



City Council Meeting & Public Hearing

JANUARY 3, 2023

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Office of the City Clerk

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 6:30 PM

OFFICIAL MINUTES

The public is advised that the following minutes are not a verbatim transcription of business presented at the Council Meeting of the date shown; but are a synopsis of pertinent information. The public is further advised that the tapes recorded at said meeting are a matter of public record and are available to be heard at the City of Alpharetta's Clerk's office during normal business hours or viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/alpharettagov>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Gilvin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Mayor Gilvin announced that the Alpha Loop Tunnel under Haynes Bridge Road workshop item has been removed from the agenda by city staff and will be discussed at a future meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

- **Council Members**
 - Mayor Jim Gilvin
 - Mayor Pro Tem Dan Merkel
 - Douglas J. DeRito
 - John Hipes
 - Jason Binder
- **Council Members Absent**
 - Donald F. Mitchell
 - Brian Will
- **Staff**
 - Chris Lagerbloom, City Administrator
 - Molly Esswein, City Attorney with Jarrard & Davis
 - James Drinkard, Asst. City Administrator
 - Lauren Shapiro, City Clerk
 - Brooke Lappin, Director of Municipal Court
 - John Robison, Director of Public Safety

- Kathi Cook, Director of Community and Economic Development
- Morgan Rodgers, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services
- Pete Sewczwicz, Director of Public Works
- Randy Bundy, Director of Information Technology
- Thomas Harris, Director of Finance
- Kelsie Mattox, City Solicitor
- Alex Callum, Executive Office Coordinator

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

A. Proclamation: Fulton County Board of Education Member, Katie Reeves

- Mayor Gilvin and City Council presented Fulton County Board of Education Member, Katie Reeves, with a proclamation for her service to our community over the past 24 years, as she recently retired from the school board.

B. Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Gold Medallion Award

- Director of Human Resources, Cris Randall, came forward to present the HIRE Vets Gold Medallion Award to the Mayor and City Council.
- This award is the only federal award recognizing exceptional achievement in veteran employment.
- This is the second consecutive year that the City of Alpharetta has received this award. In 2021, 10.6% of the City's employees were veterans (44%), and we retained 100% of the ones hired the prior year (2020).

V. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. Planning Commission: Alternate Appointment by the Mayor and City Council

- ❖ Council Member DeRito offered a motion to appoint Katie Reeves as an alternate to the Planning Commission.
 - Council Member Binder seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

B. Board of Zoning Appeals: Board Member Appointment by Mayor Pro Tem Merkel

- ❖ Mayor Pro Tem Merkel offered a motion to appoint Kirk Driskell to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
 - Council Member DeRito seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

C. Natural Resources Commission: Board Member Appointment by Council Member Binder

- Council Member Binder announced the appointment of Lindsey Ann Burnett to the Natural Resources Commission.

D. Swearing-In of City Board and Commission Members

- Municipal Court Judge David C. Will lead the swearing-in ceremony for all Board and Commission members that were present during the meeting.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Council Meeting Minutes (Meeting of 12/12/2022)

Approval of the City Council meeting minutes from the December 12, 2022 meeting.

B. City Benefits Package: Increasing Costs towards Peach Officer Annuity Benefit Fund and Georgia Firefighter's Pension Fund

Approval of adding to the City's Benefits Package the coverage of costs for the supplemental retirement plans offered through the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund (POAB) and the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund (GFPF).

C. Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program Agency Application & Participation Agreement

Approval of the Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program Agency Application & Participation Agreement and authorization of the Mayor to execute all necessary and related documents.

- ❖ Mayor Pro Tem Merkel offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
 - Council Member DeRito seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Ordinance: Failure to Appear

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend Article I of Chapter 30 of the Code of the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, to add a provision related to Section 30-8 (Currently Reserved); to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

- City Attorney, Molly Esswein, came forward to present this item.
- City Attorney, Molly Esswein, read the ordinance title aloud.
- If approved, this ordinance will create a violation for failure to appear and would authorize the Municipal Court to issue warrants for arrest of a person for failing to appear and to bring an additional charge and violation as a function for failing to appear at a designated court session.

- This is a newly proposed ordinance, and the subject is not currently addressed within the City's Code.
- The proposed Code amendment is attached hereto as "Exhibit A."

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- There were no public comments.
- ❖ Council Member Hipes offered a motion to approve an Ordinance to amend Article I of Chapter 30 of the Code of the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, to add a provision related to Section 30-8 (Currently Reserved); to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.
 - Council Member DeRito seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. PH-22-15 Unified Development Code (UDC) Text Amendments – Tree Conservation, Landscape, and Buffer Requirements

Second Reading

First Reading occurred during the December 12, 2022 City Council Meeting & Public Hearing.

Consideration of text amendments to the Unified Development Code related to tree preservation in the Downtown Overlay. Regulations are proposed requiring that specimen trees and trees of quality be conserved if they are located within building setbacks along certain roads, including Academy Street, Canton Street, Church Street, Cumming Street, Marietta Street, Mayfield Road, Milton Avenue, and Roswell Street.

- Director of Community and Economic Development, Kathi Cook, came forward to present this item.
- Since the first reading of this ordinance, the only change was to add a definition for the word "conserve."
- The proposed Unified Development Code amendment is attached hereto as "Exhibit B."
- City Attorney, Molly Esswein, read the ordinance title aloud.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Michael Buchannon (135 Pebble Trail, Alpharetta, GA 30009) came forward to speak on this item and to thank City Council and City staff for their work on preserving the trees in Alpharetta.

- ❖ Mayor Pro Tem Merkel offered a motion to approve PH-22-15 Unified Development Code (UDC) Text Amendments – Tree Conservation, Landscape, and Buffer Requirements.
 - Council Member Hipes seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Contract Award: ITB # 23-004 Big Creek Greenway Boardwalk Replacement

Approval of award of ITB 23-004 to Excellere Construction, LLC for the replacement of the Big Creek Greenway Boardwalk near Mansell Road for an amount not to exceed \$2,240,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents.

- Director of Public Works, Pete Sewczwicz, came forward to present this item.
- Over the last fourteen years, the boardwalk from the sidewalk along the southern side of Mansell Road to the existing Big Creek Greenway has been problematic to maintain, and several sections have either failed or are failing. Due to safety concerns of the boardwalk, this section of the Greenway has been closed to users.
- In late 2021, the City hired Heath and Lineback Engineers to design a boardwalk system that will minimize maintenance for Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services, improve the usability of the Greenway in this area, and last longer than the wooden boardwalk.
- The scope of the work on the project is to remove all of the existing components of the timber boardwalk (piles and decks) and replace it with a new concrete-decked boardwalk. The boardwalk will remain elevated and, due to the existing height limitations of the Greenway under Mansell Road, the Boardwalk may still flood due to its proximity to Big Creek and due to 4' below the 100-year flood elevation. The project scope includes items such as demolition and removal of existing timber boardwalk, installation of helical piles with steel beams and concrete decking. Installation of helical piers will expedite construction of the boardwalk and minimize disturbance of the area.
- Project construction is anticipated to take 12 months after issuance of a notice to proceed; this includes the necessary time to fabricate and deliver the structural steel components of the boardwalk.
- Procurement for this project was initiated through Invitation to Bid (ITB 23-004), which was issued on October 20, 2022 (with a response deadline of November 17, 2022). A total of three proposals were received in response to this invitation.
- After evaluation and verifying the submitted bids, staff from the Public Works Department met with representatives of Excellere Construction, as the low bidder, on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. The project scope, schedule, and bid package as submitted by Excellere were discussed with the contractor during the meeting. Excellere is an experienced contractor that has successfully completed similar projects for agencies in Georgia and has completed numerous projects for the City over the last couple of years.

