The Benefits of Healthy Urban Forests

Pam Hemminger
Mayor, Chapel Hill

Peace & Justice Plaza,
Franklin Street
Downtown Chapel Hill

West Franklin toward Carrboro

140 West Plaza

West Rosemary Street
Land Use Management Ordinance Section 5.7
Effective Date: March 1, 2011

**Tree Canopy Coverage Standards:** Under Section 5.7.2 Tree Canopy Coverage Standards, (a) Minimum Canopy Coverage Standards, the Ordinance states that the Town desires to maintain the maximum practical tree canopy cover across all land uses within the Town’s jurisdiction.

When tree canopy is subject to provisions of this Section, the following minimum tree canopy coverage percentages are required within the zoning lot boundaries exclusive of public right-of-way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Minimum Canopy Coverage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family Residential</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial (Use Group C and Business, Office; Clinic; Funeral Home; and Hotel/Motel)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional (Use Group B)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed Use, Other</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Chapel Hill Public Library
EXPLORE MORE at Pritchard Park

- Outdoor nature play areas
- Nature backpacks for kids & families
- Environmental, science-based programs
- Tools and resources for citizen science projects
Tell you what, Eagle Scouts get stuff done. Christopher built this bench for skywatching. It's going up on the hill in the park. #ExploreMore
Arbor Day Celebrations

Arbor Day was set by the Chapel Hill Town Council in 2000 as the first Friday after Nov. 15.

Each year the Town celebrates trees at its Arbor Day ceremony by planting one or more trees at a Town-owned facility such as a park or entryway. Its recognition as being a Tree City USA is presented from the North Carolina Forest Service’s Orange County Office.

The first Arbor Day in the United States took place in April 1872 in Nebraska where it is said that an estimated one million trees were planted. Each state now chooses its own date on which to observe the holiday. North Carolina celebrates on the first Friday following March 16, but Chapel Hill doesn’t follow the rest of the state.

Tree City USA

To be named a Tree City, a town or city must meet four core standards set by the National Arbor Day Foundation: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least $2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

Tree Protection

The Tree Protection Ordinance is part of a continued commitment to sustainability with the potential to reduce carbon emissions and decrease the urban "heat island" effect. The Town Council adopted a Tree Protection Ordinance that identified tree canopy as a resource to be considered during development applications in Chapel Hill. The ordinance calls for a balanced approach to protecting trees without over regulation of residential properties and property owners.

To access the Tree Protection Ordinance, see Appendix A, Article 5.7 in of the Chapel Hill Code of Ordinances.

Tree Protection Ordinance

Two support documents that assist with measuring and calculating tree canopy:

- Tree Canopy Measurement Template (for the Design Manual)
- Steps for Measuring Canopy (for the Design Manual)
Communicating about tree removal

Tree Replacement: 175 E. Franklin St.
A pistachio tree near Four Corners restaurant (175 E. Franklin St.) is in poor health and is scheduled to be replaced.

Post Date: 08/13/2018 1:53 PM

A pistachio tree near Four Corners restaurant (175 E. Franklin St.) is in poor health and is scheduled to be replaced.

The Town’s arborist has been closely monitoring the tree for two years and has found that the tree’s health will not improve, posing a potential hazard to people in the area if it’s not removed.

Town crews are scheduled to remove the tree on Wednesday, Sept. 5. The parking spaces near the removal will be closed as well as the sidewalk and alleyway. The work will take place from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The replacement tree will be a species native to North Carolina. It will be planted in the fall, giving it the greatest chance to thrive.

Tree City
The Town of Chapel Hill, which has a strong commitment to sustainability and interest in decreasing the urban “heat-island” effect, regrets when trees must be replaced. Our Tree Protection Ordinance identifies tree canopy as an important community value. We are proud that this year marks our 18th year as a Tree City, a designation from the national Arbor Day Foundation. Visit our Trees webpage at townofchapelhill.org/trees.

More Information
For more information, contact Park Maintenance Superintendent Kevin Robinson at 919-969-5104 or krobinson@townofchapelhill.org.