green near the historic pro shop. This will allow visitors to putt around free of charge to pay homage to the legacy of our historic golf course.
  - We have our Lake Mina bridge project out to bid at the moment. This project will replace the wooden bridge with a design replicating the historically accurate rock bridge that originally served visitors in that location. The original bridge was removed sometime in the 60s or 70s for an unknown reason and replaced a wooden one.
- The upcoming interpretation program flyer isn't ready at this time, but I will forward once our interpreter finishes it. She is still finalizing and confirming November programming.



MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025

TITLE:

Receive a report on the Bird City Coalition

**AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:** 

Luke Thompson, Bird City Committee

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:** 

Review staff Bird City Coalition Report.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** 

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:** 

Receive Bird City Coalition Report.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 

N/A



MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025

TITLE:

Receive and discuss an update on the Tree Carving

#### **AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:**

Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

#### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

Tree Carving and Unveiling in Fishermans Park, discuss adding solar lighting and a plaque with its name & artist.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

To possible add lighting and plaque

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

N/A



MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025

#### **TITLE: Proposed Landscaping Requirements**

Consider and take action to recommend approval to the City Council of Article 5, Landscaping Requirements, for inclusion in Chapter 14 (Bastrop Code of Ordinances), replacing the current B3 landscaping provisions upon adoption of the Bastrop Development Code.

#### **AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:**

Brittany Epling, Senior Planner

#### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

The City is considering retiring the Bastrop Building Block (B3) form-based code and replacing it with the Bastrop Development Code—a Euclidean-based zoning ordinance that preserves key B3 intents while providing clearer, predictable, and easier-to-administer standards. Under the current B3 Code, landscaping provisions are limited primarily to requiring a landscape plan at site plan and street trees in the public realm (approximately every 30 feet), with few objective on-site standards. This has produced inconsistent outcomes for shade, buffering, water conservation, screening, beautification, and parking-lot cooling.

Article 5 (Landscaping Requirements) is a core development standard of the proposed Bastrop Development Code. It establishes clear, measurable requirements for frontage landscaping, parking-lot trees/islands, buffers between unlike land uses, tree-root protection, irrigation and water-wise plant selection, and low-impact development (LID) credits. The intent is to:

- improve shade, walkability, and heat-island mitigation;
- conserve water by prioritizing native/drought-tolerant species and efficient irrigation;
- beautification of street frontages and corridors;
- integrate green infrastructure into site design; and
- provide predictable, objective rules that are straightforward to review and enforce.

If adopted by Council as part of the Development Code, Article 5 will replace the B3 landscaping approach. The Article is structured to coordinate with the Tree Preservation/Mitigation Article, the Off-Street Parking standards, and any adopted plant lists, details, and LID credit worksheets.

#### **ITEM DETAILS:**

 What it is & where it lives. Replaces the B3 landscaping rules upon adoption of the proposed Bastrop Development Code and will be housed in Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances. Applies to site plans, building permits, and plats; significant redevelopments must bring sites toward compliance as feasible. Single-family and agricultural uses keep only basic frontage plantings, but exempt overall.

- 2. **Core standards.** Establishes clear minimum on-site landscaping by district/use and allows a meaningful share to be met by preserving healthy native vegetation.
- 3. **Streetscape first.** Requires a defined frontage landscape band on private property with shade trees just inside the line; provides administrative flexibility on constrained sites while holding the overall streetscape outcome.
- 4. **Parking lot greening.** Requires shade trees in islands and end caps, perimeter screening for headlights, and encourages green-infrastructure islands that take runoff.
- 5. **Buffers, trees, and water-wise design.** Sets stepped buffers between unlike uses and along key corridors; protects trees through root-zone fencing and planting-soil standards; emphasizes native/drought-tolerant plants and efficient irrigation.
- 6. **Simple, predictable credits.** Offers standardized, ministerial credits for cisterns, bioretention, and similar LID features to reduce certain landscape obligations—without reducing the required street-tree count.
- 7. **Submittals & enforcement.** Uses a sealed landscape plan with standard details; installation before CO (or seasonal deferment with surety), inspections for establishment, bonding only where the City accepts public-area landscaping, and standard enforcement/appeals under Chapter 14.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Consider and take action to recommend approval of Article 5, Landscaping Requirements, for inclusion in Chapter 14 (Bastrop Code of Ordinances), replacing the current B3 landscaping provisions upon adoption of the Bastrop Development Code; forward recommendation to the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z), with P&Z to forward a recommendation to City Council.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1. Proposed Landscape Ordinance (Article 5 of the proposed Bastrop Development Code)
- 2. Preferred Plant List

#### **ARTICLE 14.05 LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS**

#### Sec. 14.05.001 Landscaping Ordinance.

#### A. Purpose and Intent.

- This Article establishes minimum landscaping, streetscape, tree preservation, and water-conservation standards to protect public health, safety, and welfare; manage stormwater; conserve water resources; preserve and expand urban tree canopy; buffer incompatible land uses; mitigate heat-island effects; and improve shade, comfort, and walkability consistent with the City's comprehensive plan.
- 2) The standards herein are intended to: (1) provide predictable, objective requirements; (2) offer ministerial, table-driven credits for low-impact development (LID) features and rainwater reuse; and (3) coordinate with separate provisions governing tree preservation and mitigation.

#### B. Applicability and Exemptions.

- 1) Applicability. This Article applies to all development requiring site plan, building permit, or plat approval, including new development and redevelopment.
- 2) Redevelopment Threshold. When cumulative expansions since the most recent Certificate of Occupancy (CO) increase building footprint, paved area, or parking area by ten (10) percent or more, the site shall be brought into compliance to the maximum extent practicable, prioritizing:
  - a) frontage landscaping;
  - b) parking-lot interior landscaping; and
  - c) perimeter buffers.
- 3) Exemptions.
  - a) One- and two-family dwellings on individual lots are exempt except Sec. 14.05.001(4)(c).
  - b) Agricultural uses are exempt.
- 4) Planned Developments and Overlays. Planned Development (PD) districts and Overlay districts shall comply with this Article unless alternative landscape standards are expressly adopted in the PD/Overlay ordinance; where conflicts occur, the adopted PD/Overlay controls.
- C. Definitions. Unless otherwise stated, terms have their commonly accepted meaning.
  - 1) Director: The Director of Planning and Development or designee.
  - Caliper: Trunk diameter measured six (6) inches above grade for trees up to and including four (4) inches in caliper, and twelve (12) inches above grade for larger trees.

