City of Gainesville
Tree Advisory Board

Gainesville's Urban Forest:
Goals: Protect Heritage Trees
Plant for the Future

Sustainable Design
Effective Preservation
High Maintenance Standards

December 18, 2008

Tree Advisory Board:

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Proposed Code Changes
Civic Design Center Symposium -- January 31, 2008

Comprehensive Plan:

Environmental Management Goal 3:

Improve urban spaces through preservation and enhancement of the urban forest.

Maintain the City's commitment to preservation of the urban forest and street trees as a defining feature of our community.

2000 Comprehensive Plans Objective:

"The total percentage of tree canopy coverage within the City shall not fall below the 1994 percentage of tree canopy, as estimated by the City Manager or designee, except in the event of natural catastrophe."

1994 Tree Canopy Analysis: 60% Coverage

2005 Preliminary Canopy Analysis by UF: 50.6%

TAB proposal motivated by problems, such as:

- **All native species are treated the same. Live Oaks vs. Laurel Oaks.
- **Current Code allows construction within 5'of the trunk (too close to big trees)
- **50% of the area under canopy must have no roots cut or grade change, but "landscape materials" (definition of which includes ponds) are allowed within the 50% area.

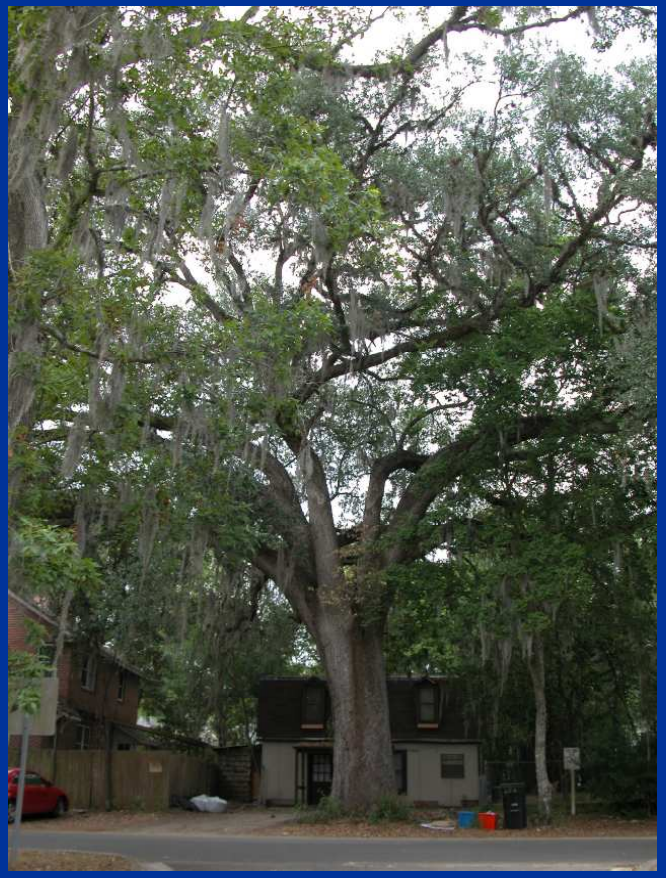
PROPOSAL DESIGNATES "HIGH QUALITY" SPECIES

Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*),
Sand Live Oak (*Quercus geminata*)
Bluff Oak (*Quercus austrina*),
Basket Oak (*Quercus michauxii*),
Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*),
Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*),
Southern Red Cedar (*Juniperus silicola),*
Florida Maple (*Acer barbatum*),
Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*),
Spruce Pine (*Pinus glabra*)
Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*),
Florida Elm (Ulmus floridana),
Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*),
Hickory species (*Carya tomentosa*, *C. glabra*, etc.)
Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*),
Basswood (*Tilia Americana*),
Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
White Ash (*Fraxinus Americana*), and
Native Holly species (*Ilex sp*).

Preserving Heritage Trees of High Quality Species that are in excellent condition should be a high priority.

Willowcroft

Heritage trees are not protected in many zoning classes. Gainesville should protect High Quality Heritage Trees wherever they occur.



