



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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2008 JAN -7 PM 2:44

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Councilwoman Diane Cibrian District 8

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Pat DiGiovanni, Deputy City Manager; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Michael Bernard, City Attorney; Leticia Callanen, Special Projects Manager; Ramiro Gonzales, Special Projects Coordinator

SUBJECT: Citywide Tree Planting Program Proposal

DATE: January 7, 2008

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

To enhance and improve the City's Tree Canopy, I am requesting that City staff establish a Citywide Tree Planting Program. This program includes plans for plantings in all Council Districts. This initiative will include the planting of trees over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing zones. The first phase is to plant over 100 trees along Vance Jackson between Woodstone and UTSA Boulevard. The trees will be planted in the median; as this linear corridor planting allows for efficient maintenance and watering. The newly planted trees will decrease pollutants by reducing the mowing footprint and storing automobile pollutants. Future projects may include trees in the planting strips; however, the strips in this area are fairly narrow, which would limit plantings to small species. All tree plantings are to be coordinated with appropriate parties, including SAWS and CPS, to ensure there is no conflict with underground utilities.

Brief Background

In addition to their beauty and innate benefits, protecting and increasing the tree canopy provides the following societal benefits:

- reduces soil erosion and mitigates air, dust, noise, heat and chemical pollution
- increases infiltration in permeable land areas essential to storm water management
- reduces the "heat island" effect of impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, by cooling and shading the surface area and breaking up large expanses of pavement
- provides a landscape and sound buffer that promotes walkable, pedestrian-scale streetscapes
- safeguards and enhances property values, protecting public and private investment

In 1997, the City passed a Tree Preservation Ordinance to address the loss of tree canopy. Tree canopy studies of the City of San Antonio recommended establishing an overall tree coverage goal of 35% for the area. In 2003, these studies were utilized to develop Tree Preservation Ordinance Amendments with requirements for the preservation of existing canopy for commercial (40% coverage) and residential (35% coverage) development.

The 2003 amendments also established the Tree Mitigation Fund to allow for the payment of

fees in lieu of preservation or reforestation during development. Fees range from \$100.00 per diameter inch for Significant Trees to \$300.00 per diameter inch for Heritage Trees. Any civil penalties collected related to non-compliant development associated with the Tree Preservation Ordinance are also deposited into the Tree Mitigation Fund.

The Tree Mitigation Fund is utilized to pay for the planting and maintenance of trees, tree preservation and planting programs, and for activities directed toward educating the public on the importance of trees in the environment, ecological issues and pollution prevention.

Submitted for Council consideration
by:

Diane G. Cibrian, 8
Councilwoman Diane Cibrian, District 8

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District No.

1.		
2.	Mary Alice P. Cosneros	1
3.		4
4.		10

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