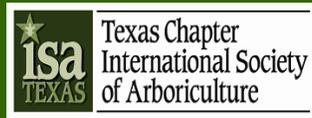


2009
Texas Tree Conference
Awards Luncheon

Round Rock, Texas
October 1, 2009





The Gold Leaf Award is designed to recognize an individual, organization, or community for outstanding Arbor Day programs or community landscape beautification projects. Projects should show an impact over several years. Nominations for the award can be made in either of the following two categories:

Outstanding Arbor Day Activities – An award to recognize individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have promoted Arbor Day through special projects, ceremonies, news articles or observations with an Arbor Day theme.

Outstanding Landscape Beautification Activities – An award to recognize individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have made significant contributions through tree planting and landscaping which enhances environmental protection, conservation, beautification, energy conservation, or wildlife protection. Could also be for non-planting landscape activities that have had a positive impact in promoting tree care and tree preservation.

Our next Award of Excellence is the 2009 Gold Leaf Landscape Beautification Award–Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance by the City of Round Rock, Parks and Recreation Department, Forestry Division. Would Rick Atkins, Director of PARD and Emsud Horozovic, Forestry Manager please come forward to accept the award?

www.news8austin.com

Tree ordinance revisited

Updated: 11/18/2004 11:18:36 AM

By: Hermelinda Vargas

Round Rock's explosive economic growth may signal the end of the road for some trees.

"As we are developing more and more and there's less and less of the wooded area, it's time to update this ordinance," Round Rock Forestry Manager Emsud Horozovic said.



A new ordinance is necessary to protect older trees, he said.

"It was obvious as we are exploding with growth that very often we're left there to interpret or to kind of struggle, saying, 'Well it's not really

On January 13, 2005, the City of Round Rock revised its "Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance" and adopted the "Tree Technical Manual- Standards and Specifications" to ensure the preservation and protection of urban trees during the land development process. Its purpose is to allow for tree protection when possible or replacement of trees when they cannot be preserved.

Tree ordinance forum Wednesday

The second of two forums to solicit public input into the Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department's tree ordinance will start at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall (221 E. Main St.).

The Urban Forestry department is in the process of finalizing the revision of the Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance. Rapid growth and an unstandardized application procedure have prompted the department to update the tree ordinance.

After the public hearings, the city council will tentatively vote on the ordinance at their Dec. 16 and Jan. 13 regular meetings. The ordinance could then go into effect in January.

RR Leader Nov. 16, 04 p. 1A

Tree ordinance hearing on agenda

Round Rock City Council will hear public testimony on the proposed Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance during the regular meeting tonight.

The public hearing is the sixth item on the agenda.

The Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance details for developers the proper method of submitting a site plan to the city when they remove or replace a tree larger than 24 inches in circumference. It also lists guidelines for proper tree conservation. The new ordinance could go into effect as soon as January.

The council meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the City Hall at 221 E. Main Street.

Leader Dec. 20, p. 1A

Through the adoption of this Ordinance a "tree fund" was established. During development, when trees are removed but cannot be replaced onsite, a fee is paid into this fund. The result is a program with almost \$850,000 dollars of funding available for beautification, landscaping, and irrigation which ensures that trees lost in the development process are replanted for the future.

Williamson County

This Week

Thursday, December 23, 2004
Austin American-Statesman
statesman.com

Business, trees put down roots together



Laura Skelton
Round Rock's champion live oak is about 300 years old and a massive 57 inches in diameter. Emsud Horozovic, the city's urban forester, has vowed to protect the tree.

ROUND ROCK — Roots run deep here. And trees, those dignified creatures that tell us which way the wind is blowing, certainly can co-exist with blossoming urban development, city officials say.

Jim Stendsbach, the city's planning director, delivers this development update. "It's going a mile a minute," he said, referring to the construction of a new university and plans for a new mall, along with other high-profile businesses.

That's just the commercial side; the city's issuing a steady stream of about 100 residential building permits per month.

But sometimes, it's hard to see the trees for the forest of steel and concrete, which is one reason the City Council has given preliminary approval to a revised ordinance with longer-reaching limits.

It's all about balance, city officials say: Protect trees and the city's economic growth.



Camille Wheeler

The ordinance broadens tree protections but also gives developers more mitigation options.

One of the most unique changes would be the establishment of protected monarchs — don't-you-dare-cut-'em-down trees — per Round Rock's estimated 15 to 20 protected species. A tree is called a monarch if its diameter represents 80 percent of the diameter of a species' largest, healthiest tree.

Only the City Council could authorize a monarch's removal. The current ordinance is too

vague, said Emsud Horozovic, Round Rock's urban forester who has played a large role in crafting a new draft.

"We as a city are growing and developing to a point where it's becoming very time-consuming to interpret the old three-page document," he said. "It's hard to be consistent."

Currently, except for five non-protected species, all trees 8 inches in diameter or larger are protected from developers' chainsaws, although there is a process in place that would allow the trees' removal. Generally speaking, that wouldn't change if the proposed ordinance receives final approval Jan. 13.

Just about everything else would change.

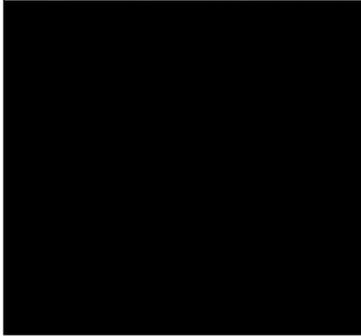
Council members say the new rules would play to developers' advantage, but O'Blair-Ross, who sells commercial real estate, has his

See WHEELER, PAGE 2

Most of the Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance funding is from large commercial development projects. The Ordinance requires that funding may only be used to plant and irrigate trees on city parkland, in public right-of-ways, or public buildings. This specification allows the city to select areas that need beautification and plant trees where they will be preserved. Replacement trees size has to be a minimum of 3 inch in caliper or grater, and be from the list of "approved trees" for Round Rock.



