Tree Preservation and Landscape Standards UDC Amendments
General Amendment No. 20-03

Public Comments received
* Office Hours discussion
* Survey response
* Comment Letters

Office Hours Public Comments/Feedback (January 19 – February 5)

Friday February 5, 9:30am

- Mitigation fees do not incentivize protection of trees or on-site replacement. Depending on tree species, it is more cost effective to pay the mitigation fee than to replace it with new trees when considering the cost of the tree plus labor.
    - *Staff Response: A study of current mitigation fees may be warranted in the future.*
- Consider counting new shrub plantings, in addition to new trees, as credit for mitigation.
    - *Staff Response: For Tree Mitigation requirements, shrubs do not meet the intent of replacing lost tree canopy or caliper inches.*
- Provide list of recommended tree species for areas along sidewalks/trails, tight spaces, parking lots, in front of buildings, etc. Certain tree species, as they grow, will cause damage to the sidewalk or other public/private improvements, or cover buildings that may want to showcase. Having a list of recommended tree species for these situations may facilitate design of site.
    - *Staff Response: This is something that can be incorporated in the updating of the Preferred Plant list.*

Friday February 5, 10:30am

- Landscape Architect (LA) agreed that Tree Amendments are good for Tree Preservation but can be frustrating when looking at large industrial site.
    - *Staff Response: In agreeance*
- If existing trees in the ROW are not counted as existing, then do I still have to mitigate them? What about new Overall Transportation Plan (OTP) roads? Might this also extend to utility work?
    - *Staff Response: Mitigation is required for removed trees within the R.O.W., Mitigation is required on OTP roads as well as utility work projects. This is a current requirement; no changes are proposed.*
- Third tree class is great for developers! Helps with costs on sites that may be former farmland and have been let turn fallow. These sites tend to have trees that land in the lower protected tree class.
    - *Staff Response: In agreeance*
- Can the Preferred Plant List be updated to include more low water users? TAMU has a great low water user list.
- Limits on turf in SBW.02 do not make developers happy, but would make LAs and designers happy. Can temporary irrigation be used to establish native turf species?
    - *Staff Response: In agreeance on turf limitations; Current UDC irrigation requirements allow for 3 options; no changes are proposed to the requirements.*

- Synthetic turf would be great to not have to be screened. Especially true on playgrounds, sports fields, K-12 facilities, daycares, etc. – this creates safety issues. Some new glass and buildings materials can create heat that can melt artificial turf.
    - *Staff Response: Screening requirements for playscapes, sports fields, and other similar recreational fields have been adjusted to not hinder safety issues*.
- In street yards, could we use more 3 gallon or 1-gallon shrubs to meet planting requirements? It can be difficult to find 5 gallons plants with heavy demand on suppliers.
    - *Staff Response: Current UDC minimum planting requirements for shrubs are 1 gallon, no changes are proposed to the requirements.*
- Ornamental trees can still block signage. Can more shrubs be used instead of ornamental trees?
    - *Staff Response: UDC would just provide flexibility on location on ornamental trees that should address this concern.*

#1

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:32:22 AM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:33:48 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:25
IP Address:	69.7.160.146

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Q1 **Yes**

Do the proposed UDC amendments address the identified issues?

Q2 **Yes**

Are the proposed changes easy to understand?

Q3 **No**

Do you need more information?

Q4

If yes, please provide your contact information below:

no

Q5

Please provide any additional comments below.

Increase how often pruning permits are reviewed

#2

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, February 03, 2021 4:05:05 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, February 03, 2021 4:11:41 PM
Time Spent:	00:06:35
IP Address:	70.112.239.208

Page 1

Q1

Do the proposed UDC amendments address the identified issues?

No

Q2

Are the proposed changes easy to understand?

Yes

Q3

Do you need more information?

No

Q4

If yes, please provide your contact information below:

Respondent skipped this question

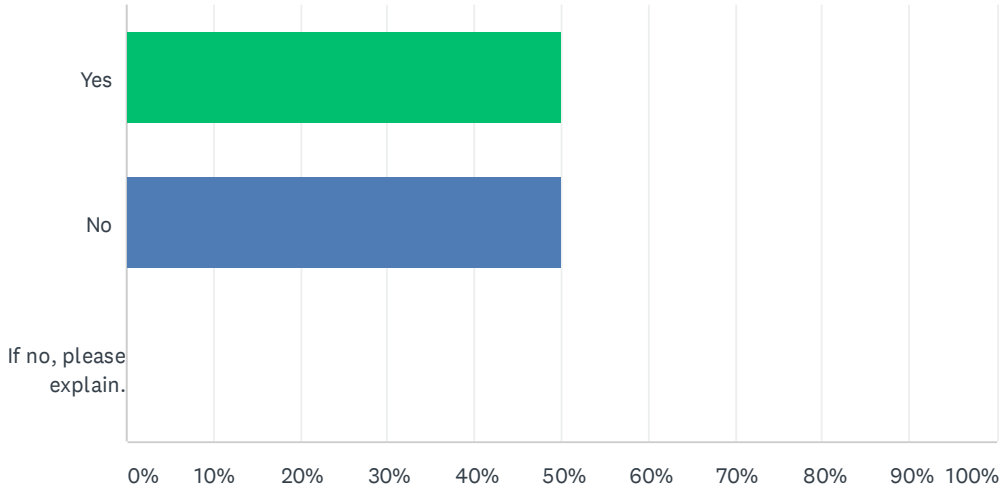
Q5

Please provide any additional comments below.

