



**GLADSTONE AD HOC TREE BOARD  
CIVIC CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
May 3, 2024 11:00 am**

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Kim Baller, Eric Butler, Linda Cosgrove, Sandy Dittmar, Nancy Eichsteadt, Justin Prouty

1. Introductions-Roll Call
2. Review mock-up of Gladstone Tree Board Website
3. Discuss Community Engagement Strategy
  - Draft questions for a community survey
4. Review Planning code (provided in packet), specifically around tree requirements
5. “Homework”- Discuss City ordinances, likes/dislikes and what should be considered for Gladstone
6. Future meetings
  - June 7, 2024 at 11 AM
  - June 23, 2024 work session with City Council at 5:30 pm
  - July 5, 2024 (Fourth of July weekend, move to July 12<sup>th</sup> or cancel?)
  - August 2, 2024 at 11 AM
  - September 6, 2024 at 11 AM
  - October 3, 2024 at 11AM
  - October 8, 2024 City Council meeting (adopt tree ordinance) at 6:30 PM

**Adjourn**

## Meeting summary for Ad Hoc Tree Board Meeting (04/05/2024)

### **Quick recap**

The City discussed the creation of a tree ordinance to guide urban forestry management, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and the benefits of urban forests. They also addressed concerns about insurance companies and tree risk assessments, and proposed the establishment of a local heritage tree program. The City further highlighted the need for appropriate tree selection within public spaces, the use of grant funds for maintenance and removal of high-risk trees.

### **Summary**

#### **Tree City Initiative and Community Engagement**

Administrator Betz, and Public Works Director, Darren Caniparoli discussed the city's intention to become a tree city and the need to develop a tree ordinance. They highlighted the role of the Urban Green Spaces Institute in reviewing municipal tree codes and the need for improved community engagement in urban tree canopy projects. The group also discussed the City's proposal for an approved and prohibited species list for planting in publicly owned spaces and the importance of community involvement in the process. The conversation ended with an announcement of an Arbor Day event to be held at the end of April and a timeline for the project, including monthly meetings and a check-in with the city council in July.

#### **Urban Forestry Management and Ordinances**

The City discussed the importance of community engagement in urban forestry management and setting goals through ordinances. The City highlighted the benefits of urban forests like improved health and climate resiliency. The City emphasized ordinances reflecting community values and maximizing benefits while minimizing risks and costs. Proactive maintenance was noted to prevent costs and casualties. The City suggested looking at ordinances in similar communities like Monmouth and Independence as a starting point tailored to Gladstone's needs.

#### **Addressing Tree-Related Insurance Concerns**

City addressed a concern raised by Brittany and Alice about homeowners receiving letters from insurance companies regarding too many trees on their property. City proposed that a qualified arborist should conduct a tree risk assessment to inform homeowners and their insurance companies about any potential risks. City also emphasized the importance of finding a balance, as insurance companies across the US are canceling homeowner policies due to climate-related issues, not just tree-related concerns. Furthermore, City suggested the creation of a local heritage tree program, and encouraged the formation of a subcommittee to review nominations. City also shared that the State's heritage tree program requires an application and meets annually to review nominations.

### **Improving Public Tree Management Strategy**

City officials discussed the current status of public tree management and the need for a more proactive approach. They noted that street trees are the responsibility of property owners, which can lead to inconsistent maintenance. The discussion also touched on the potential benefits of an urban forestry management plan, including incentives for tree care and planting on private properties.

### **Oak Tree Preservation and Urban Forestry Management Plan**

The City discussed the importance of preserving and maintaining oak trees in the city, especially those on private property that were uprooted during an ice storm four years ago. Furthermore, the City mentioned the possibility of utilizing state funding from the Inflation Reduction Act program and the Department of Land Conservation and Development Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program to develop an urban forestry management plan, conduct an inventory, and write an ordinance. The City emphasized the importance of having an approved street tree list with specifications on widths and species, and offered assistance in inventory collection processes.

### **Developing an Equitable Tree Planting and Maintenance Ordinance**

The City discussed the need to establish a new ordinance to guide the process of requesting proposals for tree planting and maintenance projects. The goal is to create an environmentally just and equitable plan, considering the future climate and the importance of flexibility within the ordinance. The City also highlighted the significance of educating the public about the value of urban trees and suggested that the ordinance should initially focus on trees that do not pose a risk to property owners. The City also recommended using grant funds for maintenance and removal of high-risk trees, and considered the example of Sacramento's extensive tree ordinance.

### **Urban Forest Strategy for Gladstone**

City discussed the importance of appropriate tree selection for the urban environment of Gladstone. They highlighted the need for a diverse range of tree species to reduce the risks of pests and pathogens, and suggested a 30-20-10 rule for the makeup of the urban forest. City also emphasized the necessity of an official list of desirable trees, which could be referenced in an ordinance, but not included within it for ease of updating. They further stressed the need for prioritizing native trees in parks and non-native trees in harsher urban environments based on their adaptive capacity.

