Chapter 16 – DEFINITIONS

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SECTION 16.02. - DEFINITIONS

The following definitions describe terms found in this Code.

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**Bond.** A sealed instrument under which a person or entity is obligated to pay an agreed-upon amount of money on or before a specified expiration date or action. Binding security; firm assurance.

**Branch (tree).** A part of a tree that extends from the trunk and forms a part of the canopy.

**Bufferyard.** A combination of physical spaces and vertical elements such as plants, berms, fences, or walls, the purpose of which is to separate and screen incompatible land uses from each other.

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**Rooming House.** A residential building other than a hotel or apartment where lodging and possibly meals are provided by pre-arrangement for definite periods for compensation. No cooking facilities are provided in individual living units.

**Root (tree).** The part of a tree or plant typically underground which absorbs nutrients and moisture, stores food, and as an anchor and supports the tree or plant.

**Rural Residential Subdivision.** A subdivision that is zoned either AG (Agriculture) or RE (Residential Estate) if within the City Limits or a subdivision in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) that is platted for single-family residential development.

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**Tree.** Any self-supporting woody perennial plant species usually having a single trunk diameter of no less than two inches at maturity, measured one foot above grade, and which normally grows in Central Texas to an overall minimum height of 12 feet.

**Tree Canopy.** The horizontal extension of a tree’s branches in all directions from its trunk.
Tree, Credit. Existing trees on a site with a DBH between six and 11 inches that may be used toward the required mitigation or landscape trees.

Tree Damage. Excavation or disturbance within the CRZ such as by cutting roots, grading, pouring impervious material such as concrete or asphalt, installing utilities or installing irrigation that is not related to irrigating that specific Protected or Heritage Tree; chemical poisoning; utilizing the area within the tree protection fence for storage of equipment or vehicular traffic and other activities; removing bark greater than three inches; breaking or splitting of the main trunk; or any act compromising the health or structural integrity of the tree.

Tree, Dead. Any tree in which the canopy has died back 80 percent (80%) or greater as determined by the Urban Forester.

Tree, Diseased. A tree with a condition that impairs the performance of one or more vital functions; usually associated with infectious conditions.

Tree, Heritage. Any of the following trees that has a 26-inch diameter when measured at four and one-half feet above grade: Live Oak, Post Oak, Shumard Oak, Bur Oak, Chinquapin Oak, Monterey Oak, Bald Cypress, American Elm, Cedar Elm, Pecan, Walnut, Texas Ash, or Southern Magnolia.
   1. Any tree or stand of trees designated by Resolution of the City Council to be of historical value or of significant community benefit.
   2. The term "Heritage Trees" does not include Hackberry, Chinaberry, Ashe Juniper (Cedar), Mountain Cedar, Blueberry Juniper, Post Cedar, Chinese Tallow, or Mesquite.

Tree Mitigation. The process to address the removal of Protected or Heritage Trees either through crediting existing trees, planting new replacement trees or paying fees-in-lieu.

Tree, Multi-Trunk. A tree with more than one trunk. These trees are to be measured according to the method established in this Code.

Tree, Ornamental. Smaller tree species, reaching a height of approximately ten to 25 feet at maturity. Such trees provide screening and accent elements.

Tree Preservation Plan. A plan that graphically represents the Tree Schedule and identifies Protected Trees and Heritage Trees, indicating those being preserved and those being proposed for removal. The Tree Preservation Plan may be shown on the Tree Survey.

Tree, Protected. For purposes of this Code, a "protected" tree is any tree with a DBH of 12 inches or greater. The following species of trees are excluded from protected tree status Chinaberry, Hackberry, Ashe Juniper (Cedar), Chinese Tallow, and Mesquite.
Tree Removal. As it applies to protected trees means, the uprooting, severing the main trunk of a tree, or any activity which causes, or may reasonably be expected to cause a tree to die. Activities such as, but not limited to, damage inflicted upon the root system by machinery, storage of materials, or soil compaction; substantially changing the natural grade above the root system or around the trunk; excessive pruning; or paving with concrete or asphalt within the CRZ or impervious materials in a manner which may reasonably be expected to kill the tree.

Tree Schedule. A list indicating the status of all trees on site; Protected Trees preserved, Protected Trees removal, dead, Heritage Trees preserved, proposed Heritage Tree removal, not a protected species, or Credit Tree, along with species name and tree diameter in one table. Typically, a Tree Schedule is included on the Tree Survey.

Tree, Shade. The largest plants in the landscape that provide the overhead structure needed for shading and under which other plants live and grow. They spread and give overhead structure when they reach maturity.

Tree Stand. A contiguous grouping or cluster of trees which can exhibit characteristics similar to one another including, but not limited to, size, species, health, and age.

Tree, Street. An approved Shade Tree planted within the right-of-way in accordance with this Code.

Tree Survey. A drawing showing the size, location, species and critical root zone of all existing Protected and Heritage Trees, and includes a table summarizing the total number of inches, in accordance with generally accepted methods of International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). See the UDC Development Manual and the Landscape and Tree Technical Standards for more information on the submission requirements.

Truck Terminal. A facility where commercial trucks, including tractors and trailer units, are housed, stored, maintained or repaired. Accessory uses may include offices, fueling or washing and the temporary storage of loads prior to shipment.

Trunk (tree). The primary structural support of a tree, or the primary stem of a tree, as distinct from the branches and roots.

Two-Family. The use of a single lot or parcel for two dwelling units contained within a single building. See also "Duplex."

Vehicle. See "Automobile".
**Vehicle Display and Sales Area.** The area specifically reserved for the display and storage of vehicles actively for sale. This area shall not include areas reserved for required parking spaces, parking of vehicles in service, or areas reserved for the storage of vehicles not actively for sale.

**Vehicle Storage.** Long-term storage (over 72 hours) of operable or inoperable vehicles. Typically includes storage of tow-aways or impound yards, but this term excludes dismantling or salvage.

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