Memorandum

CITY OF DALLAS

Date: January 23, 2009

Thru: Forest E. Turner
Interim Assistant City Manager

To: Honorable Members of the Quality of Life Committee: Pauline Medrano, Chair; Vonciel Jones Hill, Vice Chair; Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Sheffie Kadane, David A. Neumann, Steve Salazar

Subject: "City of Dallas Urban Forestry Activities" briefing

Attached is the "City of Dallas Urban Forestry Activities" briefing which will be presented to the Quality of Life Committee on January 26, 2009.

If you have questions, please call me at 214-670-4071.

Paul D. Dyer, Director
Park and Recreation

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Deborah A. Watkins, City Secretary
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Judge C. Victor Lander, Judiciary
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Ramon F. Miguez, P.E., Assistant City Manager
A. C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
David K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager

City of Dallas Urban Forestry Activities

Quality of Life Committee

January 26, 2009

Purpose of Briefing

- Review of existing codes and ordinances related to trees and urban forestry
- Overview of municipal tree and urban forestry operations in the City of Dallas

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 48-1
  - Concerning Park Department's authority to regulate planting, cutting, etc., within the highways and streets of the city and shall make such rules and regulations governing the same…
    - *This section needs updating, as the Park Department no longer has control of street medians (Street Department)*

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 48-2
  - Concerning the “appointment and qualifications of the City Forester, officers, assistants, and laborers for efficient administration of the duties of the City Forester”
    - Park and Recreation Department has authority to appoint a City Forester
    - Details the qualifications of the City Forester

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 48-3
  - Concerning the Park Department's duties to encourage planting of trees
    - Recommends species and character of trees
    - Limits Park Department's City Forester's pecuniary interest in selling or marketing trees that are used by the public

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 48-5
  - Concerning the injury of trees
    - Unlawful for any person to: pull up, cut down, burn, or destroy any living tree standing in any street or public highway of the city
    - Responsible department:
      - Police Department
      - Building Inspection Department

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 48-7
  - Concerning interference with work of the Park and Recreation Board
    - Unlawful to interfere with the Park and Recreation Board or representative in the planting, maintenance, or removal of any tree in the street or highway
    - Responsible department:
      - Park and Recreation Department
      - Police Department

        - *This section may need updating as the Park Department no longer has jurisdiction over street medians (Street Department)*

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 48-9
  - Concerning injury of trees, shrubs or plants on another's property
    - Unlawful to cut, injure, mutilate, or destroy any tree in the city on property not belonging to such person, without the permission of the property owner
    - Responsible department:
      - Police Department
      - Civil action

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 48-11
  - Concerning the “Duty to remove dead, diseased, and damaged trees from the Parkway”
    - The parkway is the area between the street curb and sidewalk
    - Every person owning property adjacent to parkways shall remove any dead, diseased, or damaged trees from the parkway

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 48-11 (continued)
  - At the request of the adjacent property owner, the Park Department *may* remove a dead, diseased, or damaged tree from the parkway *after* being sent a "notice of removal" by the Park Department
    - The Park Department may charge a $75 fee for removal of a parkway tree
      - *This section may need updating to reflect current operational practices*

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 18-14
  - Concerning obstructions
    - Clearance over sidewalks – 8’
    - Clearance over streets and alleys – 15’
    - Interference with other public grounds
    - Responsible departments
      - Code Compliance
      - Park and Recreation
      - Streets
      - Public Works and Transportation

Codes and Ordinances

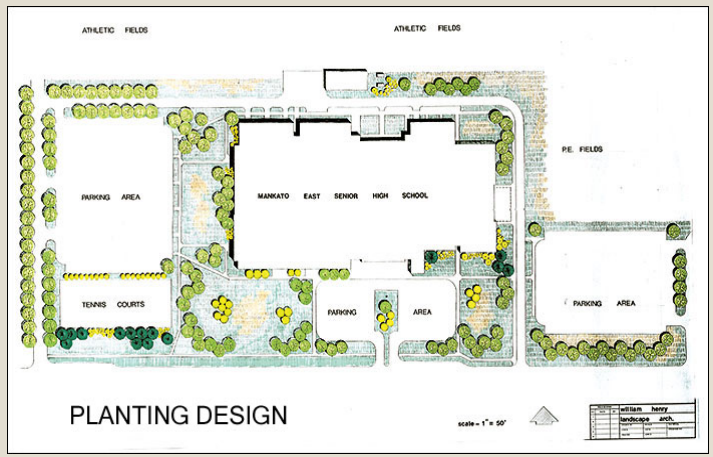
- Section 27-11
  - Concerning minimum property standards and the responsibilities of the owner
    - Removal of dead trees and limbs that could cause injury to a person
    - Responsible department:
      - Code Compliance

