

WE CAN'T WAIT FOR A NEW TREE ORDINANCE

Trees are Coming Down Now

Due to Lack of Tree Ordinance Enforcement

Atlanta's current tree ordinance rewrite is MONTHS behind schedule. Meanwhile, look around. Trees are coming down right now because our current tree ordinance isn't being enforced. We can't wait. The current ordinance must be enforced **NOW** to protect Atlanta's trees.

Did You Know That...

"Saved" trees are being destroyed...
due to lack of proper tree fencing?

Destroyed trees on public property aren't being counted...
because the Department of Parks and Recreation doesn't produce quarterly reports?

We don't know about planned tree removals...
because there is no direct way to see the tree removal sign postings online?

No one is planning for Atlanta's future tree canopy...
because no one is working on a master plan?

Standards are not being consistently followed...
when it comes to assessing dead, dying, or hazardous trees?

**These things are required by the current
Atlanta Tree Protection Ordinance,
but they're not happening.**

Please call or write:

David Zapanik, Arboricultural Manager, dzapanick@atlantaga.gov, 404-330-6874
Tim Keane, Commissioner of Planning, tkeane@atlantaga.gov, 404-330-6037

and tell them to start enforcing our Tree Ordinance!



The Tree Next Door
Neighbors Protecting Atlanta's Tree Canopy

Email: info@treenextdoor.org
Website: www.treenextdoor.org
Facebook: facebook.com/treenextdoor

SECTIONS OF THE TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE NOT ENFORCED

“Saved” trees are being destroyed.

- **Section 158-106: Preconstruction Conference**

This section mandates an on-site conference between the developer and the arborist for a final tree fence inspection before demolition, grading, or construction begins. With no pre-construction conferences, developers have been allowed to grade lots, cut down trees, and refuse to put up tree fences, often before the preliminary approval of tree removal (yellow sign posting) is completed.

- **158-34(c): Metal Tree Fencing**

This section provides for more substantial wood or steel tree fencing on heavy construction sites or upon multiple violations. Metal fencing has proven to be very effective, but the arborist office rarely requires it for tree fence violations. And even when it is required, contractors often remove or shift the fences, resulting in destroyed trees.

Destroyed trees aren't being counted.

- **Section 158-103(f): Quarterly Reports**

This section requires a quarterly report showing the total number and DBH of trees removed by various categories, including dead/dying/diseased/hazardous trees. The City Arborist Division started producing these reports for trees on private property in October 2019, but the Department of Parks and Recreation has yet to produce any quarterly reports for trees on public property. And even with the current report on private trees from the Arborist Division, we still don't know how much money has been paid into the Tree Trust Fund via recompense fees and illegal tree cutting fines.

We don't know about planned tree removals.

- **Section 158-101(e)(4): Postings**

This section ensures that notice of preliminary approvals for tree cutting be posted in 1) the office of the city arborist that issued the approval (Office of Planning or Office of Parks), 2) the City of Atlanta website (www.atlantaga.gov), and 3) on the property affected so that it may be seen and read by passers-by. Presently, for trees on private property, there is no posting in either the Office of Planning or on the city website. The only way to know if there are plans to remove a tree on private property is to drive by the yellow sign posted on the property.

No one is planning for Atlanta's future tree canopy.

- **Section 158-63(5): Master Plan**

This section states that the Tree Conservation Commission is to consult with the city forester in the preparation of the master plan for the trees in the city. Most cities have a master plan which include tree inventories, recommended species of trees, future planning, and attention to special sections of the city, like watersheds, that need tree attention. Although the Tree Conservation Commission has, within the last two years, contracted satellite imaging of the city trees, Atlanta is doing no overall tree planning. There is no master plan.

Standards are not being consistently followed.

- **Section 158-63 (4): Standards of Practice**

This section says that the Tree Conservation Commission is to review and approve the required city arboricultural specifications and standards of practice (SOPs). Until 2011, the Arborist Division had followed prescribed SOPs for such functions as assessing tree health, posting tree removal signs, and keeping field books. Presently, no set of SOPs are being consistently followed.



For more information and the complete Atlanta Tree Protection Ordinance, visit:

The Tree Next Door at www.treenextdoor.org