

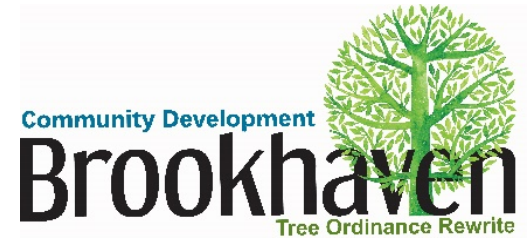


Community Development Quarterly Newsletter

~July 2021~

TREE ORDINANCE REWRITE PROJECT

Following initial discussions with the public in 2018, the City Council directed the Department of Community Development to prepare a rewrite of the City's Tree Ordinance. In late 2020, after the creation of a Tree Canopy Preservation Division and the hiring of a Tree Canopy Preservation Program Manager, the department commenced the rewrite process.



The goals of the tree ordinance rewrite project included:

- Striking a balance with tree canopy management and new development
- Utilize and improve upon existing efforts such as Tree City USA through the Arbor Foundation, the One Million Trees Initiative, and the Trees Atlanta Front Yard Program
- Foster management of the City's tree nursery, tree rescue program, tree plantings, memorial tree program, and tree fund

Public engagement meetings were held in early 2021 and an initial draft of the rewrite was released on the project website in April. The draft was also presented to Planning Commission and City Council in May and June for initial review and comment. The City Council adopted the final tree ordinance rewrite on June 29, 2021. Major highlights of the amendment include:

- Total rewrite resulting in a more user-friendly ordinance
- Updated/new definitions, including 'specimen tree' and 'tree care prescription'
- Revised regulations related to minimum tree density and tree protection during construction
- Removal of alternative compliance allowances
- Require posting of sign 5 days ahead of time and marking of trees to be removed with flagging tape by property owner for all permit types, not just standalone tree removal permits. QR code linked to Project Portal Viewer to be added to sign for ease of information gathering by public. Posting requirements would not apply to dead/dying, diseased, or hazardous trees
- Increase specimen tree recompense amount to \$240
- Increase specimen tree recompense cap from 150" to 300" DBH

INVASIVE SPECIES ORDINANCE

At its regularly scheduled business meeting Tuesday, June 29, the Brookhaven City Council adopted changes to its Code of Ordinances to define invasive vegetative species and prohibiting the growth which encroaches on other properties.

The changes to 16-193 – Vegetation and Debris – were updated to define what invasive species are, and that invasive species that grow from one private property to another is a nuisance and prohibited under City Code.

Under the Code, invasive species most notably include Kudzu, English Ivy, Privet, and bamboo; but also include any species on the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council (EPPC) Invasive Plant List, found here: <https://www.gaepcc.org/list/>

The changes to the ordinance do not make the mere existence of any of these species illegal, as long as they are maintained within the confines of a private property and do not grow beyond the property lines into the property of another.

NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED

Effective August 1st, Linda Abaray will assume the role of Director of Community Development Department. This auspicious change is accompanied by new roles for several other staff members. Patrice Ruffin will be joining the City Management team as the Assistant City Manager. Aronda Smith will lead the Planning & Zoning Department as the new Planning & Zoning Manager. Drew Murray and Dominique Lockhart have been promoted to Senior Planner and Planner II, respectively.

ARTIFICIAL TURF

After receiving several inquiries regarding the use of artificial turf for new projects, the department has determined that artificial turf qualifies as impervious surface as defined under the existing City code. If artificial turf or other material is chosen instead of the vegetative measures that are labeled for natural vegetation, it must be shown on the proposed site plan and approved prior to installation according the standard detail here:

<https://www.brookhavenga.gov/commdev/page/standard-details>. A permeable credit of up to 50% of the maximum lot coverage requirement may be approved by the City. Artificial turf or other material may not be installed within the critical root zone of any tree.



CITY CENTRE MASTER PLAN PROJECT SCHEDULE

Following a first round of public input meetings on Dec. 3, the City of Brookhaven has launched a project website for City Centre Vision 2021 at <https://sycamore.mysocialpinpoint.com/brookhaven>. Residents can visit the interactive website to view a project timeline and download information packets including a preliminary market study, existing conditions, and crash data analysis. The next round of public engagement is anticipated to begin in fall 2021.

WINDSOR-OSBORNE SPECIAL AREA PLAN

As part of its annual work program, the Brookhaven Planning Commission proposed the creation of a special area plan for the Windsor Parkway/Osborne Road node by expanding on the Lynwood Park Character Area and Big Idea: Windsor – Osborne Node adopted in 2016 as part of City’s current Character Area Study as supplement to the City of Brookhaven 2034 Comprehensive Plan. A request for proposal was issued on March 12, 2021, for consultant services to prepare the Windsor-Osborne Special Area Plan. The RFP was awarded to VHB on June 15, 2021, to provide a description, vision statement, and general implementation strategies for the area. The plan will also incorporate the Windsor Parkway/Osborne Road Intersection Improvement design currently under construction.

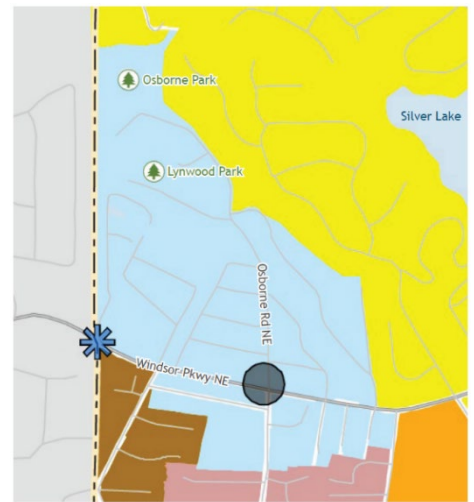


Figure 3-9: Lynwood Park Character Area

UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE BUILDING PERMIT CHECKLIST

The updated Comprehensive Building Permit Checklist is available for download from the City’s website: <https://www.brookhavenga.gov/commdev/page/forms-checklists-library>



REPORT A PROBLEM

Have an issue or problem to report or a work order to submit? Inquiries can be submitted through the city’s [Brookhaven Connect](#) system, by e-mail at code@brookhavenga.gov, or by phone at 404-637-0500.

Sign-up for Brookhaven Alert [here](#).



Have Division specific questions? Please contact the Divisions as follows:

- Planning & Zoning – planning@brookhavenga.gov
- Land Development – permits@brookhavenga.gov
- Building & Permitting – permits@brookhavenga.gov
- Code Enforcement – code@brookhavenga.gov
- Fire Marshal – fire.inspector@brookhavenga.gov
- Tree Canopy Preservation – trees@brookhavenga.gov

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