

## Tree Fund Expenditure Criteria

Per DDC 35.13.7.7.e.i

Projects will be measured against the following standardized criteria to provide consistency within the decision making process:

1. Full Project Cost is comprised of the following elements:
  - Tree cost
  - Water tap
  - Water impact fee
  - Irrigation system
  - Installation labor
  - Ongoing maintenance (pruning, watering, insect and disease control, and fertilization).
2. Other Efforts Leveraged: The use of other funding sources such as grants and HOA's or efforts such as ESA mandated preservation and Parks land purchases.  
For instance;
  - The Tree Fund can be leveraged to assist a Home Owners Association willing to contribute funds or materials to the City to plant trees in a local City owned park.
  - The Tree Fund could be leveraged to purchase land adjacent to a required preserved ESA to expand the area to be preserved.
3. Community Involvement: Projects that have the support and involvement of neighborhood and/or community groups.
4. Resident Requests: The number of requests from local residents for specific a project.
5. Staff-Identified Needs: Projects that are identified by staff as in need of trees (ex. shade for recreation or mobility paths, traffic claiming).
6. Consistency with Existing Plans: The alignment with other approved City of Denton plans (ex. Denton comprehensive plan, small area plans).
7. Community Impact: Potential residential benefits of the planting (ex. neighborhood vs. community vs. regional scale).
8. Tree Fund Expenditure Distribution: The biannually (every two years) distribution of existing and future Tree Fund dollars will be as follows:
  - a. 75% - Tree Planting and Maintenance.
  - b. 15% - Purchase of Wooded Property to Preserve.
  - c. 5% - City-wide Tree Inventory.
  - d. 5% - Education of Citizens and Developers.

**Special Consideration by Project Type:**

- a) To purchase, plant and maintain trees on public property.
  - Partnership efforts with other entities such as, KDB, The National Arbor Day Foundation, American Forest.
  - Compliance with approved species and recommendations (The Right Tree in The Right Place).
    - i. The Right Tree in the Right Place is a standard developed and promoted nationally by the Arbor Day Foundation. (see exhibit 4)
- b) To preserve wooded property that remains in a naturalistic state in perpetuity.
  - Strategic locations adjacent to ESA wooded areas and/or Park land.
    - i. These would consist of sites directly adjacent to ESA mandated preservation areas or Park land.
  - Species composition of property to be preserved (ex. Oak and Cedar Elm vs. Mesquite and Locust).
    - i. Only sites consisting predominantly of Quality Trees will be considered for purchase.
- c) To perform and maintain a City-wide tree inventory.
  - Reduce City liability by identifying dead, dying, or hazardous trees.
    - i. Trees located on City maintained properties should be assessed annually for health and hazardous conditions.
  - To assist in planning for possible future insect and disease management.
    - i. Knowing the species composition of Denton's Urban Forest is an invaluable tool in preparing to manage invasive insects such as the Emerald Ash Bore (EAB) which has been confirmed in Columbia County Arkansas less than 300 miles from Denton.
    - ii. Denton's location amongst multiple major Interstate and Highway transportation corridors contribute to the likelihood that we will see EAB in Denton sooner than later.
  - To improve maintenance the efficiencies and thoroughness of in-house tree work.
    - i. A GIS based Tree Inventory combined with a Work Management System can improve the efficiencies in the Cities current Tree maintenance program as well as document the health and work history of trees on City maintained properties.
- d) To educate citizens and developers on the benefits and value of trees.
  - Expanding existing programs or events such as, Denton's Arbor Day.
    - i. KDB should be supported in all areas pertaining to Arbor Day which is a part of the criteria for the City maintaining Tree City USA Status, currently at 23 consecutive years.
  - Communicating with stakeholders.
    - i. Education information distributed to various stakeholders about the various benefits of trees should be a regular expenditure from the Tree Fund.
  - Building off of industry best practices for developing with trees.
    - i. Developers who work in Denton should have local opportunities to attend educational sessions geared around the general typed of Developing with Trees.