Codes and Ordinances

- Section 7A-16(a)
  - Concerning the prohibition of the posting of notices on poles, trees, and structures
  - Responsible department:
    - Code Compliance

Codes and Ordinances

- Article X – Section 51A-10 – Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance
  - Concerning site landscape requirements, tree protection and mitigation requirements
    - Landscape plan review
    - Tree removal permits
    - Administers Reforestation Fund
    - Responsible department:
      - Building Inspection



Codes and Ordinances

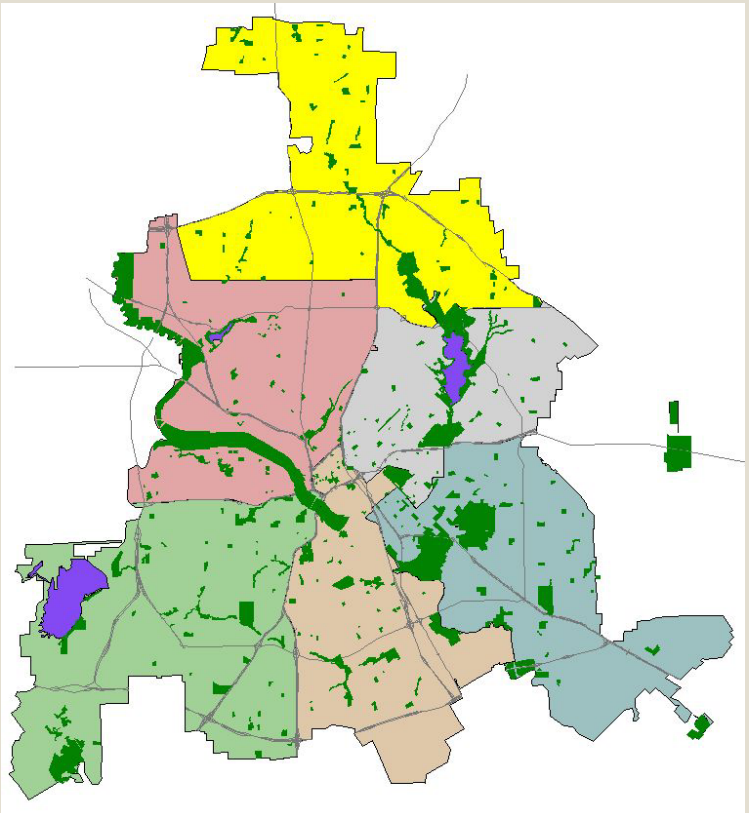
- Section 51A-5.1 Concerning Flood Plain and Escarpment Regulations
  - Prohibits removal of vegetation in the escarpment zone and geologically similar area
  - Escarpment Area Review Committee – reviews permit requests for construction in the escarpment and geologically similar areas
  - Responsible department
    - Public Works and Transportation Department
    - Building Inspection Department

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Park and Recreation
- Streets
- Public Works and Transportation
- Dallas Water Utilities
- Development Services
- Office of Environmental Quality
- Building Inspection
- Code Compliance
- Trinity River Project Office
- 3-1-1 (Strategic Customer Service)
- Police

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Park and Recreation Department
  - Park Trees (375 parks, 23,000+ acres)



Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Park and Recreation Department
  - City Forester
    - Partnership with Texas Forest Service
    - Training (consistent standards)
    - Tree City USA designation

TREE CITY USA®

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE
The Texas A&M University System

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Park and Recreation Department
  - City Forester
    - Mayor's Urban Forest Advisory Committee
      - Public outreach and education
        - Website
        - Publications
        - Citizen Forester Program
      - Make recommendations to City

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Park and Recreation Department
  - City Forester
    - Public tree planting projects
    - Arbor Day events

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

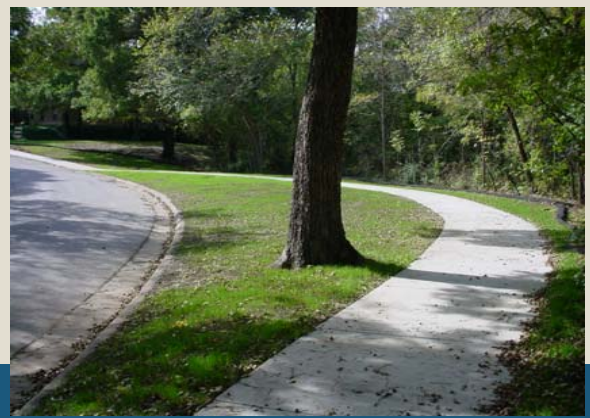
- Park and Recreation Department
  - Storm damage response