Southwest Downtown
Street Tree Planting
Summer 2009
Funded from Tree Fund



If there is no space to replant a tree on the newly developed site, the Ordinance requires payment of \$150 per diameter inch of trees removed. Removal of largest trees is further discouraged by requiring tree mitigation ratio to be 3:1 for all trees over 20 inches in diameter.

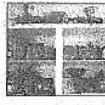
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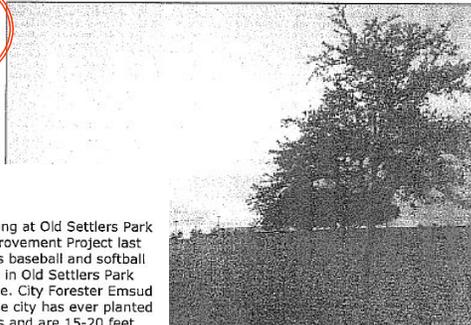
WEATHER
104
105
Monday

'...as lovely as a tree'

City plants 500 trees
for Old Settlers ball
field projects

By KATHRYN EAKENS
Landscape

The baseball and softball fields
aren't the only part of Old Settlers
Park getting a makeover.
Last week the Round Rock Parks
and Recreation Forestry Division
began a massive planting of 500 trees



Huge trees at Old Settlers Park



Round Rock Forestry began a massive planting at Old Settlers Park in conjunction with the Sports Complex Improvement Project last week. When the construction at Old Settlers baseball and softball complex is complete, there will be 500 trees in Old Settlers Park and the shade will make a world of difference. City Forester Emsud Horozovic said these are the largest trees the city has ever planted in Old Settlers Park. They are 4 inch Calipers and are 15-20 feet tall. To put the size in perspective, our crews have to use a backhoe to lift the large trees into place to plant them!

The trees are purchased with money from tree mitigation funds through the City of Round Rock tree ordinance. The city tree ordinance helps preserve local trees and provides funding to replace any trees that are removed from development projects. These trees will not only look nice, but they'll also provide shade at the complex. Its exciting to see these big trees become part of Old Settlers Park!

helps preserve existing protected-
sized trees and provide funding to
replace any trees removed during
development projects.

"When developers strip a site they
have to either replace the trees onsite
or pay into the fund," said Planning
Director Jim Stendebach.

See TREES, page 3A

MARCEL GONZALES/Staff
The city of Round Rock has
began the planting of 500 trees
at Old Settlers Park. The plant-
ings are part of the city's Old
Settlers Park Sports Complex
improvement project.

Of the 4,500 large trees planted in city parks in recent years, in last few years 1,500- 2,000 trees planted on city property were funded through the Tree Fund. All of these trees have automatic irrigation systems and are cared for and maintained by the City of Round Rock Forestry Division.



The number of trees planted as replacement trees on commercial development projects is estimated to be about 10,000-15,000 trees due to the passage of the Ordinance. Largest projects include Premium Outlet Mall, IKEA, University Oaks and University Commons shopping centers, Seton and Scott & White Hospitals, JC Penney, Trisun nursing home, and Colonial Grand apartments. These projects resulted in planting of thousands of trees on those sites and also funded planting and irrigating thousands in city parks and other public property.



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Written by Rob Heidrick Friday, 03 April 2009

Round Rock tree ordinance seeks balance of development, preservation

An influx of commercial development in Round Rock has breathed new life into the city's tree replacement fund, which is expected to contribute as much as \$500,000 toward the planting and irrigation of more than 1,000 trees this year. The first phase of the planting projects added 528 trees around the improved athletics fields at Old Settlers Park, and future phases will add about 300 more trees to the



What is unique about this process is that it allows the City Forestry Division to work together with developers and be an integral part of the development process from reviewing site plans and planning, specifying tree species, selecting quality trees from the nurseries, to concluding with the final walkthrough and final installation inspection on site after projects are built.



Tree Preservation



In addition, for the past 10 years Arbor Day tree plantings included 100, 30-gallon trees with several hundred volunteers. Thanks to the money from the Tree Ordinance Round Rock plants more than 500 trees, 3 inch size each year; 1,500 of which were contracted out and another 500 hundred planted by crews and volunteers.



All tree plantings included irrigation bubblers so during the severe drought this year we did not lose as many trees as we would have. Forestry installed irrigation on previously planted trees and is no longer hand watering trees with water truck which improved efficiency, saved money and is better for trees.



Additionally, several major development projects have benefitted through compliance with the mitigation and their development and city parks look better, while the developer gets the “credit” in the form of positive public relations and being a good business neighbor, creating a win-win situation for all. During the five years of the enforcement of this ordinance, the city has had no lawsuits or formal appeals to the City Council. There have been about 1,900 tree related reviews through site plan, platting and zoning, subdivision infrastructure or individual tree removal permit processes.

Tree Preservation (Monarch live oak at University Oaks)



BEFORE



AFTER

The City of Round Rock Tree Protection Ordinance and Tree Technical Manual have a positive impact on the local landscape, local economy, environment and wildlife. The City of Round Rock is an example of a tree ordinance that works with visible benefit to the community without adversarial and political consequences.

Largest City Arbor Day Ever – April 25, 2009

(166, 3 inch caliper trees; Tree Fund income from commercial mitigation provided trees for the park)



Please join me in congratulating the City of Round Rock Forestry Division for their commitment to tree preservation and planting.