- 3) Canopy Tree: A species typically attaining a mature height of thirty-five (35) feet or more with broad shade.
- 4) CO: Certificate of Occupancy.
- 5) Earthen Berm: A linear mound of compacted, clean inorganic soil constructed within required landscape or buffer areas to provide visual screening, noise attenuation, or gentle grade transition, with side slopes no steeper than 3:1 (H:V) (4:1 where adjacent to sidewalks or public frontage), a top width ≥ 3 feet, stabilized with vegetation, graded for positive drainage, and protected with erosion control during and after construction; berms shall be located outside sight-visibility triangles, Root Protection Zones (RPZs), and drainage/overflow easements, and shall not impede flood flows; berms are prohibited in FEMA-designated floodways and may be placed within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) only with prior approval by the Floodplain Administrator and City Engineer and a sealed no-rise/no-adverse-impact certification (including compensatory storage as required by the City's flood damage prevention regulations); berms may be combined with evergreen screening or fences to meet required buffer height/opacity.
- 6) Effective Storage (ES): The lesser of (i) rated tank volume, or (ii) 1.0 inch of rainfall over the connected roof area, multiplied by a 0.80 recovery factor. A five (5) day drawdown assumption is acceptable for sizing equivalency.
- 7) Evergreen Screening: A continuous, year-round visual barrier composed primarily of evergreen plant material from the City's Adopted Plant List, installed to obscure views of parking, service areas, or unlike uses; shrubs shall be minimum 5-gallon and 24 inches tall at planting and, where trees are used, they shall be 2-inch caliper and 8 feet tall at planting; plantings shall form a continuous hedge (single row at ≤36 inches o.c. or staggered double row at ≤42 inches o.c.) within a planting strip ≥5 feet wide with drip/subsurface irrigation, located outside sight-visibility triangles and in compliance with utility clearances; the screen shall achieve and maintain a minimum height of 6 feet (or greater where required elsewhere in this Code) and an opacity of at least 80% between 3 feet above grade and the required height within three (3) years of installation; where utilities preclude a hedge, an evergreen vine on a solid fence or wall with supplemental understory may be approved as equivalent if the same height/opacity is met; dead or declining plants shall be replaced by the next planting season to restore required height and opacity; invasive species, including running bamboo (Phyllostachys spp.), are prohibited.
- 8) Masonry Wall: A permanent, opaque screening wall constructed of unit masonry—brick, natural or cast stone, or decorative concrete masonry units (CMU)—or CMU with integrally colored, cementitious stucco finish, built on a continuous reinforced concrete footing and designed for lateral loads per the adopted building code; freestanding walls shall be of reinforced masonry construction (brick/stone veneers are permitted only when anchored to structural CMU or concrete). The wall shall be finished on both sides

where visible from public streets or adjoining property, include a durable cap, and incorporate articulation (pilasters or offsets) at changes in direction and at intervals not exceeding 30 feet. Exposed gray CMU is prohibited unless split-face or otherwise decorative with integral color. Masonry walls shall meet the required height and opacity specified elsewhere in this Code, be located outside sight-visibility triangles, utilities/ easements unless approved by the utility, and drainage/flood conveyances, and shall not impede flood flows (prohibited in FEMA floodways and in SFHAs without required approvals/certifications).

- 9) On Center (o.c.): Standard spacing measurement taken from the centerline of one element to the centerline of the next (e.g., shrubs planted at 36 inches o.c. are 36 inches apart, measured center-to-center).
- 10) Understory Tree: A species typically maturing below thirty-five (35) feet.
- 11) Root Protection Zone (RPZ): A circular area with a radius equal to one (1) foot for each inch of trunk caliper, measured from the trunk center.
- 12) Preservation Area: Undisturbed native vegetation designated on an approved plan and protected during and after construction.
- 13) Frontage Landscape: Required landscape area parallel and adjacent to a public right-of-way (ROW) but located on private property.
- 14) Xeriscape: Landscape designed for water efficiency through plant selection, soil improvements, and irrigation design.

#### D. Minimum Landscape Requirements

1) Required Landscape Area. Minimum landscape areas shall be provided per development type as specified in the Table below. Minimum landscape area shall be provided as a percentage of net lot area (lot area excluding dedicated public right-of-way).

| Development Type                                | Minimum Landscape Area (percent of net lot area) |
|---|--|
| Townhouse / Small Multifamily (3–8 units)       | 20%  |
| Multifamily (9+ units)                          | 25%  |
| Commercial / Office / Institutional / Mixed-Use | 20%  |
| Industrial / Employment                         | 10%  |
| Civic / Campus / Parks Support Facilities       | 20%  |

- Computation. Required landscape area excludes drainage channels, drainage easements, and mapped floodways. Enhanced stormwater facilities with public seating/trails may receive credit under Sec. 14.05.00X(X).
- 3) Residential Lots (one- and two-family). At least one (1) canopy tree shall be planted in the front yard within 10' of the property line along the ROW; corner lots shall provide one (1) canopy tree along each street frontage outside sight triangles. At least two (2) shrubs shall be planted within the front yard (and corner side yard, if applicable) within 15' of the property line along the ROW. Irrigated turf shall not exceed fifty (50) percent of the front-yard landscaped area. Existing healthy native trees in the front yard may satisfy the tree requirement.
- 4) Credit for Existing Vegetation. Up to fifty (50) percent of the required landscape area may be satisfied by preserved, undisturbed native vegetation free of state-listed invasive species, provided Preservation Areas are delineated on plans, protected during construction, and recorded by note or easement.
  Designated tree preservation areas with at least fifty (50) percent native canopy may count at 1.5× area, provided the total credit under this subsection does not exceed fifty (50) percent.

#### E. Streetscape and Frontage Requirements

- Location. All required street trees shall be planted inside the private property line within the frontage landscape band unless otherwise approved by the City due to site constraints or for utility or sightdistance reasons.
- 2) Frontage Band. At least fifty (50) percent of the required on-site landscape area shall be within a continuous frontage landscape band a minimum of ten (10) feet in depth on private property along all street frontages.
- 3) Street Trees. Provide one (1) tree per forty (30) linear feet of frontage, planted three to five (3–5) feet inside the property line; spacing may be adjusted administratively between twenty (20) and forty (40) feet to avoid utilities and sight triangles. In downtown or constrained contexts, trees may be placed in tree wells with root paths or structural soil; tree grates are permitted.
- 4) Shrubs and Groundcovers. Shrubs shall be massed within the frontage band generally at thirty-six (36) inches on center, or as shown on an approved planting plan providing equivalent coverage.
- 5) Alternative Compliance—Constrained Sites. Where existing buildings, utilities, or easements prevent full compliance, the Development Services Director may approve equivalent frontage landscaping through expanded tree wells, raised planters, additional shade trees, or interior islands, provided the total required frontage area and frontage tree count are maintained and the minimum on-site landscaping percentage per development type remains satisfied.

6) ROW Restoration. Disturbed ROW adjacent to sidewalks or streets shall be restored prior to CO with sod or a xeriscape palette using drought-tolerant species.