Tree mitigation requirements should be allowed in lots. Protected trees are 12" and above, however mitigation credits are only given for trees 18" and above. This inconsistency should be fixed.

Q1 Do the proposed UDC amendments address the identified issues?

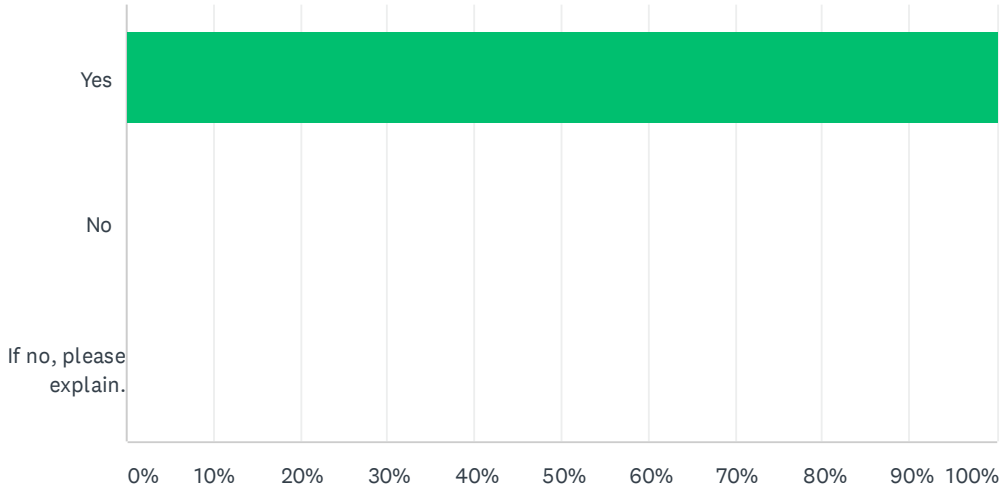
Answered: 2 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	50.00%	1
No	50.00%	1
If no, please explain.	0.00%	0
TOTAL		2

Q2 Are the proposed changes easy to understand?

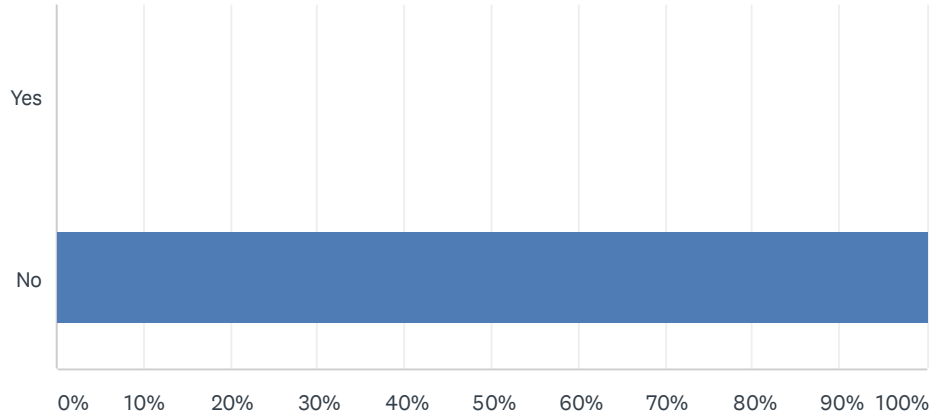
Answered: 2 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	2
No	0.00%	0
If no, please explain.	0.00%	0
TOTAL		2

Q3 Do you need more information?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	0.00%	0
No	100.00%	2
TOTAL		2

Q4 If yes, please provide your contact information below:

Answered: 1 Skipped: 1

Q5 Please provide any additional comments below.

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0

BLAKE MAGEE CO

February 3, 2021

City of Georgetown

UDC Advisory Committee & Planning Staff

Re: Tree Mitigation Credit – For Residential Single-Family Lots

Dear UDC Advisory Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to request that the UDC Advisory Committee and City Planning Staff entertain and investigate the request from the development community to modify the City of Georgetown Unified Development Code (UDC) – Chapter 8 – Section 8.02 to allow for tree mitigation credits to apply towards trees planted on residential single family lots within the subdivision that is being developed. Many neighboring jurisdictions allow for onsite tree credits to be satisfied by trees planted on single family lots. Our developments require that 2-3" trees and 4- 3" trees are planted on every standard and corner single family lot, respectively. These tree planting requirements are part of our recorded restrictive covenants that run with the land and are enforced by the homeowners association. This code amendment would encourage more trees to be planted within the subdivision. Please accept this letter as a formal request for this item to be heard and reviewed by the UDC Advisory Committee and Planning Staff.

