



# Understanding the Community Tree Management Ordinance

## Athens-Clarke County Community Tree Program

### Parking Lot Trees

Parking lot trees are among the most important trees on any developed site because of how greatly they improve the surrounding community. These trees considerably benefit an area by reducing surface temperatures, extending the life of the surrounding pavement, beautifying the site, reducing volatile organic compounds emitted from parked cars, and reducing stormwater runoff. Parking lot trees must be carefully selected because they will often face situations that are inhospitable to plant growth.



*A parking lot without trees is inhospitable and hard on the environment.*



*These well-dispersed trees will shade the lot at maturity.*

### Regulations

- One tree is required for every seven parking spaces
- No more than 14 continuous parking spaces are allowed without a landscape island or peninsula
- Trees must be evenly distributed throughout the parking lot
- Large canopy trees must be planted along the perimeter of the area, or they can be planted in islands or peninsulas if 400 square feet of open soil is present
- Trees must be 2 inches in caliper diameter to qualify
- Trees may not be planted farther than ten feet from or closer than three feet to the edge of the parking lot
- Interior planting strips should have a minimum width of nine feet
- Perimeter planting strips should have a minimum width of seven feet

### Species Selection

Only the sturdiest of trees can stand up to the rigors of growing in a parking lot. Even so, some of the strongest trees are not suitable because their fruits would pose a risk to the public.

## Preferred Species

Blackgum/Tupelo  
Downy Serviceberry  
Oak, Southern Red  
Oak, Overcup  
Oak, Northern Red  
Oak, Shumard  
Oak, Willow  
Elm, Winged  
Elm, American  
"Princeton"  
European Hornbeam  
Trident Maple  
Loblolly Pine  
London Planetree  
Crape myrtle

## Suitable Parking Lot Species

Ash, Green  
Baldcypress  
Birch, River  
Blackgum  
Buckthorn, Carolina  
Buckthorn, Common  
Cottonwood, Eastern  
Cypress, Leyland  
Ginkgo (male)  
Goldenraintree  
Hornbeam, American  
Katsuratree  
Magnolia, Sweetbay  
Maple, Chalk  
Maple, Hedge  
Maple, Sugar  
Oak, Black

Oak, Cherrybark  
Oak, Laurel  
Oak, Northern Red  
Oak, Nuttall  
Oak, Overcup  
Oak, Scarlet  
Oak, Southern Red  
Pine, Longleaf  
Pine, Shortleaf  
Pine, Slash  
Pine, Virginia  
Poplar, Tulip  
Redcedar, Eastern  
Silverbell, Carolina  
Sourwood  
Sycamore, American  
Zelkova, Japanese

## **Soil Area Requirements**

All urban trees require significant soil volume to obtain their maximum potential. Athens-Clarke County simplifies planning by regulating soil surface area. The following regulations apply to trees planted to meet the requirements in the Community Tree Management Ordinance.

Trees Canopy Size	Required Open Soil Area
Large Canopy	400 ft <sup>2</sup>
Large Canopy Parking Lot Tree	9 ft X 36 ft island
Medium Canopy	225 ft <sup>2</sup>
Medium Canopy Parking Lot Tree	9 ft X 18 ft island
Small Canopy	100 ft <sup>2</sup>
Very Small Canopy	25 ft <sup>2</sup>



*Small islands produce small trees.*



*Large islands produce large trees.*

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For more information, contact the Athens-Clarke County Community Forestry Coordinator at (762) 400-7519 voice, (706)613-3566 fax, or by e-mail at [Mateo.Fennell@accgov.com](mailto:Mateo.Fennell@accgov.com)