

Comprehensive Plan Implementation

# **ORDINANCE REVIEW**

# Goal:

Section 1101 Purpose Statement:

“The natural environment has significant value in and of itself, and that all reasonable measures should be used in the preservation of that environment, consistent with the continued development of a viable Peachtree City.”

Public policy declarations (13 policy statements):

- Preserve protected and specimen trees or strands of trees which are exceptional representatives of their species either in terms of size, age or unusual botanical quality

# Peer Review: Tree Protection

## “Tree Cities” in metro

- Average Specimen sizes:
  - 24” hardwoods
  - 28” softwoods
  - 8” understory
- Average minimum size for permit is 21” (for those that require permits)

## Peachtree City

- Specimen size:
  - 12” hardwoods
  - 10” softwoods
  - 6” understory
- Minimum size for permit review is 6”

# Tool: Specimen Trees Ordinance

## Specimen tree can ONLY be removed:

- Dead/dying/infested
- In way of utility line construction
- In a construction area (pool, etc.)
- Imposes an economic burden
- Poses an immediate life-safety hazard

## Cannot be removed if:

- Want a lawn/ vegetable garden
- Worried about falling in the wind
- Want more light in your house
- Will eventually grow too large for space
- Don't like type of tree (ex. magnolia)

# Proposed Ordinance

SUMMARY OF SPECIMEN TREE SIZES				
	Understory	Hardwood	Softwood	Permit Required
<b>Tree City Averages</b>	8"	24"	28"	21" (for those that require permits)
<b>Current PTC Ordinance</b>	6"	12"	10"	6"
<b>Draft Proposed</b>	10"	25"	30"	10" for understory 20" for all others
<b>Revised Proposed</b>	8"	24" for sweetgums* 20" for all others	24"	8" for understory 18" for all others
<p>* Sweetgums have aggressive surface roots that cause foundation damage and driveway heaving. A large portion of permits requested today are for sweetgums causing property damage.</p>				

# Proposed Ordinance

- Keep existing strict requirements for permitted removal of specimen tree
- Add additional allowance:
  - May remove if owner contributes recompense to Tree Fund
  - \$20/ caliper inch
  - Covers the cost of City replanting 1 tree on public land
- Add '3 strikes your out' policy for repeat violations
- Delete conflicting text
- Update department references

# Thank You

## Discussion / Questions?



Photo: via TripAdvisor