- Department of Public Works staff will oversee the boardwalk replacement project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- There were no public comments.
- ❖ Council Member DeRito offered a motion to approve the award of ITB 23-004 to Excellere Construction, LLC for the replacement of the Big Creek Greenway Boardwalk near Mansell Road for an amount not to exceed \$2,240,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents.
 - Mayor Pro Merkel seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

B. Intergovernmental Agreement: Alpharetta Jail

Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, the City of Milton, Georgia, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, and Fulton County, Georgia, to Board and Provide for the Housing of Inmates at the Alpharetta Jail.

- Director of Public Safety, John Robison, came forward to speak on behalf of this item.
- In early 2022, the City of Alpharetta entered into discussions with the Fulton County Sheriff on the topic of the reopening of the Alpharetta jail facility located on Old Milton Parkway. Discussions centered on the City making the jail available for use under the operation of the Sheriff, an arrangement that existed for many years until operation of the facility was abandoned during the COVID pandemic.
- The City of Alpharetta reopened the Alpharetta jail facility early in November 2022.
- If approved, the City will grant the City of Milton the right to use and occupy the Alpharetta Jail for the purposes of processing/booking, detaining, and housing/boarding City of Milton pre-trial detainees and inmates, and for other purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- There were no public comments.
- ❖ Council Member Hipes offered a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, the City of Milton, Georgia, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, and Fulton County, Georgia, to Board and Provide for the Housing of Inmates at the Alpharetta Jail.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Merkel seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

X. WORKSHOP ITEMS

A. Alpha Loop Tunnel under Haynes Bridge Road

REMOVED: This item has been removed from the agenda by city staff and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Discussion of options in constructing a tunnel under Haynes Bridge Road for the Alpha Loop.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

XII. REPORTS

- Council Member Hipes shared a big thank you to the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department and the Public Works Department for how beautiful the city looked during the Christmas season.
- Council Member DeRito shared a thank you to the Public Safety Department for all of their hard work in taking care of our city, residents, and visitors during an incredibly busy season over the past few weeks.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ❖ Mayor Pro Tem Merkel offered a motion to recess to Executive Session.
 - Council Member Hipes seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).
- Mayor Gilvin recessed the meeting at 7:31 p.m.
- ❖ Mayor Pro Tem Merkel offered a motion to reconvene the meeting.
 - Council Member DeRito seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Council Member Hipes offered a motion to adjourn.
 - Council Member Binder seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).
- With there being no further items to consider or discuss, Mayor Gilvin adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Shapiro, City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

Sec. 30-8. Failing to appear to answer summons; arrest.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any defendant lawfully summoned to answer charges in the municipal court to either fail, neglect, or refuse to appear at the time and place specified in the summons or fail to provide a satisfactory explanation for this absence;
- (b) The trial may be continued to such time as the municipal court may direct, and the court shall issue an order requiring the police chief, or other members of the city police department, or its designee, to arrest the defendant and bring the defendant before the court to answer both the initial charges and the charge for failing to appear at trial;
- (c) The defendant shall remain in custody until brought before the court, unless the defendant posts bond for appearance, as provided by law.

EXHIBIT B

SECTION 3.2 TREE CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE, AND BUFFER REQUIREMENTS¹

3.2.1 General.

In order to maintain and promote the public health, safety and welfare, the City has established regulations governing the conservation, planting, and replacement of trees. The importance of trees is recognized for their contribution toward quality of life, visual quality of the city, and improved property values. It is the City's intent to prevent the indiscriminate removal of trees without denying the reasonable use and enjoyment of real property. It is also the intent of these regulations that all applicable sites within the City maintain or obtain minimum tree density, as defined herein. Consistent with the expressed purpose of these regulations, all persons shall make reasonable efforts to protect and retain certain existing, self-supporting trees as defined herein. Each person shall be responsible for the normal care of trees located on its premises.

- A. Willful injury or disfigurement of any tree growing within the City shall be a violation of this Ordinance.
- B. No person shall:
 - 1. Attach any sign, notice or other object to any tree or fasten wires, cables, nails or screws to any tree in a manner that could prove harmful to the tree.
 - 2. Pour any material on any tree or on nearby ground which could be harmful to the tree.
 - 3. Cause or encourage any unnecessary fire or burning near or around any tree.
 - 4. Construct a concrete, asphalt, brick or gravel sidewalk, significantly compact the soil, place fill material, or create other impervious or semi-impervious surfaces around any tree so as to cut off air, light or water from the roots of the tree so as to adversely impact the tree's root system.
 - 5. Pile building material or equipment around any tree so as to cause injury thereto.
 - 6. Deny routine maintenance, watering and reasonable arboricultural care to existing and newly established trees as may be required as a result of activities taking place under this Section.
 - 7. Remove any tree without Permit.
 - 8. Remove or prune a tree on commercial property during non-development activity unless they follow ISA industry standard protocols for pruning or have written approval from the Director.
 - 9. Park any vehicle on the unpaved area underneath existing tree canopies.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Section, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the meaning set forth below:

Boundary Tree. Any tree located on adjacent property with a critical root zone that will be impacted by proposed land disturbance activity.

¹Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 739 , adopted May 1, 2017, amended Section 3.2 in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former Section 3.2, Subsections 3.2.1—3.2.19, pertained to tree protection, and derived from the original codification.

Buffer. An area required to remain undisturbed or replanted where existing vegetation is sparse, as determined by the director.

Caliper. A standard of trunk measurement for replacement trees. Caliper inches are measured at the height of 6 inches above the ground for trees up to and including 4 inch caliper and 12 inches above the ground for trees larger than 4 inch caliper.

Conifer Tree. Any tree with needle leaves and a woody cone fruit including, but not limited to, pine, juniper and cedar species.

Conserve. Protect from harm or destruction; preserve; save.

Critical Root Zone (CRZ). The minimum area beneath a tree which must be left undisturbed in order to preserve a sufficient root mass to give a tree a reasonable chance of survival. The Critical Root Zone will typically be represented by a concentric circle centering on the tree's trunk with a radius equal in feet to one and three-tenths times the number of inches of the trunk diameter. EXAMPLE: The CRZ radius of a twenty (20) inch diameter tree is twenty-six (26) feet.

Dead Tree. Any standing tree which is no longer alive or has the ability to sustain itself through natural processes as determined by a qualified professional.

Development Activity. Any alteration of the natural environment, which requires the approval of a development or site plan and issuance of a Land Disturbance Permit. Development Activity shall also include the "thinning" or removal of trees from land in conjunction with a forest management program, the removal or destruction of trees incidental to the development of land or to the marketing of land for development, the removal or destruction of trees in conjunction with any grading activity, including the removal or filling (stockpiling) of soil, and logging or the removal of trees not in conjunction with an ongoing forest management program. Nothing in this definition shall be deemed to require or authorize the issuance of a permit for any activity described herein.

Diameter Breast-Height (DBH). The standard measure of tree size (for trees existing on a site). The tree trunk is measured at a height of 4½ feet above the ground. If a tree splits into multiple trunks below 4½ feet, the trunk is measured at its most narrow point beneath the split.