#### F. Parking-Lot Landscaping

- 1) Interior parking areas shall include landscape area equal to at least:
  - a) 10% of the total paved parking area for Commercial/Office/Institutional, Mixed-Use, and Multifamily; and
  - b) 5% of the total paved parking area for Industrial; exclusive of perimeter landscape strips. Islands, linear islands, and green-infrastructure islands may be counted toward this requirement. Where a percentage in this subsection and the island frequency requirements both apply, the more restrictive outcome governs.
- 2) Soil Volumes for Urban Tree Wells / Planters. Tree wells or raised planters in constrained/urban contexts may count as landscape area only where a minimum soil volume of 600 cubic feet per canopy tree and 300 cubic feet per understory tree is provided, which may be satisfied by structural soil or root paths.
- 3) Interior Islands and End-Caps. Provide a landscape island at the end of each parking row and at least one (1) landscape island for every one hundred and twenty (120) linear feet. Each island shall be a minimum of three hundred (300) square feet and ten (10) feet in width, with one (1) canopy tree per island.
- 4) Linear Islands. In lieu of discrete islands, a linear island of at least four hundred (600) square feet and ten (10) feet in width with two (2) shade trees may serve a single parking aisle of up to 240 linear feet.
- 5) Green-Infrastructure Islands. Where feasible, curb cuts or flush curbs shall convey runoff into islands designed as bioretention features with amended soils per Sec. 14.05.00X(X). If tested infiltration is less than 0.5 inches per hour, or the seasonal high-water table is within twenty-four (24) inches of the media bottom, an underdrain shall be provided to the storm system.
- 6) Perimeter Screening. Provide a minimum ten (10) foot perimeter landscape strip with one (1) canopy tree per forty (30) linear feet and a continuous shrub mass or hedge not to exceed thirty-six (36) inches in height for headlight screening from the ROW. Frontage Standards may also satisfy this requirement.
- 7) EV Charging Equipment Placement. Electric vehicle (EV) charging pedestals and associated equipment shall be located so as not to conflict with required tree growth or RPZs; a minimum five (5) foot clear radius around tree trunks at maturity shall be maintained. EV pedestals should be sited in end-caps or behind wheel stops outside required tree planting areas.
- 8) Relationship to Percentage Minimum. Where compliance with Subsections c)—h) yields interior landscape area less than the percentage required by Sec. 14.05.001(6)(a), additional islands, linear islands, or

bioretention areas shall be added to meet the percentage. Where it yields more, no reduction is permitted below the adopted standards.

#### G. Buffers Between Unlike Land Uses

- 1) Required buffers shall be provided along side and rear lot lines as follows:
  - a) Industrial abutting Residential: thirty (30) feet wide landscape buffer with an earthen berm or masonry wall and evergreen screen capable of reaching six (6) feet in height within three (3) years; planted eight to ten (8–10) feet on center.
  - b) Industrial abutting Commercial: twenty (20) feet with earthen berm or masonry wall and evergreen screen capable of reaching six (6) feet in height within three (3) years; plant eight to ten (8–10) feet on center.
  - c) Commercial abutting Residential: fifteen (15) feet with evergreen screening.
  - d) Remaining pre-existing native vegetation may count towards the buffer requirement, supplementing additional vegetation as needed.
  - e) Loading Docks: 15-foot landscape buffer with an 8-foot opaque masonry wall (10-foot when abutting residential) and a continuous evergreen hedge in a ≥5-foot planting strip, planted at ≤36-inch o.c., achieving ≥80% opacity within 3 years.
- 2) Corridors and Gateways. Along designated Scenic or Gateway corridors (as mapped by ordinance), provide a twenty (20) foot frontage buffer with one (1) canopy tree per thirty (30) linear feet and layered understory/shrub plantings; fences shall be decorative metal or masonry.
- H. Tree Protection and Mitigation (Cross-Reference)
  - 1) Tree preservation, protection fencing, construction within RPZs, removals, and mitigation shall comply with Chapter XX, Article [Tree Preservation and Mitigation], as amended. Where this Article is more restrictive, this Article controls.
  - 2) Credits. Preserved trees that meet spacing and health standards may be credited toward parking-lot tree and frontage tree requirements when located within required landscape areas.
- I. Minimum Planting Standards
  - 1) Plant Quality. All plant materials shall conform to ANSI Z60.1 and be nursery-grown, free of pests and disease, and typical of their species.
  - 2) Installation. Set trees with the root flare at finished grade; apply mulch two to three (2–3) inches deep, kept at least three (3) inches from trunks.

3) Utilities and Sight Distance. Trees shall not be planted within ten (10) feet of fire hydrants or five (5) feet of underground utilities; all plantings must be outside sight-visibility triangles; species/placement shall avoid overhead utility conflicts.

#### J. Root Protection Zones

- Protection Intent. Root zones shall remain protected and undisturbed for preserved trees, and new
  plantings shall be sited and detailed to provide appropriate soil volume and space for healthy root
  establishment and growth.
- 2) Root Protection Zone (RPZ). For purposes of this Code, the RPZ is a circular area with a radius equal to one (1) foot for each inch of trunk caliper, centered on the trunk, unless a Tree Protection Plan prepared by an ISA-Certified Arborist establishes a different radius based on species and site conditions.
- 3) Protection Fencing. Prior to any land disturbance, the RPZ of all preserved trees shall be enclosed with four (4) foot-high chain-link or welded-wire fencing supported by steel posts at eight (8) feet on center, with "Tree Protection Area Keep Out" signage posted at one per 50 feet of fence or minimum one per tree. Fencing shall remain in place until Final landscape inspection unless released in writing by the Director.
- 4) Prohibited Activities Within the RPZ. Within the RPZ, the following are prohibited: grading; cuts or fills; trenching; compaction by vehicles or equipment; parking or materials storage (including soil, rock, equipment, or dumpsters); concrete wash-out; fuel, paint, or chemical mixing; fires; and installation of utilities, footings, slabs, or pavements.
- 5) Limited Encroachments (Methods). Where the Director determines that an encroachment into the RPZ is unavoidable, the following methods shall be used, and only to the minimum extent necessary:
  - a) Hand digging or pneumatic excavation (no mechanical trenchers) within the outer one-third of the RPZ.
  - b) Tunneling or directional boring for utilities beneath roots at a minimum twenty-four (24) inches below existing grade (or below the majority root plate if known).
  - c) Root pruning only as necessary to complete the work, with clean cuts performed by or under the supervision of an ISA-Certified Arborist; cut surfaces shall be immediately backfilled and watered.
  - d) Total encroachment area shall not exceed ten (10) percent of the RPZ, and no excavation may occur within five (5) feet of the trunk.
- 6) Grade Changes Over Roots. No cuts are permitted within the RPZ. Fills over the RPZ are limited to three (3) inches of pervious topsoil and mulch combined; impermeable surfaces are prohibited unless a Tree Protection Plan provides engineered aeration/soil-cell measures approved by the Director.

