

Sec. 21-3. Purpose and intent.

(a) It is the purpose of this chapter to preserve, protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the public by providing for the regulation of the planting, maintenance and removal of trees located on roadways, parks and public areas owned or controlled by the city and on new developments and alterations to previous developments on private property.

(b) It is the intent of this chapter to:

(1) Protect, facilitate and enhance the aesthetic qualities of the community to ensure that tree removal does not reduce property values.

(2) Emphasize the importance of trees and vegetation as both visual and physical buffers.

(3) Promote clean air quality by reducing air pollution and carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, returning pure oxygen to the atmosphere and increasing dust filtration.

(4) Reduce the harmful effects of wind and air turbulence, heat and noise, and the glare of motor vehicle lights.

(5) Minimize increases in temperatures on lands with natural and planted tree cover.

(6) Maintain moisture levels in the air of lands with natural tree cover.

(7) Preserve underground water reservoirs and permit the return of precipitation to the groundwater strata.

(8) Prevent soil erosion.

(9) Provide shade.

(10) Minimize the cost of construction and maintenance of drainage systems necessitated by the increased flow and diversion of surface waters by facilitating a natural drainage system and amelioration of storm water drainage problems.

(11) Conserve natural resources, including adequate air and water.

(12) Require the preservation and planting of trees on site to maintain and enlarge the tree canopy cover across the city.