Director. The Director of Community Development or designee shall administer and enforce the provisions of this Ordinance; provided, however, that a designee shall have no authority to revoke permits.

Georgia 400 Tree Protection Zone. All property within a horizontal distance of 120 feet of the right-of-way of Georgia 400. At major intersections on Georgia 400 having exit and/or entrance ramps the protection zone shall be reduced to 60 feet. The reduction shall apply for the length of each such ramp. The Georgia 400 Tree Protection Zone is a Buffer.

Grading Activity. Altering ground surfaces to specified elevations, dimensions and/or slopes; this includes stripping, cutting, filling, stockpiling and shaping or any combination thereof and shall include the land in its cut or filled condition.

Guidance Document. A document maintained by the City of Alpharetta Arborist that includes clarifications to requirements with examples and additional technical standards about tree protection, tree planting, species selection, and other information relevant to the protection and replanting of trees in the City of Alpharetta. The document may be revised by the City Arborist as conditions and technical standards evolve.

Hardwood Tree. Any tree that is not coniferous (cone bearing). This definition is based on the colloquialism, and does not necessarily reflect any true qualities of the tree.

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). A professional organization that promotes the professional practice of arboriculture, sets standards for obtaining professional credentials for arborist, and establishes best practices for tree care, pruning, and protection.

Land Disturbance Permit. A permit issued by the City that authorizes Development Activity and includes, but is not limited to, Soil Erosion Protection, clearing and grubbing, land disturbance and building construction.

Landscape Strip. A portion of a lot required to be reserved for, installed with, and maintained with vegetation. Such a strip may or may not be required to be of a linear form. No utilities or parking shall be allowed within a required landscape strip.

Landscape Tree. A tree or trees that were planted or retained on a developed or previously developed site.

Lot Building Area. The area of a lot encompassed by front sides and rear yard setbacks or building line as required by City Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations.

Mass Grading. The grading within existing or across proposed property lines including the removal of trees and disturbance of soils in order to prepare a site for construction where buildings are not approved.

Mulch. An organic material spread around the base of a plant or on a plant bed to enrich and insulate the soil. Types of mulch include Pine Straw, Shredded Hardwood, Wood Chips, and Bark Chips. Mulch should be free of disease and pests. Synthetic or artificial mulches are not acceptable for use in the City of Alpharetta.

Non-Development Activity. Any alteration of the natural environment which does not require development or site plan approval, but which would include the proposed removal or destruction of any tree(s). Any removal of trees that constitutes Development Activity as that term is herein defined shall not constitute non-development activity.

Ornamental Tree. A tree that provides a visual impact in the landscape. The impact may be provided through form, bark, branching structure, leaf color, and/or flower color. Typically a small or medium size tree.

Overstory Tree. Those trees that compose the top layer or canopy of vegetation and will generally reach a mature height greater than 40 feet and typically have a spreading canopy.

Permit (Tree Removal Permit). An official Permit for tree removal issued by the City of Alpharetta.

Pervious Surface. All that area of land that can be landscaped or planted, allows natural passage through by water, and is not covered by man-made materials or structures such as buildings or paving.

Pine Tree. An evergreen coniferous tree that has clusters of needle-shaped leaves.

Plantable Area. The pervious surface area available for the preservation or planting of trees. Plantable Area shall not include that portion of the lot that is covered by buildings and structures permitted pursuant to the maximum lot coverage standards of this Ordinance.

Planted Area. An area of living plant material created for the purpose of establishing open space and consisting of a minimum of 50% of the area devoted to trees and shrubs.

Pruning (Tree Pruning). To cut away dead, overgrown, or undesirable branches or stems. Pruning of trees to be done in compliance with standard arboricultural practices as outlined in ANSI A300 and shall maintain the trees natural form and structure.

Qualified Professional. An International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, an American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA) Registered Consulting Arborist, or a Registered Forester.

Recompense. Replacement of trees or payment into the City held tree fund for the removal of Specimen Trees.

Replacement Planting. The planting of trees on a site that before development had more trees, and after development shall have less trees per acre.

Responsible Party. Any individual, firm, principal, or other entity who is a signatory to a Tree Removal Permit Application or Land Disturbance Permit for Development Activity or any person or company caught in the act of tree removal without a City-issued permit, or who violates any other provision of this Ordinance.

Shade Tree. Any tree that has a spreading canopy that provides partial to full shade to the ground with a minimum height of 20 feet.

Semi-Pervious. Hardscape, aggregate or porous paver that allows at least fifty percent (50%) of surface water to pass through the manmade material and into the underlying soil.

Softwood Tree. Any coniferous (cone bearing) tree. This definition is based on the colloquialism, and does not necessarily reflect any true qualities of the tree.

Specimen Tree. Any tree which qualifies for special consideration for preservation due to its size, type, condition, location or historical significance and which also meets the minimum size criteria set forth below.

Size Criteria:

<i>Pine Trees:</i>	30-inch diameter or larger for trees in the Pinus (Pine) genus.
<i>Coniferous Trees:</i>	20" diameter or larger for trees in the cedrus (deodar cedar), Thuja (Arborvitae), or other ecologically similar trees,
<i>Overstory Trees:</i>	30-inch diameter or larger for trees in the Liquidambar (Sweetgum) or Liriodendron (Tulip poplar) genus
	20-inch diameter or larger for trees in the Fagus (Beech), Nyssa (Tupelo), Diospyros (Persimmon), Sassafras (Sassafras), or other ecologically similar trees
	20-inch diameter or larger for Magnolia grandiflora (Southern magnolia) and those cultivars that generally reach a mature height over 40'
	24-inch (24") diameter or larger for trees in all other genera
<i>Understory Trees:</i>	8-inch (8") diameter or larger.
	10-inch (10") diameter or larger for Oxydendron arboretum (Sourwood).

See additional requirements for Specimen Trees in "The Guidance Document."

Street/Streetscape Tree. Any tree located or proposed to be located along a public or private street. The actual location will be determined by the specific zoning district or overlay. In situations where there is limited planting space in the right-of-way and or safety concerns, street trees may be located at the back of the sidewalk or within the landscape strip on private property and the discretion of the Director.

Structural Root Plate. The zone of rapid root taper that provides the tree stability against wind throw. The radius of the structural root plate is equal to 0.5 feet per inch of DBH.

Timber Harvest. Harvesting of timber from sites as a timber management activity as part of a demonstrated ongoing agricultural land use.

Tree. Any living, self-supporting woody or fibrous plant which normally obtains a diameter breast height of at least three (3) inches, and typically has one (1) main stem or trunk and many branches.

Tree Care Plan. A plan developed to provide an impacted tree the best possible chance of survival. A tree care plan should be prepared by a qualified professional and conform to the requirements of ANSI A300 and the Guidance Document

Tree Density. A measurement of trees on a property, expressed as inches per acre. For existing trees density is calculated based on DBH. For proposed trees tree density is calculated based on the caliper.

Tree Grouping. A community of trees as determined by the Director to merit special consideration as an ecological feature based upon species composition, form, structure, age, and condition. Specimen trees and trees of quality may be included in tree groupings and every alternative should be evaluated to save these trees. Except as otherwise provided in Section 3.2., Tree Groupings will be treated as specimen trees for preservation credits and every alternative should be evaluated to save these trees.

Tree of Quality. A tree that merits special consideration due to historical significance, ideal shape and structure, or uniqueness of the species as determined by the Director. Except as otherwise provided in Section 3.2., Trees of Quality will be treated as specimen trees for preservation credits and every alternative should be evaluated to save these trees.

