



WILDWOOD

August 15, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and Zoning Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: Summary Sheet of Tree Preservation and Restoration Code Highlights for Work Session (**Wards – All**)

Cc: Steve Cross, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner
Robyn Keefe, AICP, Planner

BACKGROUND ... Since February 1996, the City has had regulations governing tree removal and preservation. Over time, some of those regulations were updated to address specific instances or problems that arose that were not anticipated many years ago. Along with these amendments, a Landscape Manual and Sustainable Plantings Guide were included, with the latter in 1996, with the adoption of the code, and the former in 2009. Although written in 1996 to reflect leadership in this area of municipal and environmental regulation, time has caused them to need updates to better reflect the collective knowledge of the past twenty plus (20+) years. This need is also applicable to the Landscape Manual and Sustainable Plantings Guide.

Since the public hearing held in early 2021, the Department has been reviewing information about new regulations applied by other municipal governments in this regard. This research and review resulted in the collection of a large amount of materials for consideration, along with input from experts that have assisted the City in the past relative to trees, their health, and how best to maximize their benefit to all of Wildwood. This information has been consolidated into several key documents that are the subject of tonight's meeting.

These items can be summarized as follows:

1. Comments from Andy Berg, former arborist with Davey Resource Group, who has consulted with the City for many years.

2. Review by Mark Harpin, Mr. Berg's replacement in this regard, which focused on comments noted in Item #1 of this list.
3. Comments and input from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).
4. Conclusions from a meeting held with a number of engineers and contractors that install individual household wastewater treatment systems in the City.
5. Certain components of the City's research that it believes are most applicable to this community or interesting in their contents to ensure the Commission is aware of them and can be discussed, if chosen.

DISCUSSION TOPICS ... The Department would begin with Mr. Berg's review comments, given his long experience in working with the City, followed by Mr. Harpin's considerations of the same, his predecessor. Mr. Harpin will attend this Work Session to assist in this regard. Thereafter, the Department would then offer certain observations and seek comments and direction from the Commission Members on several key items. Certainly, at this stage, the Department will be advocating for a new Landscape Manual, along with a Sustainable Plantings Guide, which would be less voluminous, and easier to apply in all parts of Wildwood. Those key items, beside the aforementioned Landscape Manual and Sustainable Plantings Guide, are summarized as follows:

Area of Study and Discussion		Direction
a.	Definition of 'grand' trees and stands.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define how to differentiate between grand trees and grand tree stands in urban/suburban/commercial areas and the same, but within the rural locations of the City 2. Institute a point system to define grand trees and stands
b.	Terms used in the measurement of tree sizes, along with critical root zone area protection.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update and standardize caliper versus diameter at breast height (inches) 2. Standardize in terms of number of feet for land disturbance from defined edge of critical root zone
c.	Coordination of Grading Code and other land use laws with tree ordinance.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grading Code provides protections within building and structure setbacks, along with stream and creek top-of-banks, including edges of water features, steep sloping areas, and other environmentally sensitive locations; these need to be coordinated to ensure they complement each other and programmed into any changes to this code
d.	Function of trees in stormwater management.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordination between other land use codes, particularly the Natural Resource Protection Standards.

Area of Study and Discussion		Direction
		2. Protect trees along edges of creek, streams, and other features from removal, i.e., increased stream buffer distance.
e.	Tree valuation and the standards used to calculate such.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cite appropriate organization/agency for use in this determination 2. Ensure the process that is used for these determinations reflects standard practices of the industry 3. Use arborist to assist in these determinations
f.	Tree replacements and mitigation steps.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study incentives to promote preservation versus removal 2. Update list of trees to be used for replacement plantings 3. Improve inspection and enforcement processes relative to violations to code provisions 4. Codify mitigation steps better
g.	Program to assist homeowners in many facets maintaining and greening Wildwood, including invasive removals, tree care and maintenance, replanting, as part of mitigation, and others.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an invasive removal program to assist residents 2. Offer programs for tree planting and protection along City's system of creeks, tributaries, and other water features 3. Promote public education about trees, soil characteristics in Wildwood, planting techniques, care, and other considerations 4. Encourage natives to be used for landscaping applications, mitigation purposes, and protection of sensitive lands, with a certain percent of any planting scheme to be a minimum of these types
h.	Tree Stand Delineation and Preservation Plans.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update, as recommended by City's arborist
i.	Landscape Plans, with native trees and plants.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update current components, which have not received such since 1996 2. Eliminate current formulas for plantings numbers 3. Replace City required plantings on these plans with more natives and other plantings best suited for Wildwood 4. Review current list of preferred species for street and public trees

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j.	Street trees and best practices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current list of preferred species for street and public trees 2. Codify tree lawn widths and best types of trees for such
k.	Harmful tree practices and their prohibition in Wildwood, i.e., topping.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify harmful tree practices and include their prohibition in code
l.	Tree species and plantings list and items included to be included upon it.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update and simplify 2. Address as part of Sustainable Plantings Guide's update
m.	Forest management and associated sales of timber.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update relative to current practices accepted by industry 2. Improve restoration techniques, as a component of this activity 3. Protect water features with improved techniques for such
n.	Wildlife and habitat guidelines.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reference protected species and their habitats 2. Define restricted times for tree clearing relative to the identified areas of Wildwood

ACTION STEPS ... These key items are intended to be the major components of tonight's discussion, with the desire to identify those considerations the Commission would like to have further research conducted or for inclusion in the updated code or, conversely, items that are not acceptable for potential application.

CONTACT INFORMATION ... If any of the Planning and Zoning Commission Members should have any questions regarding this information before tonight's meeting, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to the Commission Members and your consideration of this matter.