A developer refused to move his building 25’ to save this 58” diameter Live oak; the DRB turned down the proposal.

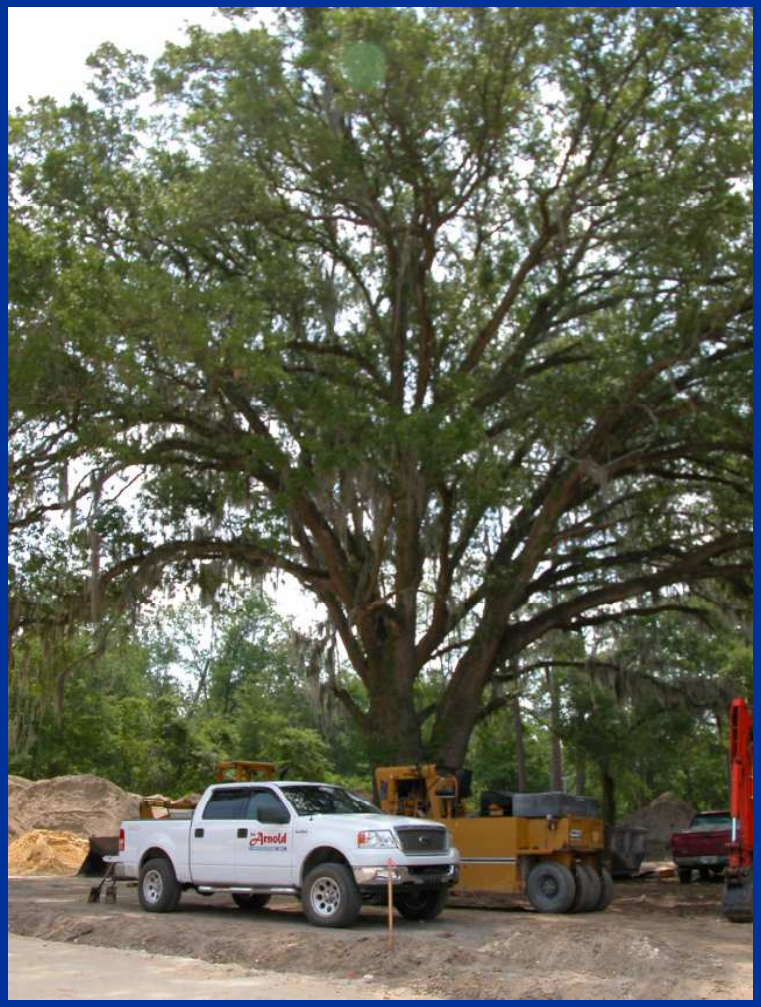
D.C.A. found for the developer because the Code allows mitigation.

Penalty: $1450 (to purchase 58” worth of new replacement trees). The Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers value for this tree -- $40,465

TREE ADVISORY BOARD PROPOSAL:

Allow the City Commission's citizen advisory panels (Plan Board, Development Review Board, Code Enforcement Board) to impose financial penalties for destroying Heritage trees. The circumstances permitting this are carefully defined in the proposal.

Current penalties for damaging or destroying Heritage trees are minimal.



To take a case to the Code Enforcement Board for financial mitigation requires:

**Photos of tree pre- and post- development (healthy and dead).

**Written citation and documentation during construction.

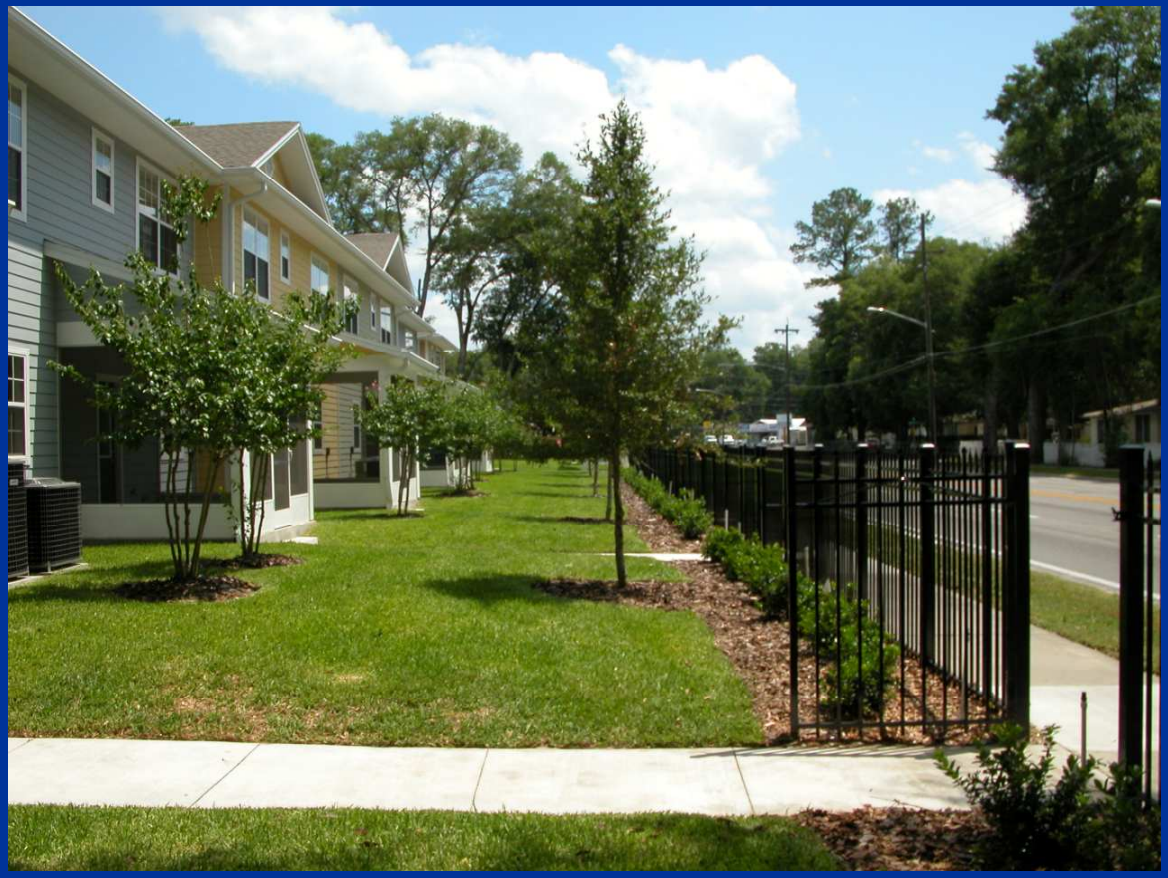
**Photos of barricades compromised.

Are enough young shade trees being planted to replenish the urban forest?

Proposed Code Change: Development proposals must meet requirements for utility separations and Public Works clear zones and tree planting.

Narrow ‘build-to’ requirements mean required shade trees have little space. Infrastructure damage is inevitable as the trees mature.

Setback at 25’ – plenty of room for tree crown and roots to eventually shade NW 6th St (SR 20)



Young Live Oaks

Southern Pine Beetle infestations

1994-1996 and 2000-2003:

Potential cost to owners for removals: $9 M

Cost of Suppression: $200,000.

Actual Cost to homeowners: Under $1 M

To diminish vulnerability to SPB epidemics:

**Plan spacing between pines at 25’ (except in forestry).

*Natural buffers should be maintained to curtail regeneration of seedling loblolly pines.

**Regulate pines only when diameter greater than 20”.

Some Additional Topics Covered:

Recommendations for projects featuring solar electrical generation, so we don't lose all the trees.

Clarified regulations controlling invasive exotic species on development sites.

Simplified requirements for tree removal permits.

Updated approved tree list.

More options for qualitative tree survey (less expensive and better information).

Climb trees to be preserved without spikes.

General Goal: A sustainable urban forest dominated by tree species that are beautiful, durable and long-lived.