Tree Removal or Removal of Trees. Removal of trees through an act of cutting down a tree or any act which causes a tree to die within 2 years after commission of the act or impedes the ability of the tree to sustain itself, including but not limited to damage inflicted upon the root system, trunk, or canopy as a result of:

1. The improper use of machinery on the trees;
2. The storage of materials in or around the trees;
3. Soil compaction;
4. Altering the natural grade to expose the roots or to cover the tree's root system with more than 4 inches of soil;
5. Causing the infection or infestation of the tree by pests, fungus or harmful bacteria;
6. Pruning judged to be excessive by the Director or not in accordance with the standard set forth by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA);
7. Paving with concrete, asphalt or other impervious surface within such proximity as to be harmful to the tree or its root system; and
8. Application of herbicides or defoliant to any tree without first obtaining a permit.

Tree Planting List. List of preferred tree species for use in the City of Alpharetta. Species not included on this list may be approved at the discretion of the Director. The Tree Planting List is included in the Arborist Guidance Document.

Tree Protection Area. An area encompassing the critical root zone of a tree that shall remain in an a pervious state.

Tree Save Area. An area designated for the purpose of meeting tree density requirements, saving natural trees, and/or preserving natural buffers that shall remain in a pervious state.

Understory Trees. Those trees that grow beneath the overstory, and will generally reach a mature height less than 40 feet. Understory trees may include coniferous trees that meet these same height characteristics.

Zoning Districts. Those areas as defined in the Zoning Ordinance and shown on the Zoning Map.
(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017; Ord. No. 749 , § 4, 9-18-2017; Ord. No. 769 , § 1, 11-12-2018)

3.2.3 Exemptions.

- A. The following shall be exempt from the provisions of this section:
1. The removal of trees with a Permit.
 2. The removal of trees from horticultural properties such as farms, nurseries or orchards. This exception shall not be interpreted to include timber harvesting incidental to development of the land;
 3. The necessary removal of trees by a utility company within dedicated utility easements;
 4. The removal of trees on public rights-of-way conducted by, on behalf of, or any activity pursuant to work to be dedicated to, a federal, state, county, municipal or other governmental agency in pursuance of its lawful activities or functions in the construction or improvement of public rights-of-way;

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5. The removal of trees from lakes and detention ponds, and drainage easements, unless specifically planted to be part of the stormwater system; or
 6. The removal of any tree which is dead or has become or threatens to become a danger to human life or property;
- B. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all reasonable efforts shall be made to save specimen trees and trees of quality, and tree groupings.
- C. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to authorize, directly or indirectly, the removal of a tree from the Georgia 400 Tree Protection Zone or any buffer.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.4 Permit required for non-development activity (activity which does not require a building permit, etc.).

- A. Except for routine or seasonal pruning or transplanting of trees, and except as exempted, no person shall engage in any Non-Development Activity as defined without first obtaining a permit. The request for a permit shall be submitted to the Director in the form of a tree removal permit application through the City process and shall include:
1. The reason for the proposed work
 2. Either a site sketch or photograph of the tree(s) proposed to be removed, identifying such tree(s) by size and species.
 3. Specimen Trees shall only be approved for removal if they are in declining health or as approved by the Director. If a request includes a Specimen Tree, the applicant shall provide a risk assessment or similar report, following currently accepted industry standards and protocols, prepared by a qualified professional outlining the condition of the trees and associated risks.

If the request for a permit is complete, complies with the Ordinance, and requests tree removal for one of the purposes identified in Paragraph B below, the Director shall issue a permit no later than ten (10) working days from receipt and shall inform applicant if replanting will be required. If the request is incomplete or denied, the Director shall notify applicant in writing regarding the specific reason for denial.

- B. The Director shall issue a permit for the following:
1. The removal of dead, substantially injured, damaged or diseased trees;
 2. The removal of any non-specimen tree, provided the tree is not a required landscape strip tree, buffer tree, or other code required trees and that the applicable minimum tree density requirement is maintained.
 3. The removal of any specimen tree, landscape strip tree, buffer tree or other code required tree with a replanting agreement approved by the director.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.5 Land disturbance permit for development activity.

- A. No person shall engage in a Development Activity and no Land Disturbance Permit shall be issued without first obtaining an approved site plan stamped and signed by the Director.
1. Trees and/or soils shall not be disturbed or removed in order to pad grade or mass-grade a site unless building construction is imminent. In order to be imminent, proposed buildings shall require approval.

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- B. Except as provided in Section 3.2.4 and Paragraph (c) of this subsection, no tree removal shall be approved for any site not under active development. For the purposes of this Ordinance, a site is not under active development unless there exists an approved development plan delineating the improvements to be constructed on the site consistent with the use for which the site is zoned, and there is a reasonable certainty that construction is imminent.
- C. A Land Disturbance Permit may be issued for Grading Activity on a site not under active development provided that:
1. The sole purpose of the Grading Activity is for the storage, removal or altering of soil for fill balancing on another site under active development;
 2. The site not under active development must be under common ownership or common development control with the site that is under active development;
 3. The site not under active development must be contiguous to, or located within one (1) mile of, the site under active development. For the purposes of this Section, the measurement of distances shall be from property line to property line along the most direct route of travel on a public road;
 4. The proposed Grading Activity shall not result in the damage or removal of more than ten percent (10%) of the total tree density (inches per acre) on the site not under active development;
 5. The proposed Grading Activity shall not decrease the tree density below the minimum inches per acre required for the site. For the purposes of this Section, trees in Buffers that will be required shall be excluded from minimum density calculations;
 6. The area to be disturbed within the site shall be the area that will have the least adverse impact on existing trees, Specimen Trees, Trees of Quality, and Groupings of Trees as determined by the Director. In addition, the area must be visually screened from public or private roads and drives, developed residential and commercial properties, by a one hundred foot (100') buffer or a buffer of sufficient depth to provide reasonable visual screening. In order to provide reasonable visual screening, it may be necessary to locate access roads to the impacted area in a winding manner to prevent a straight line of site to the impacted area; and
 7. The disturbed area within the site shall be replanted with trees to a tree density of 130 inches per acre no later than eighteen (18) months from the issuance of the Land Disturbance Permit authorizing the Grading Activities. A tree replacement plan and a bond shall be submitted and approved by the Director prior to the issuance of the permit authorizing the Grading Activities. The completion bond shall be held until the planting is complete and at that time transfer to an eighteen (18) month maintenance bond to ensure survival of the replacement trees. The applicant shall be responsible for the irrigation (watering) of trees during the period of the bonds. The replanting requirements of this Section shall not apply, and the initial bond shall be released, if, on or before fifteen (15) months from the issuance of the permit authorizing the Grading Activity, the site becomes under active development pursuant to the issuance of a Land Disturbance Permit and the approval of development plans in compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance.
- D. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to authorize any Grading Activity or similar activity not otherwise in compliance with the Land Subdivision Regulations of the City of Alpharetta, including, the Soil and Sedimentation Control Ordinance. Further, nothing in this Section shall be deemed to eliminate the requirement that all reasonable efforts must be taken to save and not adversely impact the Critical Root Zones of Specimen Trees, trees of quality, and tree groupings and that all applicable sites from the City shall maintain or obtain the minimum tree density required by this Ordinance.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017; Ord. No. 769 , § 2, 11-12-2018)

