

Columbus Tree Board

Mission Statement

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life by promoting the benefits of trees and plants and the development of sustainable urban ecosystems through education, community planting and maintenance.

Chapter 31½

TREES*

Sec. 31½-1. Intent and purpose.

The intent of this chapter is to aid in the stabilization of soil by the prevention of erosion and sedimentation; to reduce storm water runoff and the costs associated therewith and replenish ground water supplies; to aid in the removal of carbon dioxide and generation of oxygen in the atmosphere to provide a buffer and screen against noise pollution; to provide protection against severe weather; to aid in the control of drainage and restoration of denuded soil subsequent to construction or grading; to provide a haven for birds which in turn assist in the control of insects; to protect and increase property values; to conserve and enhance the physical environment and aesthetics; and generally protect and enhance the quality of life and the general welfare of the citizens of the City of Columbus.

(Ord. of 12-5-95, § 1)

Sec. 31½-2. Definitions.

City park trees are hereby defined as trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation in public parks having individual names, and all areas owned by the city, or to which the public has free access as a park.

Street trees are hereby defined as trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation on land, lying between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues or ways within the city.

(Ord. of 12-5-95, § 2)

Sec. 31½-3. City grounds supervisor.

This position will be filled by the beautification director of the City of Columbus. The city grounds supervisor will coordinate, lead and supervise the tree board and administer the tree plan.

(Ord. of 12-5-95, § 3)

*Editor's note—An ordinance of December 5, 1995, §§ 1—8 did not specifically amend the Code; hence, inclusion herein as Ch. 31½, §§ 31½-1—31½-8 was at the discretion of the editor.

Sec. 31½-4. Creation or establishment of a tree board.

There is hereby created a board to be known as the Columbus Tree Board for the City of Columbus, Mississippi (hereinafter referred to as "board"). The board shall consist of seven (7) members, all of whom shall be resident citizens of the city and qualified electors therein, who shall be appointed by the mayor and ratified by the council. The board shall include: One (1) member/person from Columbus Light and Water Department; one (1) member/person from the Columbus Garden Club Council; one (1) member/person from Main Street Columbus, Inc.; one (1) member/person from Keep America Beautiful; and three (3) members at large. At the discretion of the mayor and city council, additional tree board members and/or advisors may be appointed. (Ord. of 12-5-95, § 4)

Sec. 31½-5. Term of office.

The terms of the board members shall be: two (2) members shall be appointed for one (1) year; two (2) members shall be appointed for two (2) years; three (3) members shall be appointed for three (3) years from the date of appointment; thereafter, upon subsequent appointments, each appointee shall be appointed for a period of three (3) years with persons to serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Vacancies shall be filled by the governing authorities and appointments to fill vacancies shall be for unexpired terms only. Each member shall be eligible for reappointment. All members of the board shall serve without pay. The continued absence of any member of the board from three (3) regularly scheduled meetings without excused absence of the board shall be for just cause for the removal of said member from the board by the governing authorities. Upon receipt of written notice from the chairman of the tree board to the governing authorities of the city stating that a member has been absent for three (3) meetings in any one (1) year without a written and accepted excuse, the governing authorities may remove the absent member from the board and appoint a new member to fill the vacancy.

(Ord. of 12-5-95, § 5)

Sec. 31½-6. Duties and responsibilities.

It shall be the responsibility of the board, in coordination with the city grounds supervisor, to study, investigate, counsel and

develop a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, re-planting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in city parks, along streets and other public areas, and front yard setbacks, in accordance with the Columbus Code. This plan will consist of recommended trees for planting and their spacing and maintenance. Such plan, upon ratification by the mayor and city council, shall constitute the Official Comprehensive City Tree Plan of the city.

(Ord. of 12-5-95, § 6)

Sec. 31½-7. Operation.

The board shall elect its own officers, make its own rules and regulations, and keep a record of its proceedings. The majority of its members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

(Ord. of 12-5-95, § 7)

Sec. 31½-8. Appeal.

Any person may appeal from any ruling or order of the city tree board, to the mayor and council, who may hear the matter and make the final decision.

(Ord. of 12-5-95, § 8)