- 7) Remediation for Accidental Compaction or Disturbance. If compaction or disturbance occurs within the RPZ, the Director may require remediation consisting of pneumatic soil decompaction or radial trenching (8–12 inches deep) and incorporation of compost at 2–4 inches over disturbed areas, followed by deep watering and mulch.
- 8) New Tree Planting—Soil Volume and Space. New trees shall be located and detailed to provide adequate, contiguous soil volume: 600 cubic feet per canopy tree and 300 cubic feet per understory tree minimum (which may be shared by adjacent trees if volumes are contiguous). In constrained or paved areas, equivalent volumes may be provided via structural soil, soil cells, or root paths beneath pavements.

  Minimum planter widths: eight (8) feet for canopy trees and five (5) feet for understory trees, unless a Tree Protection Plan demonstrates equal or better performance.
- 9) Hardscape and Equipment Setbacks. No EV charging pedestals, transformers, or similar equipment shall be placed within required tree planting areas or within the five (5) foot clear radius around tree trunks needed for growth and maintenance. Pavement edges, curbs, and walls shall be detailed to keep mulch off trunks and maintain the visible root flare at finished grade.
- 10) Utilities and Irrigation Near Roots. Irrigation mains and lateral lines shall be routed outside the RPZ where feasible; if crossing is unavoidable, lines shall be bored beneath roots as in Subsection 5(b). All utility separations and hydrant clearances in Sec. 14.XX.009(C) remain applicable.
- 11) Tree Wells and Planters (Urban Conditions). Tree wells or raised planters used to satisfy landscape requirements shall include aeration and drainage features, maintain the root flare at finish grade, and meet the soil-volume requirements in Subsection 8. Where planters are adjacent to paving, provide root paths/soil connections to adjacent landscape or soil-cell areas.
- 12) Documentation and Field Verification. The Landscape Plan shall delineate RPZs for preserved trees and show fencing, boring/tunneling notes, and soil-volume diagrams for new trees. Compliance shall be verified at Pre-construction (fencing installed), during Utility rough-in (if applicable), and at Final.
- 13) Damage, Survival, and Mitigation. If a preserved tree suffers decline or mortality attributable to RPZ disturbance within two (2) years of CO, the Director may require mitigation or replacement per the Tree Preservation Article and may draw on posted bonds where applicable (ROW or accepted common areas).
- 14) Alternative Compliance (Arborist Plan). The Director may approve modifications to RPZ dimensions, methods, or soil volumes only upon submittal of a Tree Protection Plan sealed by an ISA-Certified Arborist that demonstrates equal or superior long-term tree health and public safety outcomes.
- K. Soils, Irrigation, and Water Conservation

- 1) Soils. Landscape areas shall contain a minimum six (6) inches of quality topsoil or amended soil; compacted subgrades shall be scarified prior to amendment.
- 2) Irrigation. Provide separate zones for turf, trees, and beds; use drip or subsurface irrigation for shrubs/trees/beds; no overhead spray within twenty-four (24) inches of impervious surfaces. Systems shall include a weather-based smart controller and rain shut-off device and shall be inspected prior to CO.
- 3) Water Conservation. At least fifty (50) percent of plant materials (excluding turf) shall be native or drought-tolerant from the City's Adopted Preferred Plant List. High-water-use turf grass on nonresidential sites shall not exceed fifty (50) percent of total landscaped area. Rock/gravel may be used as an accent only, not to exceed twenty-five (25) percent of any landscaped area.
- L. Landscape Plans, Submittals, and Alternative Compliance
  - 1) Landscape Plan. A sealed landscape plan shall be submitted with the site plan or building permit (if site plan is not required) and show:
    - a) Calculations of required areas;
    - b) Plant schedule (species, size, quantity);
    - c) Preserved trees;
    - d) Irrigation concept;
    - e) Preservation Areas and RPZs;
    - f) LID features and any credits elected under Sec. 14.05.002;
    - g) Visibility triangles and utilities; and
    - h) Maintenance notes.
    - i) Plans electing cistern (rainwater harvesting) credits shall delineate the Connected Roof Area (square feet) with a polygon and label. The plan shall include tabulations demonstrating compliance with Table XX and Sec. 14.05.002(X), including the net lot area used for calculation and the gross paved parking area used for interior-landscape calculations.
- M. Maintenance, Inspection, and Bonding
  - Timing. All required landscaping shall be installed prior to CO; when seasonal conditions prevent planting, the City Manager or designee may accept a landscape surety equal to one hundred twenty-five (125) percent of the estimated installed cost.
  - 2) Maintenance. Owners shall maintain plantings and irrigation in a healthy condition; dead plant material shall be replaced within ninety (90) days, or by the next planting season if replacement within ninety (90)

- days is impractical. During municipally declared drought stages, replacement deadlines are extended to the next planting season; hand-watering and drip irrigation for establishment are permitted notwithstanding landscape-irrigation restrictions.
- 3) Inspections. Tree-protection fencing shall be installed and inspected prior to land disturbance; a final landscape inspection is required prior to CO; the City may reinspect for establishment within twelve (12) months of CO.

#### 4) Bonding.

- a) Private Frontage Trees. Where all required street trees are planted inside the private property line, no maintenance bond is required. The owner shall pass final inspection and provide an elevenmonth establishment affidavit.
- b) ROW/Common-Area Landscaping Accepted with Public Improvements. Prior to acceptance, the developer shall post a two (2) year maintenance bond at 100% of the installed cost covering trees and landscaping in ROW or common areas accepted with roadway or subdivision improvements.