3.2.6 Application requirements.

- A. When a person applies for a Land Disturbance Permit as defined herein, such person shall provide the following information:
1. A complete tree survey and inventory, which shall contain the following information:
 - a. All Specimen Trees, Trees of Quality, Tree Groupings, Landscape Trees, and Boundary Trees on the site and within 30 feet of the limits of disturbance; with an indication whether they are to be retained or removed;
 - b. All trees that are to be counted toward the tree density requirement greater than 2" DBH, including size (Caliper or DBH) and species. Sampling methods may be used to determine tree densities for forested areas (over 5 acres) that are to be preserved. Sampling methods must conform to industry standards and protocols and be no less than a 10% sample;
 - c. Tree Protection Zones and Tree Save Areas must be delineated on the plan;
 - d. All buffers with existing trees to be delineated on plans as Tree Save Areas. Land Disturbance within any Buffer is subject to Director approval;
 - e. The tree survey and inventory shall be a to-scale map or a site plan prepared and sealed by a registered surveyor.
 2. An integrated site plan showing Specimen Trees, Trees of Quality, Tree Groupings, Boundary Trees, the trees to be saved and those to be removed, existing utilities and those to be installed, grading, the approximate location of all structures, driveways and curb cuts and all proposed tree plantings and other landscaping. It is required that all reasonable efforts be made to save Specimen trees, Trees of Quality, Tree Groupings. (Reasonable efforts shall include, but not be limited to, alternate building design, building location, parking area layout, parking area location, stormwater BMP locations and the like).
 - a. If a Specimen Tree, Tree of Quality, or Tree Grouping cannot be saved a hardship justification in the form of a letter shall be submitted to the Director for review and approval and be included within the plan set;
 - b. If a Boundary Tree cannot be saved or results in an encroachment into the Critical Root Zone of greater than 10%, evidence of notification to the owner of the tree will be required to be provided to the Director. This notification shall generally include the current condition of the tree, % encroachment, potential outcomes of the encroachment, and proposed tree care to offset the encroachment. In no way does this authorize any encroachment into the Structural Root Plate of a Boundary Tree.
 3. A detailed plan to protect and preserve landscaping and trees before, during and for a period of two (2) years after construction, which shall contain the following information:
 - a. All items found on the Arborist Checklist located in the Arborist Guidance Document;
 - b. Existing roads, utility lines, drainage and detention facilities, and other pertinent items in the vicinity of the site.
 - c. The locations of existing and proposed structures, paving, driveways, cut and fill areas, detention areas, etc.
 - d. Phase lines or limits of construction;
 - e. A delineation of all protected zones with any required dimensions;

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- f. Calculations showing compliance with the required Tree Density and Recompense per section 3.2.7
 - g. Locations of all existing and proposed utility lines and easements;
 - h. Locations of any boring sites for underground utilities;
 - i. Locations of all Specimen Trees, Trees of Quality, Groupings of Trees, Landscape Trees and Boundary Trees and indications whether they are to be removed or preserved;
 - j. Locations of all tree protection devices, materials to be used in each location and details;
 - k. A delineation of tree save areas in which trees have been inventoried for density calculations;
 - l. If applicable, locations and details of all permanent tree protection measures (tree wells, aeration systems, permeable paving, retaining walls, bollards, etc.); and
 - m. A tree care plan developed by a Qualified Professional designed specifically for each tree to be saved that warrants care due to the changes in site conditions or as approved by the Director. The tree care plan shall be prepaid prior to issuance of the land disturbance permit and a paid invoice provided to the City. In the event of a change in ownership, arrangements must be made to allow access for the tree care to continue throughout the required timeframe.
 - n. A full landscape plan meeting all of the requirements of this Section including tree density, recompense, landscape strip, parking lot tree coverage and screening, groundcover, hardscapes, etc. The landscape plan submitted shall be the one that is expected to be planted. Permit only plans will not be accepted by the Director.
 - o. Additional information as required on a case-by-case basis.

The above items may be integrated into the normal application requirements and submittals.

- B. Minor additions to existing development require only a sketch showing changes to be submitted to the Director for review and approval.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.7 Minimum tree density and recompense requirements.

The intent and goal of these regulations is to insure that a minimum density of trees is maintained on all developed sites and that a significant amount of tree canopy coverage and pervious soil area is maintained throughout the City. The density requirement must be met whether or not a property or site had trees prior to development or any tree removal. The density may be achieved by counting existing trees 2" in diameter or greater to be preserved, planting new trees in accordance with the minimum standards of this Section, or some combination of the two. Vegetated runoff reduction measures which include trees also count toward the tree density requirement. Minimum tree density shall be calculated and established pursuant to the formula and analysis set forth in the Guidance Document.

- A. All sites within the City other than 'For-Sale' residential lots shall maintain or achieve a Minimum Tree Density of 130 inches per acre. The owner shall be subject to the minimum tree density requirement set forth in this paragraph, but the owner shall base the density calculations on the net site area excluding the acreage required for Buffers and infrastructure improvements (roads, utility lines, detention ponds, etc.). In no event shall a parking lot be considered an infrastructure improvement.
- B. All 'For-Sale' residential lots in the City shall maintain a minimum tree density of 130 inches per acre or provide a calculation as described in the Guidance Document that shows the lot meets or exceeds a 30% canopy coverage based upon trees growing within the property lines. For new construction or new plantings this calculation may be based upon the mature spread of the newly planted trees at 20 years

after planting. If replacement planting is required on a 'For-Sale' residential lot, it is encouraged to provide at a minimum a two-inch (2") caliper tree or larger in the lawn area in the front yard or landscape strip if space allows.

- C. Owners shall receive a density credit of two (2) times the inches for each Specimen Tree saved by utilizing an alternate design during development. Specimen trees that cannot be saved must be replaced with recompense plantings equal to three (3) times the DBH of the tree(s) removed. Recompense trees shall be a minimum of four-inch (4") caliper at time of planting. Trees of Quality or Tree Groupings shall receive a density credit of one (1) times the inches for each tree saved. Specimen Trees removed without prior approval shall be subject to the recompense replanting requirements as described in section 3.2.10 Tree Damage and subject to the applicable penalties as described in Section 3.2.17.
- D. An owner may request a reduction in recompense plantings, which may be granted at the discretion of the Director. The reduction shall be calculated considering Specimen Trees, Trees of Quality or Tree Groupings and other landscape amenities that are incorporated into the site plan utilizing an approved alternative design.
- E. In the event that Specimen Tree Recompense cannot be achieved through planting on the subject property, two alternative methods of compliance may, at the discretion of the Director, be approved: planting at a location remote from the project site; or, a recompense payment to the City of Alpharetta Tree Replacement Fund. The following standards have been established for administering these alternative recompense methods.
 - 1. The director must review and approve all requests for alternative recompense. In no instance shall 100% of the required recompense be met through these alternative methods. As many trees as can reasonably be expected to survive and thrive must be planted on the subject property. No permit shall be issued until the Director has approved the request and received the necessary documentation and/or funds.
 - 2. If trees are to be planted at another location, the off-site location should be in the same area of the City as the project site and a tree replacement plan meeting all applicable standards must be provided by the owner and reviewed and approved by the City Arborist. If tree planting is proposed on City property all specifications for such planting shall be met as determined by the Director of Public Works or the Director of Recreation and Parks. A completion bond in the amount of 100% of the installation and materials cost shall be provided prior to issuance of any land disturbance permit.
 - 3. If a recompense payment to the City of Alpharetta Tree Replacement Fund is approved, the amount of the donation shall be established by the Director. The amount of the recompense payment shall be 100% of the estimated costs of the average 3 bids from reputable landscape contractors, licensed to do business in the City, for the materials, installation, and care during the trees establishment period (18 months) provided by the owner and reviewed and approved by the City.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.8 Tree Replanting, Buffer, and Landscape standards.

