



City of Atlanta

Department of City Planning

OFFICE OF BUILDINGS - ARBORIST DIVISION

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HOW DOES THE ARBORIST DIVISION MEET ITS OBJECTIVES?

The Tree Ordinance provides for the preservation, establishment, and maintenance of the tree canopy on public and private land in the City of Atlanta by prohibiting the destruction and removal of trees except as allowed in the articles of the ordinance.

Tree ordinance enforcement is intended to protect and preserve trees. The ordinance allows for enforcement through an array of tools such as: Correction Notices (verbal or written, to correct practices that are detrimental to a tree's health and or its structural integrity); Silvicultural Prescriptions (required remedial actions such as fertilizing, pruning, soil amendments and treatments, pest management, etc.); Stop Work Orders (to prevent /minimize further tree impact and for corrective actions to be taken to save the tree); Tree Save Fences (to keep construction and other activities out of the tree's Root Save Area); issuance of Illegal Tree Removal/Destruction Recompense citations; and Five-year survivability reports, among others. Any one or a combination of the above tools can be implemented by a field arborist to save or preserve trees.