#### Sec. 14.05.002 Low Impact Development Landscaping Credits.

- A. Purpose. Provide standard, predictable credits that reduce otherwise required landscape area or allow substitutions when on-site LID achieves equal or better outcomes for shade, cooling, and stormwater management.
- B. Applicability. Credits in Standardized LID & Rainwater Credits Table may be elected for nonresidential and multifamily development.
- C. Administration. Credits shall be granted ministerially upon submittal of the City's LID Credit Worksheet, stamped plans, and Standard Details (Appendix), verified at Site Plan and in the field prior to CO.
- D. Cap. Total LID credits cannot reduce required landscape area by more than 50%. Notwithstanding any credit, the required frontage tree count in Sec. 14.05.001(5) shall not be reduced.
- E. O&M. All credited LID facilities shall be maintained per a recorded LID O&M Affidavit naming a responsible party and minimum inspection frequency.
- F. Effective Storage for Cisterns (rainwater harvesting barrels). For Table below, Effective Storage (ES) = the lesser of (i) rated tank volume, or (ii) 1.0 inch of rainfall over the connected roof area, multiplied by a 0.80 recovery factor. A five (5) day drawdown assumption is acceptable for sizing equivalency.
- G. Table: Standardized LID & Rainwater Credits

| No. | Measure   | Required Submittal   | Credit  | Notes  |
|-----|---|--|---|--|
| 1   | Cistern (rain<br>barrel) for non-<br>potable irrigation               | LID Worksheet; SD-<br>LID-004; tank cut<br>sheet;<br>routing/overflow<br>diagram | Reduce required landscape<br>area 5% per 1,000 gal ES, up<br>to 50% max total required<br>landscaped area.  | ES per Sec. 14.XX.013(F).<br>Overflow to approved<br>discharge; label "Auxiliary<br>Water."                            |
| 2   | Bioretention<br>parking-lot<br>island(s) receiving<br>pavement runoff | Plan shows SD-LID-001<br>and SD-LID-002; media<br>spec; planting                 | Each qualifying island counts at 150% of its plan area toward the interior-parking landscape minimum; total credit up to 25% of the required landscaped area. | Curb cuts/flush curb required; engineered media; underdrain if infiltration <0.5 in/hr or high water table within 24". |
| 3   | Permeable<br>frontage swale or<br>bioretention strip                  | Section per SD-LID-<br>003; drainage note  | 25% credit toward the required frontage landscaping requirement   | Treats first 1" from frontage sidewalk/adjacent stalls; outside sight triangles.                                       |

- H. Inspection. The City shall verify installation of credited measures at Final and may reinspect within twelve (12) months of CO.
- Bonding. Credited improvements in ROW or HOA common areas accepted with public improvements shall be
  covered by the applicable two-year maintenance bond under Sec. 14.XX.012(D)(2). Credits located solely on
  private property are not bonded but remain subject to maintenance and reinspection.

#### Sec. 14.05.004 Enforcement and Penalties.

- A. Violations. Failure to install, maintain, or replace required landscaping, or failure to comply with conditions of approved credits, is a violation of this Code.
- B. Remedies. The City may issue notices of violation, stop-work orders, holds on permits or COs, draw on posted bonds, and/or assess fines as authorized by ordinance and state law.
- C. Appeals. Decisions made under this Article are appealable pursuant to Chapter 14, Article [Administration & Procedures], Sec. [Appeals].

#### Sec. 14.05.005 Adopted Lists, Details, and Guides.

- A. Adopted Preferred Plant List and Prohibited Species. The "City of Bastrop Adopted Plant List" and "Prohibited Species List," within the Plant List, may be amended by resolution, are adopted by reference and maintained in the Appendix.
- B. Standard Details (Appendix A). The following details are adopted by reference and maintained by the Development Services Director; the most current versions apply:
  - 1) SD-LID-001: Curb-Cut to Bioretention Detail (opening width, invert drop, splash pad).

- 2) SD-LID-002: Bioretention Island Section (24–36" engineered media; 6" surface ponding; mulch zone; underdrain if tested infiltration < 0.5 in/hr or seasonal high water table within 24"; EV equipment not within required tree planting areas; maintain ≥5' clear radius around tree trunks at maturity).
- 3) SD-LID-003: Soil Amendment/Planting Section (scarify subgrade; minimum 6" amended soil; dripline).
- 4) SD-LID-004: Cistern Schematic (screened inlet, first-flush, overflow, backflow/air gap for any auxiliary plumbing; label "Auxiliary Water").

#### **Preferred Plant List (to accompany Landscape Ordinance)**

#### Canopy (shade) trees

- Cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*)
- Winged elm (*Ulmus alata*)
- Escarpment live oak (Quercus fusiformis)
- Monterey/Mexican white oak (Quercus polymorpha)
- Chinquapin oak (Quercus muehlenbergii)
- Bur oak (Quercus macrocarpa)
- Lacey oak (Quercus laceyi)
- Shumard oak (Quercus shumardii)
- Post oak (Quercus stellata)
- Mexican sycamore (*Platanus mexicana*)
- Live Oak (Quercus virginiana)
- Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

#### Understory / small trees

- Texas redbud (Cercis canadensis var. texensis)
- Mexican redbud (Cercis canadensis var. mexicana)
- Anacacho orchid tree (Bauhinia lunarioides)
- Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*)
- Eve's necklace (Styphnolobium affine)
- Texas mountain laurel (Dermatophyllum/Sophora secundiflorum)
- Yaupon holly, tree form (*Ilex vomitoria*)
- Texas persimmon (Diospyros texana)
- Desert willow (Chilopsis linearis)
- American Smoketree (Cotinus obovatus)

#### **Shrubs**

Agarita (Mahonia trifoliolata)

- Dwarf yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria* cvs.)
- Cenizo / Texas sage (Leucophyllum frutescens)
- Flame acanthus (Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii)
- Rock rose (Pavonia lasiopetala)
- American beautyberry (Callicarpa americana)
- Mountain sage (Salvia regla)
- Damianita (Chrysactinia mexicana)
- Rusty blackhaw viburnum (Viburnum rufidulum)
- Evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*)
- Turk's cap (Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii) Revize+1

#### **Grasses & groundcovers**

- Lindheimer muhly (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*)
- Gulf muhly (Muhlenbergia capillaris)
- Little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium)
- Sideoats grama (Bouteloua curtipendula)
- Blue grama (Bouteloua gracilis)
- Inland sea oats (Chasmanthium latifolium)
- Buffalo grass (Bouteloua dactyloides) low-traffic only
- Texas sedge (Carex texensis) and other Carex spp. (e.g., Berkeley/Meadow sedges)
- Frogfruit (*Phyla incisa/nodiflora*)
- Horseherb (Calyptocarpus vialis)
- Bermuda Grass
- Lantana Grass
- Rye Grass

#### "Parking-lot tough" shortlist (hot, constrained ±300 sq ft islands)

- Trees: Cedar elm; Desert willow; Yaupon (standard or multi-trunk); Eve's necklace; Mexican plum; Monterey oak, Live Oak, Bald Cypress (good but may drop fruit)
- Shrubs/accents: Cenizo; Damianita; Agarita; Red yucca (Hesperaloe parviflora).
- **Grasses/groundcovers:** Lindheimer or Gulf muhly; Sideoats grama; Frogfruit; Horseherb; Texas sedge.