- A. Tree Replanting.
 - 1. Unless otherwise approved by the Director, it is recommended that trees selected for replanting be on the Recommended Tree List. Trees selected for planting must be free from injury, pests, disease, nutritional disorders or root defects, and must be of good vigor and form in order to assure a reasonable expectation of survivability. Standards for transplanting shall be in keeping with those

established in the International Society of Arboriculture publication Tree and Shrub Transplanting Manual or similar publication. Reference the American Association of Nurserymen publication American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1-2014) for plant material quality specifications. Reference the Manual of Woody Landscape Plants (Michael Dirr, 2009, Stipes Pub LLC.) or similar publication for information on tree species and site requirements.

2. It is desirable that replanted trees be ecologically compatible with the site and neighboring sites. Accordingly, the replanted trees shall be of the same or similar species as those removed when practical.
3. All replanted overstory trees shall be at least six (6) feet tall and have a trunk of not less than two (2) caliper inches. All replanted understory trees shall be at least four (4) feet tall or have a trunk not less than one (1) caliper inch. In order to provide sufficient growing area for planted trees, the following minimum criteria must be observed unless otherwise approved by the Director.
 - a. No more than 25% of any one genus may be included in any replanting plan.
 - b. A minimum of 40% of the required tree density on a site is recommended to be met through overstory tree planting.
 - c. Greater than 50% of the trees shall be natives.

B. Buffer Requirements.

1. A lot zoned or used for a rental dwelling, office, institutional, commercial, industrial uses or occupied by a non 'For-Sale' residential use shall provide a fifty foot wide undisturbed buffer along all property lines adjoining property zoned for or used by 'For-Sale' residential purposes. Where commercial or industrial districts or developments abut R-10M zoning districts, the same buffer requirements apply. The buffer shall be in addition to the required building setback line.
 - a. When a new, 'For-Sale' development is proposed adjacent to an existing, non-residential use with no buffer present, the 50' buffer must be provided by the residential development.
 - b. If a 50' buffer has been provided on the property adjacent to a proposed, non-residential development, the buffer requirement may be waived with the approval of the Director.
2. Except as otherwise provided, herein, buffer strips shall be preserved in their natural undisturbed state, except that sparsely planted buffers shall be enhanced with additional plant material. Enhancement plants must provide an opaque screen within two (2) years of planting and must consist of trees, shrubs, and groundcover plants meeting the following standards:
 - a. Plant selection will consist of eighty (80) percent evergreen species and twenty (20) percent deciduous species;
 - b. Deciduous trees must be a minimum of 2 inch caliper at time of installation;
 - c. Evergreen trees must be a minimum of 9 feet tall at time of installation;
 - d. Shrubs must be a minimum of 3 feet tall at time of installation;
 - e. Plants will be spaced a maximum of eight (8) feet on center or as approved by the Director;
 - f. Plantings shall be designed with plant palette containing a mixture of colors, textures, and heights.
3. Undisturbed buffers shall not contain any surface parking or storm water, detention facilities, or any structures except that the Director may approve underground facilities within the buffer or the crossing of the buffer for the purpose of extending utilities.
4. The Director may approve vegetated runoff reduction measures within the buffer. The planting requirements above may be varied to accommodate vegetated runoff reduction measures as part of an

approved stormwater management plan, if properly designed to provide stormwater management and screening functions.

5. Stream buffers must be replanted where disturbed for approved access and utility crossing. Replacement plantings must be native and be arranged to have a natural appearance.
6. All buffer plantings are subject to the approval of the Director.

C. Parking Lot Landscaping.

1. Surface parking lots shall provide a minimum 200 square foot wide landscape island at the end of each parking bay, and a 200 square foot island located each 72 feet of single parking length. Each landscape island shall be planted with one shade tree. Islands shall be excavated to 3 feet deep or to a depth 6 inches greater than the height of the root ball and backfilled with a minimum of 600 cubic feet of friable soil. Islands that are 400 square feet or larger and corner islands shall be planted with a large overstory tree. Parking lot trees must be 2" caliper minimum at time of planting and have a clear trunk to a minimum height of 6 feet. The remainder of a landscape island shall be planted with shrubs, ornamental grasses, and ground covers; and mulch shall be applied. Turf grass will not be accepted. Utilities and lighting shall not be allowed within required parking lot landscape islands.
2. Alternate landscape configurations may be approved if the Director determines that the alternate design exceeds the standards above and/or is part of a smart stormwater design for the site that includes multi-functional, vegetated runoff reduction measures. An alternate configuration could also include a stormwater component or the preservation and enhancement of existing trees which are provided above and beyond other tree preservation requirements; which are deemed of community value by the Director; and shall result in a minimum of 50% parking lot canopy coverage within 15 years.
3. The required tree area shall be protected against compaction and shall provide sufficient area for tree growth. Utilities are not allowed within the minimum area. The trees shall be maintained in accordance with best management practices as defined by the International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, and shall not be removed or pruned without permission from the City Arborists.
4. Shrubs shall be provided to screen paved areas and parking lots from the public right-of-way, private drives and adjacent property year round. Shrubs shall be 2 feet tall at time of planting, 2 rows deep and shall provide a screen within 3 years of planting. Alternate screening methods such as fencing may be approved by the Director.

D. Landscape Strips.

1. The City wants to promote tree lined streets therefore, a minimum of ten (10) feet wide landscape strip shall be provided along all public right-of-ways and private roads. Main streets which are listed below shall have twenty (20) foot landscape strips, except those located within the Downtown Overlay District. which shall have ten (10) feet wide landscape strips or landscaping as approved by the Director.

MAIN STREETS:

Highway 9
Mansell Road
Windward Parkway
Northpoint Parkway
Westside Parkway
Old Milton Parkway