We appreciate your willingness and time on this matter.

Sincerely,

Blake J. Magee, President

1011 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78703
☎ 512.481.0303 512.481.0333
www.blakemageeco.com

OWEN HOLDINGS, INC.

February 4, 2021

City of Georgetown

UDC Advisory Committee & Planning Staff

Re: Tree Mitigation Credit – For Residential Single-Family Lots

Dear UDC Advisory Committee,

Thank you for the time and effort put in by staff and the UDC Advisory Committee on the changes to Chapter 8 of the UDC.

As a developer in Georgetown we continually struggle with Tree Preservation Standards. Generally speak we love trees, and we try to keep as many mature trees on site as possible. The Code isn't always easy to navigate and the effect on each development is often very different. For instance a development on a parcel with no existing trees is much easier to develop and plant mitigation trees than a mature, beautifully wooded site. We continually work to save trees whenever and wherever possible because we believe that they add to a project. However, this becomes strained on a site with decent tree coverage and you start placing trees on site just to fulfill the requirement. I can save trees and have 3 times the required caliper inches yet we are still expected to mitigate trees removed in the development process; this creates inequity between projects.

I join others in asking for consideration that the UDC Advisory Committee and City Planning Staff entertain and investigate the request from the development community to modify the City of Georgetown Unified Development Code (UDC) – Chapter 8 – Section 8.02 to allow for tree mitigation credits to apply towards trees planted on residential single family lots within the subdivision that is being developed; this is a potential solution to the inequity involved between treed properties and properties without trees. Many neighboring jurisdictions allow for onsite tree credits to be satisfied by trees planted on single family lots. This code amendment would encourage more trees to be planted strategically within the subdivision vs. just adding to already landscaped areas. Please accept this letter as a formal request for this item to be heard and reviewed by the UDC Advisory Committee and Planning Staff.

We appreciate your willingness and time on this matter.

Sincerely,
OWEN HOLDINGS, INC.

Joe Owen

February 3, 2021

City of Georgetown

UDC Advisory Committee & Planning Staff

Re: Tree Mitigation Credit – For Residential Single-Family Lots

Dear UDC Advisory Committee,

This letter is intended to request that the UDC Advisory Committee and City Planning Staff entertain and investigate the request from the development community to modify the City of Georgetown Unified Development Code (UDC) – Chapter 8 – Section 8.02 to allow for tree mitigation credits to apply towards trees planted on residential single family lots within the subdivision that is being developed.

Some of neighboring jurisdictions allow for onsite tree credits to be satisfied by trees planted on single family lots.

I believe this amendment to the UDC shall still achieve the intent of best practices in development. Obviously, if not trees are planted on the single family lots, there would be no credit but this will encourage the development community to plant more trees in the sub-divisions. Please accept this letter as a formal request for this item to be heard and reviewed by the UDC Advisory Committee and Planning Staff.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at rpuri@athenadomain.com or at my office at 210-698-3004.

Sincerely,

Rajeev Puri

Athena Domain, Inc.

PulteGroup

February 4, 2021

City of Georgetown

UDC Advisory Committee & Planning Staff

Re: Tree Mitigation Credit – For Residential Single-Family Lots

Dear UDC Advisory Committee,

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We appreciate your willingness and time on this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen Ashlock

Vice President of Land Development

9401 Amberglen Blvd., Bldg. I, Suite 150 Austin, Texas 78729
512.795.0190 pultegroupinc.com

TaylorMorrison.

TAYLOR MORRISON
OF TEXAS INC

Austin Division

810 Hesters Crossing
Suite 235
Round Rock, Texas 78681

p (512) 532-2172

taylormorrison.com

February 4, 2021

City of Georgetown
UDC Advisory Committee & Planning Staff

Re: Tree Mitigation Credit – For Residential Single-Family Lots

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We appreciate your willingness and time on this matter.

Sincerely,

Ryan Mattox
Vice President of Land Acquisitions

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February 3, 2021

City of Georgetown

UDC Advisory Committee & Planning Staff

Re: Tree Mitigation Credit – For Residential Single-Family Lots

Dear UDC Advisory Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to request that the UDC Advisory Committee and City Planning Staff entertain and investigate the request from the development community to modify the City of Georgetown Unified Development Code (UDC) – Chapter 8 – Section 8.02 to allow for tree mitigation credits to apply towards trees planted on residential single family lots within the subdivision that is being developed. Many neighboring jurisdictions allow for onsite tree credits to be satisfied by trees planted on single family lots. This code amendment would encourage more trees to be planted within the subdivision. Please accept this letter as a formal request for this item to be heard and reviewed by the UDC Advisory Committee and Planning Staff.

We appreciate your willingness and time on this matter.

Sincerely,

Chris Little
City President