#### **Prohibited**

- Red woods
- Chinese tallow (Triadica/Sapium sebiferum)
- Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*)
- Privet/ligustrum (multiple species)
- Nandina (berrying varieties)
- Vitex (Vitex agnus-castus)
- Tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima)
- Chinaberry (Melia azedarach)
- English ivy (Hedera helix)
- Periwinkle (Vinca major/minor)
- Running bamboo (*Phyllostachys* spp.)
- Giant reed (Arundo donax)
- Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)
- Chinese parasol tree (Firmiana simplex)
- Bradford/callery pear (Pyrus calleryana)
- Salt cedar (*Tamarix* spp.) Revize



MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025

**TITLE:** Consider and act on a recommendation to the City Council for Article 6, Tree Preservation and Mitigation, for inclusion in Chapter 14 (Bastrop Code of Ordinances), replacing the current B3 Code and Technical Manual tree preservation provisions upon adoption of the Bastrop Development Code to City Council.

#### **AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:**

Alondra Macias, Planner I, Development Services Department

#### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

The B3 code was adopted in November of 2019, and subsequently amended in April of 2022. The City is currently working on changing the Bastrop Building Block (B3) and replacing it with the Bastrop Development Code that preserves key B3 intents while providing clearer, predictable, and easier-to-administer standards.

Article 14.06 establishes a modern tree-preservation program that pairs clear survey and construction-phase protection standards with flexible, caliper-based mitigation and payment-in-lieu options. It targets meaningful canopy retention, safeguards critical root zones during construction, aligns replacement species with a preferred list, incentivizes invasive removal, and provides practical exemptions and an appeal path—backed by enforceable permits, timelines, and penalties.

This amendment will ensure that more trees will be protected even at the time of development by adding critical root zone restrictions which protects the trees that are preserved.

Additionally, there has been more details added to the tree survey requirements. Currently there is no delineation of what trees were required to be surveyed, the proposal is to require all trees 8 in in diameter or bigger to be surveyed and 6 inch in diameter if credits need to be applied.

This amendment also combines the tree mitigation process into one section within the Code of Ordinances as currently there are a few places where tree mitigation is mentioned within the code and cleans up some language where there was contradiction or unclear language.

The proposed amendment to the tree protection allows residents and visitors to enjoy the natural environment and the trees that are so vital to the community.

If adopted by Council as part of the Development Code, Article 6 will replace the B3 tree mitigation. The Article is structured to coordinate with the Landscape Ordinance, the Off-Street Parking standards, and any adopted plant lists, details, and LID credit worksheets.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Consider and act to recommend approval of Article 6, Tree Preservation and Mitigation, for inclusion in Chapter 14 (Bastrop Code of Ordinances), replacing the current B3 Code and Technical Manual tree preservation provisions upon adoption of the Bastrop Development Code to City Council.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed Tree Preservation Ordinance (Article 6 of the proposed Bastrop Development Code)

#### ARTICLE 14.06 TREE PRESERVATION AND MITIGATION

#### Sec. 14.06.001 Purpose and Intent

- A. Conserve and enhance the City's trees to protect neighborhood character, public health, stormwater management, urban heat mitigation, and wildlife habitat.
- B. Establish clear standards for tree surveys, preservation zones, critical root zone protections, mitigation, and enforcement.
- C. Provide reasonable flexibility to accommodate other development standards when doing so results in measurably better tree preservation outcomes.

#### Sec. 14.06.002 Applicability and Relationship to Other Codes

- A. Applicability. This Article applies to all public and private development, redevelopment, and site work requiring a development permit, building permit, grading/clearing permit, or plat approval within the City limits (and ETJ where allowed by law).
- B. Exemptions. 1) Trees on legally conforming single-family lots may be removed by the property owner without mitigation if not otherwise protected as a Significant/Heritage Tree and if no development permit is sought. 2) Emergency work necessary to eliminate an immediate hazard to life or property (apply for a Tree Removal Permit on the next business day and provide evidence of the hazard). 3) Routine pruning and maintenance consistent with Sec. 14.06.017.
- C. Conflicts. Where this Article conflicts with another adopted City standard, the Director may authorize the least-deviation solution that best preserves protected trees while meeting public safety, flood, and utility requirements (Sec. 14.06.016).

#### Sec. 14.06.004 Permit Required; Validity; Denial of Heritage Removal

- A. Permit. A Tree Removal Permit is required before removing a Protected Tree or conducting a Tree Impact Activity.
- B. Validity. A Tree Disposition Permit is valid for six (6) months from issuance.

#### Sec. 14.06.005 Submittals: Tree Survey and Disposition/Preservation Plan

- A. Tree Survey, sealed by a Certified Arborist or Landscape Architect:
  - 1) Vicinity map; property boundaries and acreage.
  - 2) Existing/proposed streets, drainage, and utility easements on/adjacent to the property.
  - 3) Required preservation/buffer zones.
  - 5) Location, tag number, species, DBH, and condition of each preserved individual Protected Tree; identify Heritage/Significant Trees.
  - 6) Identification of areas proposed for clearing.
  - 7) Recent aerial imagery depicting pre-development conditions.

- 8) All trees starting at 8 inches in diameter must be surveyed, if credit for preserved trees that are 6 inches in diameter or bigger is wanted, 6-inch diameter trees will also need to be surveyed.
- 9) The information on the survey shall not be older than two years.
- 10) A tree survey and preservation plan for all areas of soil disturbance and construction activity including all work within rights-of-way and easements shall be submitted within a zoning concept scheme application. If rezoning is not applicable for a property, then this document shall be submitted at the time of public improvement plans or site development plans, whichever is first. However if the site is larger than 10 acres, only a preliminary tree survey will be needed at the time of rezoning application and a detailed survey at the time of land disturbance.
- B. Tree Removal & Preservation Plan (drawn to site plan scale) must:
  - 1) Overlay building footprints, drives, parking, detention, and utilities.
  - 2) Delineate CRZ fencing and protection measures.
  - 3) Identify mitigation, replacement, and/or Payment in Lieu strategy (Sec. 14.06.015).
  - 5) Provide irrigation plans for new plantings where required (Sec. 14.06.012.B).

#### Sec. 14.06.006 Clearing Permits

A. Final Clearing Permit. May be issued with an approved Tree Mitigation & Preservation Plan; valid 120 days. No building permit final or CO/acceptance until compliance is verified.

#### Sec. 14.06.007 Credits

A. For every healthy protected tree six (2) inches caliper or larger located outside of the flood plain that is preserved, the developer shall be given credit, according to the following chart.

B. Individual Tree Credits (ITCs). Assign canopy credit per preserved tree by DBH class:

| DBH Class    | Credit |
|--------------|--------|
| 6.0"-9.9"    | 1.0    |
| 10.0 "-23.9" | 1.5    |
| ≥24.0"       | 2.0    |

C. Healthy unprotected trees, over twelve (12) inches in size, located outside the flood plain, may be considered for tree credits only when individually field inspected and approved by a designated representative of the City of Bastrop.

