



City Tree Mitigation Policy and Requirements

Charlotte Tree Ordinance Sections: 21-32, 21-61.

Mitigation Policy Summary

Trees located on City property and on public street right-of-way (R/W) are considered assets of the City of Charlotte and are protected by the Charlotte Tree Ordinance. The City manages City trees to provide the highest level of benefits possible to the Charlotte community while maintaining a high standard of public safety and acceptable risk.

Community data collected during City Council's Urban Forest Master Plan process and the City Manager's series of Meet & Eat community meetings identified the Charlotte community's highest priority relative to tree canopy is to protect/preserve existing trees. In support of this community value, the City seeks to preserve all healthy and structurally sound City trees. Removal of City trees will not be authorized except in cases of significant hardship. When removal is authorized, mitigation is required.

Examples of significant hardship include: no property access, significant utility installation/maintenance impacts, construction crane positioning, authorized land disturbing activity that will cause significant decline in health or structural stability of a City tree.

Mitigation Fee Usage

Fees collected during the City Tree Mitigation Process shall be used to support the City's Neighborhood Tree Planting Program and management of City trees in street R/W.

Mitigation Requirements

- Tree Planting Option - One mitigation tree shall be planted in street R/W for every 3 inches of (DBH) removed.

DBH of Existing Tree / 3" DBH = quantity of mitigation trees

Example: City authorizes one 30" DBH tree for removal. $30" / 3" = 10$ mitigation trees

- Mitigation Fee Option - submit mitigation payment equaling \$200 for every inch of diameter (DBH) removed.

DBH of Existing Tree * \$200 = mitigation fee

Example: City authorizes one 30" DBH tree for removal. $30" * \$200 = \$6,000$ mitigation fee

- Trees in very poor health or that are structurally unsound will not require mitigation.
- If a future streetscape condition provided by a project significantly improves community tree canopy benefits, per the City Arborist/Urban Forestry Supervisor or their designee, mitigation may not be required.
- Mitigation trees shall be 3" caliper in size and meet planting requirements outlined in CLDS 40.01 (Tree Planting Detail), unless otherwise authorized by the City Arborist/Urban Forestry Supervisor or their designee. Staff highly recommends coordinating pre-inspection of mitigation trees prior to planting.
- Mitigation credit may be given for any newly planted code-required trees per the Charlotte Tree Ordinance.

Definitions

- *City property* – City of Charlotte-owned parcels and all Tree Canopy Preservation Program (TCPP) protected areas located anywhere in Mecklenburg County, NC.
- *City tree* – see Tree Ordinance Guideline – City Trees and Protected Woody Vegetation
- *DBH* – diameter at breast height. The diameter of a tree stem measured at 4.5’ from the ground. On sloping ground, the measure is taken from the up-hill side.
- *Street right-of-way (R/W)* - all segments of City-accepted and/or City Landscape Management-maintained public street R/W (CDOT or NCDOT) in Charlotte’s corporate city limits. Landscape Management maintains trees on NCDOT street R/W in the city limits except for road segments identified in Tree Ordinance Guideline – City Landscape Management Maintenance Areas.

Contact Information - <https://charlottenc.gov/ld/treeordinance/Pages/default.aspx>

- Commercial/subdivision permitting scenarios- Urban Forestry Group
704-336-6692 / <https://charlottenc.gov/ld>
- All other scenarios - City Arborist Group – General Services
704-336-4262 / Landscapemanagement@charlottenc.gov

City Tree Removal Mitigation Process