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Park and Recreation Department
  - Parkway trees removal/pruning upon request
    - Responded to 785 calls routed through 3-1-1 system in 2007
    - Responded to 750 calls directly to PARD
  - Respond to interdepartmental requests as needed

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Park and Recreation Department
  - Capital projects impact trees



Departments Participating in Currant Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Park and Recreation
  - Special projects involving trees

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Streets Department
  - Street and median trees
  - Alley trees
  - Storm damage response

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Streets Department
  - Median "Mowmentum" program

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Public Works and Transportation Department
  - Street projects
  - Sidewalk projects
  - Alley projects
  - Drainage projects
  - Storm water quality inspection

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

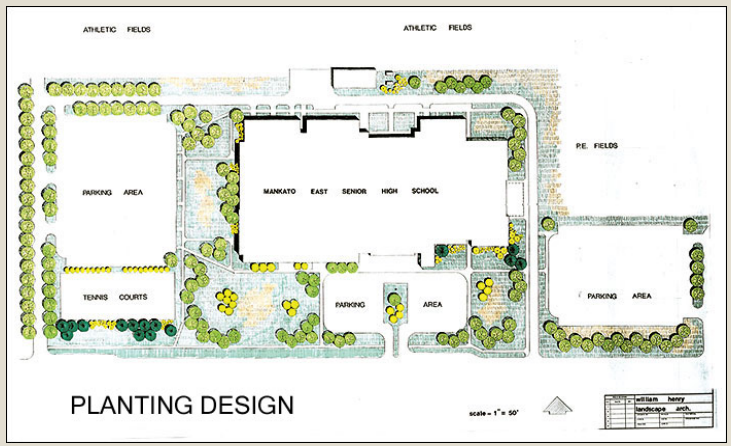
- Water Utilities Department
  - Water line projects
  - Waste water line projects

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Trinity Project Office
  - Great Trinity Forest
    - Forest management plan
    - Mitigation Lands

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Building Inspection Department
  - Development code review and enforcement
    - Reviews for compliance with the Tree and Landscape Preservation Ordinance and specific regulations within Planned Development Districts and Special Use Permits
    - Applies to private and public property developments

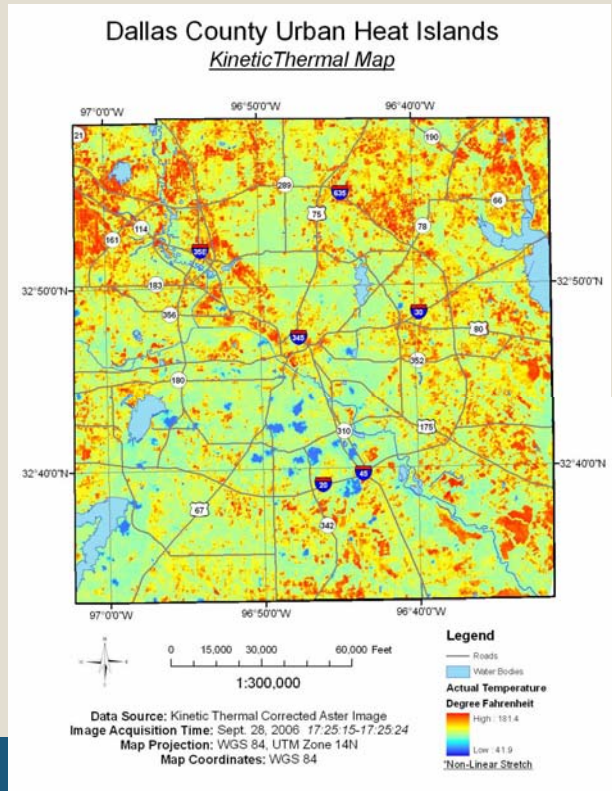


Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Development Services Department
  - Comprehensive planning
  - Zoning
  - Planned Development Districts
  - Special Use Permits
  - Private development coordination

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Office of Environmental Quality
  - Environmental Management System
  - Sustainable Skylines Initiative – urban Heat Island Effect Study



Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Code Compliance Department
  - Enforcement of codes related to tree maintenance
    - Private trees interacting with public property
    - Private property standards
    - Clearance standards for parkway trees

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- 3-1-1 (Strategic Customer Service)
  - Coordinate citizen calls pertaining to tree issues
    - Direct calls to appropriate department

Departments Participating in Current Urban Forestry Issues and Programs

- Police Department
  - Issues pertaining to tree theft and vandalism

Challenges Ahead

- Consistent services citywide
- *Pro-active* versus *re-active* urban forest management
- Implementation of Trinity Forest Management Plan