

O-22-Z-BB
AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING PART V OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
OF
THE CITY OF DECATUR
UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE
ARTICLE 12. DEFINITIONS
SECTION 12.1 DEFINED TERMS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Commissioners of the City of Decatur, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by authority of the same, that Section 12.1 Defined Terms, Article 12 Definitions, of Part V Unified Development Ordinance of the Code of the City of Decatur, Georgia, is amended as follows:

SECTION 1.

1. Section 12.1 - Defined Terms is amended by deleting the following term:

“12.1.1 Generally

Tree information permit. An informational permit that is filed with the City when an individual tree is removed from residential property. The informational permit will track the reason for removal and the amount of tree canopy removed.”

2. Section 12.1 - Defined Terms is further amended by adding the following new terms:

“12.1.1 Generally

Arboricultural prescription. Any type of mitigation or treatment plan developed by a certified arborist or registered forester to provide for conserving tree(s). It is required for trees with a critical root zone impact of at least 20% but less than 25%.

Boundary tree. A tree growing on a property boundary line between 2 lots resulting in joint ownership by the adjacent property owners when the trunk exists on each property, or a tree that has 20% or more of its critical root zone extending across a property boundary and into an adjacent property applying for a land disturbance permit .

Canopy loss fee. A fee that estimates the benefits lost to the community by removal of a tree. The fee is based on the amount of yearly benefit lost per tree removed.

Dead, Diseased or Hazardous Tree (DDH). A tree that is dead, untreatably diseased or infested, has a moderate or higher risk of failure with a target present, or has high to extreme risk of failure that cannot be mitigated.

Landmark tree. A tree of special significance and designated for protection by the City Commission as described in Sec. 9.1.15.

Net critical root zone impact. The area of the critical root zone that has been obstructed with barriers from the urban environment, e.g., streets, walls, building foundations, etc. To evaluate the feasibility of tree preservation, the area of canopy coverage shall be reduced by the area of the net critical root zone canopy area that overlaps the obstruction.

Poor-rated tree. Any tree in a state of decline with uncorrectable major defects or untreatable disease severe enough to present a danger to people or buildings under normal conditions, as determined by a certified arborist and verified by the City Arborist.

Protected tree. Any tree that is 6 inches DBH or greater that is structurally sound; any tree that has been planted or conserved to comply with this Section regardless of size, any tree planted on public or private property using Tree Bank funds and any tree planted pursuant to Sec. 9.1.9. Trees listed on the GA EPPC Invasive Species List, Category 1 shall not be considered protected trees (<https://www.gaepcc.org/list/>)

TRAQ Certified Arborist. A certified arborist that is "tree risk assessment qualified" (TRAQ) by the International Society of Arboriculture.

Tree save area. An area designated for the purpose of meeting tree density requirements, saving natural trees and/or preserving natural buffers.

Tree spade. A tree spade is a specialized machine that mechanizes the transplanting of large trees. A typical machine consists of 3 or 4 that encircle the tree, digging into the ground and then lifting the entire tree, including its roots and soil (in what is termed a "root ball"^[1]), out of the ground and replanting or transplanting the whole tree in a designated area. Tree spades are available in a wide variety of sizes and designs that are made to suit varied soil conditions and customer requirements.

Trophic layer. The different levels of low-growing grasses, forbs (non-woody flowering plants other than grass) and other plants; small trees, bushes and/or shrubs; and canopy cover from medium to larger trees existing in a stream buffer.

Understory tree. A tree that grows beneath a canopy or overstory tree and will generally reach a mature height less than 40 feet."

SECTION 2:

This ordinance shall become effective on _____.

SO ORDAINED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Mayor

Attest: _____

Meredith Roark
City Clerk