### **City Proposal, Monthly Meetings, and Arbor Day**

The City proposed the idea of choosing between paper and electronic documents for meetings, with a suggestion that electronic documents might be more efficient. They also decided to meet monthly on the first Friday at 11 AM, with the first meeting set for May 5th. The City also requested any additional ordinances to be sent for review and mentioned the upcoming Arbor Day event, asking for pictures to be submitted for a potential Tree City, U.S.A. application later in the year.

## Chapter 17.46 LANDSCAPING

Sections:

[17.46.010 Applicability.](#)

[17.46.020 Standards.](#)

### 17.46.010 Applicability.

Landscaping standards shall apply to all development that is subject to design review.

**Statutory Reference:** ORS Ch. 197 and 227

**History:** Ord. 1131 §2, 1990; Ord. 1289 §1, 2000.

### 17.46.020 Standards.

Landscaping requirements shall be as follows:

(1) Minimum Requirement. A minimum of 15 percent of the lot area shall be landscaped, except when a greater percentage is required elsewhere in this title.

(2) Parking and Loading Areas. The following landscape requirements shall apply to off-street parking and loading areas:

(a) An off-street parking and loading area providing 10 or more parking spaces shall be improved with defined landscaped areas totaling no less than ten square feet per parking space;

(b) A parking or loading area shall be separated from any lot line adjacent to a street by a landscaped strip at least 10 feet in width, and any other lot line by a landscaped strip at least five feet in width;

(c) A landscaped strip separating a parking or loading area from a street shall contain:

(A) Street trees spaced as appropriate to the species, not to exceed 25 feet apart, on the average,

(B) Low shrubs not to reach a height greater than three feet spaced no more than five feet apart, on the average, and

(C) Vegetative ground cover;

(d) If a fence or wall is required or proposed, it shall be located behind required landscaped

strips where such strips are adjacent to a street;

(e) In parking areas three acres and larger intended for use by the general public, pedestrian walkways shall be raised or separated from parking, parking aisles, and travel lanes by a raised curb, concrete bumpers, bollards, landscaping, or other physical barrier. If a raised pathway is used, curb ramps shall be provided in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

(3) Irrigation. Provision shall be made for watering planting areas where such care is required.

(4) Maintenance Required. Landscaping shall be continuously maintained.

(5) Plant Species. The general characteristics of tree species shall be considered when planting under overhead utility lines or near sidewalks or curbs to assure that damage will not result when maturity is reached.

(6) Grading. The natural form of the site shall be preserved insofar as practicable unless berming or contouring of land is required.

(7) Public Rights-of-Way. Land within the public road right-of-way, not developed as sidewalks or driveways, shall be landscaped and maintained by the abutting property owners. Landscaping will be of the variety that would not create a road hazard or impair sight distance.

(8) Street Trees. Street tree planting may be required of any development and, if planted, shall be according to city requirements and of a species compatible with the width of the planting strip, and nearby street tree species.

(9) Exceptions. The following exceptions apply to properties with frontage on McLoughlin Blvd.:

(a) The use of sod along McLoughlin Blvd. shall be encouraged in landscape plans for development of McLoughlin Blvd.;

(b) The use of sod along McLoughlin Blvd. may be allowed in lieu of required street trees;

(c) The 10-foot-wide landscape strip along McLoughlin Blvd. may be allowed in the right-of-way if applicant agrees to relocate the 10-foot strip whenever the right-of-way is improved. This strip may be included in total landscape area calculations.

(10) Nonconforming Uses and Nonconforming Development. Additions or alterations to nonconforming uses and nonconforming development on a commercial or industrial site which does not comply with the landscaping requirements of this title must provide landscaping in a scale with the modification, as follows:

(a) Major remodeling, or structural additions of less than 1,000 square feet, require at least an

additional three percent landscaping, up to the minimum landscaping requirements for new development in the district.

(b) Structural additions of 1,000 to 1,999 square feet are required to landscape at least an additional five percent of the developed site area, up to the minimum landscaping requirements for new development in the district.

(c) Structural additions of 2,000 to 4,999 square feet are required to landscape at least an additional 10 percent of the developed site area, up to the minimum landscaping requirements for new development in the district.

(d) Structural additions of 5,000 square feet or more are required to meet the current minimum landscape requirements for new development.

(e) Where successive structural additions occur the landscape requirement shall accumulate until total conformance is reached.

**Statutory Reference:** ORS Ch. 197 and 227

**History:** Ord. 1131 §2, 1990; Ord. 1171 §1(H), 1993; Ord. 1268 §1, 1998; Ord. 1289 §1, 2000; Ord. 1323 §1, 2002; Ord. 1483 §2 (Exh. 5), 2017.