Haynes Bridge Road

Kimball Bridge Road

2. No permanent structures other than signage are permitted within the landscape strip. This includes pavement, retaining walls, drainage structures, detention ponds, flumes, curbing, etc. unless approved by the Director.
 - a. Retaining walls built with decorative masonry and designed as a landscape feature may be located within the landscape strip subject to approval by the Director. All required plantings must be installed so as not to interfere with the structural integrity of the wall.
 3. Actual spacing of street trees is based on the average canopy spread of the species selected as outlined in the Arborist Guidance document. If the spacing of shade trees exceeds 25 feet on center understory trees shall be required to fill in the gaps between each shade tree. Spacing of shade trees shall not exceed 40 feet on center. Shade trees shall be a minimum 4" caliper; ornamental trees shall be a minimum 3" caliper. The use of a combination of shade trees and ornamental trees is recommended.
 4. For commercial development and for master plan subdivisions, a minimum of five (5) foot landscape strip shall be provided along all property lines which do not adjoin a public right-of-way or private road. One (1) shade tree, minimum 4" caliper, shall be provided for every fifty (50) linear feet of landscape strip. For master plan subdivisions, this requirement is only required along the external property line of the overall project.
 5. Shrubs shall be provided in all landscape strips. Shrubs shall be a minimum of 2 feet tall at time of planting. Shrubs located in landscape strips may be used to meet the parking lot screening requirement.
- E. Additional screening shall be provided around all utility areas, detention facilities, dumpster/refuse areas, drive through areas, loading and unloading zones, etc. to screen views from the public right-of-way, private roads, drives, and adjacent properties year round. Screening shall be provided in any combination of the standards below or as approved by the Director.
1. Plant selection will consist of eighty (80) percent evergreen species and twenty (20) percent deciduous species;
 2. Deciduous trees must be a minimum of 2 inch caliper at time of installation;
 3. Evergreen trees must be a minimum of 6 foot tall at time of installation;
 4. Shrubs must be a minimum of 4 foot tall at time of installation;
 5. Screening for detention facilities must incorporate an alternating double row of evergreen shrubs 4 foot tall at time of planting.
 6. A combination of decorative walls, fences, and landscape material may be used with the approval of the Director.
- F. Lighting Fixtures shall be arranged so that the source of any light is screened from residential views and located as to not interfere with the tree canopy at time of planting or in the future.
- G. All required landscape areas shall be provided with a minimum of 1 water spigot or other water source within 150 feet.
- H. A bond shall be required for a minimum of 18 months to ensure the maintenance and irrigation of the landscaping materials.

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- I. All landscape plans and tree planting plans for non "For Sale" residential properties shall be prepared as a to-scale map or a site plan prepared and sealed by a Registered Landscape Architect in the State of Georgia. Tree only plans may be prepared by a Qualified Professional.
 - J. Outdoor Dining Areas. At-grade outdoor dining areas shall include perimeter landscaping and decorative detectable barriers in order to define the area. Detectable barriers shall include decorative planters, low walls or other improvement approved by the Community Development Director. Uncovered outdoor dining areas shall include one (1) shade tree per 750 square feet.
 - K. Tree Conservation. To preserve the character and existing tree canopy within the Downtown Overlay it is desired to maintain good quality trees. Specimen trees and trees of quality within the building setbacks along the roads listed below shall be conserved.

ROADS:

Academy Street

Canton Street

Church Street

Cumming Street

Marietta Street

Mayfield Road

Milton Avenue

Roswell Street

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.9 Tree Protection and Conservation Standards.

Prior to commencement of any grading, construction, or tree removal authorized through the issuance of a land disturbance permit and continuing until a final subdivision plat has been recorded or a certificate of occupancy has been issued, the following system shall be used:

- A. A tree protection area shall be required for any tree located within 30 feet of any proposed grading, construction or tree removal; and shall be established by physical barriers and maintained until such work is complete.
- B. Location and Types of Tree Protection Devices.
 - 1. Tree protection devices are to be installed as shown on the plan or otherwise completely surrounding the Critical Root Zone of all trees to be preserved.
 - 2. The plan shall indicate which types of tree protection are to be installed and where they are to be installed. The types identified on the plan shall be consistent with the City's Tree Protection Details, available in the Arborist Guidance Document.
 - 3. The locations of all tree protection devices will be verified by the City prior to the issuance of the construction permit for clearing and/or grading.
 - 4. Once Protected Zones are established and approved, any changes are subject to Development and Inspections Department review.
- C. Tree Protection measures are to be installed as shown on the City's Tree Protection Details, available in the Arborist Guidance Document.

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- D. Sequence of Installation and Removal. All tree protection devices shall be installed prior to any land disturbance permit authorizing tree removal. Community Development Department must inspect the installation of tree protection and erosion and sedimentation control devices prior to the issuance of the land disturbance permit. Tree protection must remain in functioning condition until the certificate of occupancy is issued.
 - E. The cleaning of equipment, storage of materials or dirt, disposal of waste materials such as paint, oil, solvents or other harmful substances, or any other such act which may be harmful to the continued vitality of the tree(s) within the tree protection area, is prohibited.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.10 Tree damage.

Any tree designated in the plan to be saved, Including Trees of Quality and Tree Groupings, that is damaged during construction or grading, or as a result of such activities, shall be treated according to accepted International Society of Arboriculture Standards, or replaced with a tree(s) equal to the DBH of the tree removed. However, any Specimen Tree damaged as described above shall be replaced with a tree(s) eight (8) times the DBH of the tree removed with a minimum four-inch (4") tree Caliper. In the event that a damaged specimen tree must be removed, the location occupied by the tree's Critical Root Zone must remain in a pervious state with no structures or buildings placed in this area and violations shall be subject to the applicable penalties as described herein. Any specimen tree damaged on "For-Sale" residential lots as the result of failure to receive tree removal approval for non-construction tree removal or as a result of failure to protect a specimen tree during non-construction tree removal will result in up to three (3) times recompense.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.11 Tree survey inspection.

Following the receipt of the completed tree removal application and supporting data, the Director shall schedule and conduct an inspection of the proposed development site. Following inspection, the Director shall advise the applicant of any recommended changes in the applicant's proposed tree removal, protection or replanting plans necessary to make the plans comply with the provisions of this Ordinance.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.12 Tree removal applications, approval and expiration.

- A. The Director shall review all applications and supporting data and take one (1) of the following actions: approve, approve with conditions or disapprove. Applications, which meet the requirements of this Ordinance, shall be approved.
- B. Development Activity will not be authorized until such time as appropriate Land Disturbance Permits have been issued and approval granted.
- C. Tree removal and replacement shall begin no later than one hundred eighty (180) days after issuance of the permit and shall be completed no later than two (2) years after the issuance of the permit. Except as provided in these regulations authorizing certain cut and fill activities. The Director may refuse to issue any permit for tree removal until the submission of all development plans and receipt of other evidence satisfactory to the Director that there is a reasonable certainty that the Development is imminent.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.13 Tree removal and landscaping compliance inspection.

- A. Following the issuance of a Land Disturbance Permit for the development site, the Director shall from time to time inspect the site for the purpose of certifying compliance with the requirements of the tree removal. In the event of non-compliance, the Director may revoke or modify any City permit pertaining to the Development Activity for which the Land Disturbance Permit has been issued. No certificate of occupancy shall be issued until actual compliance is obtained.
- B. If any required Land Disturbance Permit conditions have not been met within the time specified in the Land Disturbance Permit, and provided the Director has not granted a written extension, the City may use the cash or bond proceeds to insure that these conditions are met. The bond will have an expiration date no longer than one (1) year, and the proceeds will go to the City of Alpharetta Tree Replacement Fund.
- C. After development is complete, the Director shall continue to make random inspections to insure that required trees and landscaping are maintained. Replacement shall be required or bond/letter of credit posted within thirty (30) days of notice by the Director should any of the tree(s) or landscaping die, be removed or be destroyed.
- D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance to the contrary, a home builder's responsibility to replace a newly planted tree or trees shall terminate upon the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or at the end of the maintenance bond time frame, whichever is longer, provided that an inspection conducted immediately prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy confirms that the replanted tree or trees were planted properly as established in the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) standards, and are healthy and free of pests and disease. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be deemed to eliminate any other obligation the homebuilder may have pursuant to any private agreement between the homebuilder and homeowner, or any restrictive covenants that are applicable to the property.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.14 Permit fee.

The fee for review of a request for permits shall be \$5.00. The fee for review of an application for a Land Disturbance Permit (which only applies to Development Activity and Grading Activity) shall be \$50.00 per acre and a maximum of \$500.00. These fees may be revised from time to time by resolution of the City Council, or delegated to the Director to be administratively established and revised from time to time.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.15 Enforcement, appeals and variances.