#### Sec. 14.06.008 New and Replacement Tree Standards

A. Species. Select from the Preferred/Protected Species List in Appendix A. The Parks Director may approve of comparable species.

#### Sec. 14.06.009 Preservation/Irrigation Plans and Detention Areas

A. Plan Content. The preservation/landscape plan shall: show all utilities/easements; proposed buildings, parking, and ponds; outline preserved WTS (note understory); list each preserved ITC tree with ID/species/DBH/credit;

show new tree locations/species to meet canopy; and document any encumbrances excluded from Project Effective Area.

B. Irrigation. Provide automatic irrigation for all new trees and shrubs unless: (i) the site includes undisturbed natural areas or preserved existing trees, or (ii) seven (7) or fewer trees are required and all are drought-tolerant and not located in parking islands.

C. Detention. Trees may be preserved or planted within stormwater facilities so long as they do not impair capacity; where planted, use water-tolerant species.

#### Sec. 14.06.010 Critical Root Zone (CRZ) Protection During Construction

#### A. Root Zones

- Protection Intent. Root zones shall remain protected and undisturbed for preserved trees, and new
  plantings shall be sited and detailed to provide appropriate soil volume and space for healthy root
  establishment and growth.
- 2) Root Protection Zone (RPZ). For purposes of this Code, the RPZ is a circular area with a radius equal to one (1) foot for each inch of trunk caliper measured per Sec. 14.05.003, centered on the trunk, unless a Tree Protection Plan prepared by an ISA-Certified Arborist establishes a different radius based on species and site conditions.
- 3) Protection Fencing. Prior to any land disturbance, the RPZ of all preserved trees shall be enclosed with four (4) foot-high chain-link or welded-wire fencing supported by steel posts at eight (8) feet on center, with "Tree Protection Area Keep Out" signage posted at one per 50 feet of fence or minimum one per tree. Fencing shall remain in place until Final landscape inspection unless released in writing by the Director.
- 4) Prohibited Activities Within the RPZ. Within the RPZ, the following are prohibited: grading; cuts or fills; trenching; compaction by vehicles or equipment; parking or materials storage (including soil, rock, equipment, or dumpsters); concrete wash-out; fuel, paint, or chemical mixing; fires; and installation of utilities, footings, slabs, or pavements.
- 5) Limited Encroachments (Methods). Where the Director determines that an encroachment into the RPZ is unavoidable, the following methods shall be used, and only to the minimum extent necessary:
  - a) Hand digging or pneumatic excavation (no mechanical trenchers) within the outer one-third of the RPZ.
  - b) Tunneling or directional boring for utilities beneath roots at a minimum twenty-four (24) inches below existing grade (or below the majority root plate if known).

- c) Root pruning only as necessary to complete the work, with clean cuts performed by or under the supervision of an ISA-Certified Arborist; cut surfaces shall be immediately backfilled and watered.
- d) Total encroachment area shall not exceed ten (10) percent of the RPZ, and no excavation may occur within five (5) feet of the trunk.
- 6) Grade Changes Over Roots. No cuts are permitted within the RPZ. Fills over the RPZ are limited to three (3) inches of pervious topsoil and mulch combined; impermeable surfaces are prohibited unless a Tree Protection Plan provides engineered aeration/soil-cell measures approved by the Director.
- 7) Remediation for Accidental Compaction or Disturbance. If compaction or disturbance occurs within the RPZ, the Director may require remediation consisting of pneumatic soil decompaction or radial trenching (8–12 inches deep) and incorporation of compost at 2–4 inches over disturbed areas, followed by deep watering and mulch.

#### Sec. 14.06.011 Mitigation, Replacement Calculation, and Payment in Lieu

- A. The City Manager, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Director, shall create a process and procedure for mitigating the removal of trees on private property by creating a permit process for tree removal.
- B. Upon inspection by the City Arborist, or a designated third-party arborist, persons seeking to remove a tree on the protected Preferred Plant list, that is over 10" in caliper 4.5 feet from the ground, shall be required to obtain a mitigation permit that is assessed according to the City Master Fee Schedule.
- C. This fee shall not be assessed to residents if: (1) the tree is located on a property that is an existing one-family or two-family dwelling that is the person's residence; and (2) is less than 10 inches in diameter at the point on the trunk 4.5 feet above the ground.
- D. Replacement trees shall be from the approved Preferred Plant list and shall be the same number of caliper inches removed from the site.
- E. Failure to replace caliper per caliper will result in less mitigation fee credits.
- F. If the City Arborist, or 3rd party Arborist, establishes that the tree must be removed for health, safety, protection from damage to surrounding property or structures, or other public safety reasons, the City Manager shall have the authority to assess no mitigation fees; however:
  - 1. On non-residential property, the replacement trees in equal caliper inches must be replanted on the site.
  - 2. On a property that is an existing one-family or two-family dwelling that is the person's residence, no fee or replacement is required.
  - 3. If the property owner removes a tree(s) that does not meet the requirements of the above and is 10 inches in caliper measured 4.5 feet from the ground and is on the Preferred Plant list as Native and does meet the definition of a protected or a heritage tree the property owner will be required to replant one plant from the Preferred Plant List for each tree removed.
- G. Individuals commending tree removal without a permit, shall be assessed double the mitigation fee, and must meet the requirements to replace trees on a caliper per caliper inch basis.

- H. Mitigation Methods (applicant may combine): on-site replacement; off-site replacement (parks, conservation areas, selected ROW, as approved); or Payment in Lieu to the City Reforestation & Tree Management Fund.
- I. Replacement Calculation (per Protected Tree removed): In the event it is necessary to remove a tree ten (10) inches caliper or larger, the developer, builder or property owner shall be required to replace the tree to be removed with comparable or better spacious trees somewhere within the planned development or subdivision. The City Council may allow such trees to be located to other areas in the City if it is deemed necessary by City staff, and space is available. Otherwise, the developer, builder or property owner shall, at the City's option, escrow funds sufficient to meet the requirements of this Ordinance.
- J. Payment in Lieu. The per-inch rate shall be established by the City Master Fee Schedule.

K. Invasive Removal Incentive. When the applicant eliminates on-site/off-site invasive trees per Appendix B, the Director may reduce required caliper-inch replacement by:

| Invasive Inches Removed | Reduction |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 50–150"                 | 5%        |
| 150.1–300"              | 10%       |
| 300.1–500"              | 15%       |
| >500"                   | 20%       |

L. Timing & Security. Replacement trees must be planted within **1 year** of permit issuance. For Payment in Lieu elections tied to later planting upon approval from Director, provide a cash escrow, bond, or letter of credit equal to the full amount; release occurs after verified planting.