- A. Enforcement. All requests for permits and all applications for tree removal shall initially be submitted to and reviewed by the City Arborist. The City Arborist shall be responsible for recommending to the Director the approval or denial of applications for Land Disturbance Permits.
- B. Appeals.
 - 1. Requests for appeal of any administrative decision shall first be addressed to the Director.
 - 2. Written requests for appeal of any administrative decision are permitted and must be submitted to the Board of Zoning Appeals within ten (10) days after notice of such decision. Such written appeal shall be made in the form of a letter, which outlines the salient points upon which the appeal is based.
 - 3. The Board of Zoning Appeals shall schedule a hearing as soon as reasonably practicable to consider the appeal, and shall issue a written decision within thirty (30) days of the hearing.

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4. If the appeal concerns an administrative decision regarding Specimen Trees, Trees of Quality, Tree Groupings, or Boundary Trees it shall be the applicant's burden to demonstrate that reasonable alternatives have been considered in order to save said trees (as described herein). Documented evidence shall be filed by the applicant with the written request for appeal and shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - a. Boundary survey showing topography, easements, creeks and other features of the property.
 - b. Two alternative development plans, which include the Specimen Tree(s), Trees of Quality, Groupings of Trees, or Boundary Trees.
 - c. An itemized estimate of additional costs associated with saving the trees.
- C. Variance.
1. Written requests for a variance are permitted.
 2. The Director shall have the authority to grant variances not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the minimum or maximum standards of this Ordinance.
 3. Variances that exceed twenty percent (20%) or variances that exceed the allowance of administrative variances shall be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals.
 4. Variances can be granted only in the case of extreme hardship or unusual circumstance. The factors to be taken into consideration by the Board may include the following, but shall not be solely economic:
 - a. The ease with which the applicant can alter or revise the proposed development or improvement to accommodate existing trees.
 - b. The economic hardship that would be imposed upon the applicant were the variance denied.
 - c. The heightened desirability of preserving tree cover in densely developed or densely populated areas.
 - d. The need for visual screening in transitional zones or relief from glare, blight, commercial or industrial unsightliness or any other visual affront.
 - e. Whether the continued presence of the tree or trees is likely to cause danger to a person or property.
 - f. Whether the topography of the area in which the tree is located is of such a nature to be damaging or injurious to trees.
 - g. Whether the removal of the trees is for the purpose of thinning a heavily wooded area where some trees will remain.
 - h. Whether tree removal would have an adverse impact upon existing biological and ecological systems.
 - i. Whether tree removal would affect noise pollution by increasing source noise levels to such a degree that a public nuisance may be anticipated or a violation of the noise control ordinance will occur.
 - j. Whether the general health and life expectancy of the tree or trees warrant the measures necessary to prolong the life of the trees based upon accepted ISA practices.
- D. Appeal from the Decisions of the Board of Appeals shall be by Writ of Certiorari to the Fulton Superior Court, and must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of the Board's decision.
- (Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.16 Natural Resources Commission.

The Mayor and each City Council member shall appoint one (1) member to a seven (7) member Natural Resources Commission.

- A. The Natural Resources Commission shall give advice to the Council based on an annual re-evaluation of experience under the Ordinance, provide leadership in the development of understanding of the objectives and methods of the tree program, and assist the Director in the development and maintenance of technical specifications and guidelines. In addition, the natural Resources Commission primary objectives shall be:
 - 1. To promote the benefits of maintaining a healthy tree canopy for the City of Alpharetta;
 - 2. To provide educational outreach activities for the purpose of informing the community about resource conservation, protection of the environment, and the maintenance of the city's natural amenities, in particular its trees;
 - 3. To plan and organize Arbor Day and facilitate other events, activities, meetings and projects that support environmental awareness and education;
 - 4. To encourage Alpharetta's citizens to take greater responsibility for improving their community through litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling, tree plantings and other, similar means.
 - 5. To oversee the following:
 - a. Alpharetta's Tree Conservation, Landscape, and Buffer Ordinance.
 - b. Tree City USA designation.
 - c. Keep America Beautiful affiliation.
- B. The Natural Resources Commission shall assist the Arborist in producing and maintaining the Arborist Guidance Document, including the list of proposed changes to the kinds and species of trees described in the Tree Planting List. Any such changes may be adopted and may be changed from time to time.
- C. The Natural Resources Commission shall enlist technical advisors in the fields of land development, landscape architecture and horticulture or related professions.
- D. The Natural Resources Commission shall have the power and authority to maintain the Tree City USA and Keep America Beautiful (KAB) certifications by:
 - 1. Strengthening environmental outreach opportunities associated with the Tree City USA and KAB organizations by promoting community participation and acting as an advocate of tree and environmental conservation efforts;
 - 2. Supporting the City's efforts through public/private partnerships;
 - 3. Making recommendations for the enhancement of public outreach and education programs concerning environmental and tree related issues;
 - 4. Developing and implementing a sustainable program for their environmental accomplishments; and
 - 5. Providing regular updates to City Council regarding Natural Resources Commission activities.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)

3.2.17 Penalties.

Any person, firm, corporation, limited liability company, Responsible Party, or other entity found guilty of violating or knowingly assisting in the commission of a violation of this Section shall be subject to the penalties specified herein. Each day any violation of any provision of this Section shall occur and each day any violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense of this Section.

- A. A violation of this Section shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to one thousand dollars per incident. Replacement plantings shall also be required. Penalties and fines, including replacement plantings must be satisfied within the timeline stated on the violation and/or stop work order. Appeals can be filed with the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- B. In the event that a Specimen Tree is damaged or removed in violation of this Section on non "For-Sale" residential property or as part of a construction project, violators shall be subject to replace Specimen Trees with trees having a total density equal to eight (8) times the unit value of the tree removed with a minimum four-inch (4") tree caliper. Furthermore, the location and extent of the tree's Critical Root Zone shall permanently remain in a pervious state with no structures or buildings placed on it. In the event that a Specimen Tree is damaged or removed in violation of this Section on a "For-Sale" residential property not in conjunction with a construction project, violators shall be subject to replace Specimen Trees with trees having a total density up to three (3) times the unit value of the tree removed. The city shall take into consideration the amount of trees that can be reasonably placed on the property in violation. If the DBH of the removed tree cannot be determined the measurement shall be taken at the upper most portion of the remaining stump.
- C. In the event that a non-specimen tree, including Trees of Quality and Tree Groupings, is damaged or removed in violation of this Section, violators shall be subject to replacement plantings equal to one (1) times the DBH of the tree removed with a minimum two inch (2") caliper trees. If the DBH of the removed tree cannot be determined the measurement shall be taken as stated in Section 3.2.17.B.
- D. In addition to A. and B., upon notice from the Director, work on any development that is being done contrary to the provisions of this Section shall immediately cease. The stop-work notice shall be in writing and shall go to the owner of the property, or to his agent, or to the person doing the work, and shall state the conditions under which work may be resumed. When an emergency exists, the Director shall not be required to give written notice prior to stopping the work. Further, in the event that work on any development is being done contrary to the provisions of this Section, the Director may revoke any permit pertaining to the development activity for which the Land Disturbance Permit has been issued and may refuse to issue any further permit until, at the discretion of the Director, the work on the development is brought into compliance with the provisions of this Section.

(Ord. No. 739 , 5-1-2017)