#### Sec. 14.06.012 Appeals

An individual may request relief to any part of this section to the City Manager within 15 business days with documentation supporting the requested adjustment. If the appeal is denied, the individual may appeal to the Tree Advisory Board. The decision of the board shall be final.

#### Sec. 14.06.013 Exemptions

A. Any protected or heritage trees determined to be diseased, overly mature, dying or dead, by a certified arborist are exempted from the Standards of this Code.

B. All invasive species identified by an ISA-certified arborist will receive invasive species credits, 1/2 credit for every inch of invasive tree being removed.

#### Sec. 14.06.014 Fees and Penalties

A. Fees shall be established by the Master Fee Schedule.

B. Any individual who removes trees without a permit, or does not comply with the mitigation requirements of Article 14.06 shall be subject to a \$500 to \$2000 fine, per tree, per offense and shall be charged with a misdemeanor offense

#### Appendix A – Preferred Species List

Use these species for all required new and replacement trees unless otherwise approved by the Director/City Arborist.

#### Native Trees:

American Elm (Ulmus americana) Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum) Bigtooth Maple (Acer grandidentatum) Black Jack Oak (Quercus marilandica) Box Elder (Acer negundo) Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa) Cedar Elm (Ulmus crassifolia) Chinquapin Oak (Quercus muhlenbergii) Desert Willow (Chilopsis linearis) Eastern Cottonwood (Populus deltoides) Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana) Gum Bumelia (Sideroxylon lanuginosum) Hackberry (Celtis laevigata) Live Oak (Quercus virginiana) Loblolly Pine (Pinus taeda) Mexican Buckeye (Ungnadia speciosa) Mexican Plumb (Prunus Mexicana) Osage Orange (Maclura pomifera) Pecan (Carya illinoinensis) Post Oak (Quercus stellata) Ratama, Paloverde (Parkinsonia aculeate) Red Bud (Cercis canadensis var. texensis) Red Maple (Acer rubrum) Red Mulberry (Morus rubra) Roughleaf Dogwood (Cornus drummondii) Southern Catalpa (Catalpa bignonioides) Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) Texas Ash (Fraxinus texensis) Texas Hickory (Carya texana) Texas Persimmon (Diospyros texana) Texas Red Oak (Quercus texana) Texas Walnut (Juglans microcarpa) Toothache Tree (Zanthoxylum hirsutum) Western Soapberry (Sapindus saponaria var. drummondii) Wild Cherry Prunus serotina Winged Elm (Ulmus alata)

#### Native Landscaping Plans and Grasses:

Evergreen Sumac (Rhus virens) Eve's Necklace (Styphnolobium affine) Flameleaf Sumac (Rhus lanceolata) Mountain Laurel (Sophora secundiflora) Possumhaw (Ilex decidua) Red Buckeye (Aesculus pavia) Southern Wax Myrtle (Myrica cerifera) Texas Buckeye (Aesculus glabra) Texas Lantana (Lantana urticoides) Yellow Bells (Tecoma stans) Buffalo Grass (Bouteloua dactyloides) Curly Mesquite (Hilaria berlangeri) Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium) Inland Sea Oats (Chasmanthium latifolium) SideOats Gramma (Bouteloua curtipendula) Muhly Grasses (Muhlenbergia sp.) Eastern Gamma Grass (Tripsacum dactyloides) Indian Grass (Sorghastrum nutans)

#### **Acceptable Non-Native Plants**

Apple (Malus sp.) Crepe Myrtle (Lagerstoemia sp.) Fig (Ficus sp.) Grape (Vitis Sp.) Loquat (Eriobotrya japonica) Peach, Plum (Prunus sp.) Pear (Pyrus sp.) Pomegranate (Punica granatum) Rose (Rosa sp.) Zoysia Grass (Zoysia sp.)

#### Appendix B – Invasive Species List (removal qualifies for mitigation reduction)

#### **Invasive Trees:**

Ash (all except Texas Ash) (Fraxinus Sp.) Australian Pine Casuarina equisetifolia) Beach Sheoak (Casuarina equisetifolia) Bottlebrush Tree (Melaleuca quinguenervia) Brazilian Pepper Tree (Schinus tevabintifolius) Camphor Tree (Cinnamomum camphora) Carrotwood Tree (Cupaniopsis anacardiodes) China Berry (Melia azedarach) Chinese Elm (Ulmus pumila) Chinese Parasol (Firmiana simplex) Chinese Parasol Tree (Firmiana simplex) Chinese Pistache (Pistacia chinensis) Chinese Tallow (Triadica sebifera) Chinese Wisteria (Wisteria sinensis) Golden Rain Tree (Koelreuteria paniculata) Ligustrum, Privet (Ligustrum lucidum, Ligustrum sp.) Mimosa Tree (Albizia julibrissin) Paper Mulberry (Broussonetia papyrifera) Peepul Tree (Ficus religiosa) Popinac (Leucaena leucocephala) Princess Tree (Paulownia tomentosa) Russian, Autumn Olive (Elaeagnus unbellata) Salt Cedar (Tamarix sp.) Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima) True Cedar Tree (Cedrus sp.) Vitex (Vitex agnus-castus)

#### Invasive Landscaping Plants and Grasses:

Japanese Honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) Nandina (Nandina domestica) Lantana (Lantana camera) Bermuda Grass (Cynodon dactylon) Buffelgrass (Cenchrus ciliaris) Common Reed (Phragmites austalis) English Ivy (Hedera helix) Giant Reed (Arundo donax) Bamboo (Phyllostachys sp., Bambusa sp.) Multiflora rose (Rosa multiflora) Rose of

Sharon (Hibiscus syriacus) Annual Bluegrass (Poa annua) Carpet Grass (Axonopus sp.) Rye Grass (Lolium Sp) Red Fescue (Festuca rubra)



MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025

## STAFF REPORT

**TITLE:**Discussion on Designating part of Mayfest for Parkland for Veterans Memorial

#### **AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:**

Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

#### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

Discussion on Designating part of Mayfest for Parkland for Veterans Memorial

**FISCAL IMPACT:** 

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:** 

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:** 

Map



MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025

Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation

## STAFF REPORT

| TITLE:                                  |  |
|---|--|
| Discussion on Canceling January Meeting |  |
| AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:               |  |

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:** 

Canceling January Meeting due to first Thursday falling on January 1, 2026

**FISCAL IMPACT:** 

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:** 

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:** 

N/A



| MEETING DATE: November 6, 2025                 |
|--|
| TITLE:   |
| Discussion on Workshop in February             |
| AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:                      |
| Jason Alfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation |
| BACKGROUND/HISTORY:                            |
| Workshop in February                           |
| FISCAL IMPACT:                                 |
| N/A  |
| RECOMMENDATION:                                |
| N/A  |
| ATTACHMENTS:                                   |
| N/A  |