

**Subject:** Tree protection ordinances and leave residential setbacks alone.  
**Attachments:** Tree\_Protection\_Ordinance\_Overview\_2025.docx

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**From:** Chuck Ream  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2025 5:21 PM  
**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>; Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tree protection ordinances and leave residential setbacks alone.

Hi folks,  
Please, any rezoning must be proceeded by tree protection,  
ChatGPT has here summarized what a modern tree protection ordinance is.

And please, don't even think about reducing setbacks in residential, and setting off a great wave of tree destruction, for 25 years, in tree city.  
That is the hill to die on, that would prove that you folks really are tree killers, and park Raiders and you want a funny looking congested city that no one can afford... utterly out of touch with Ann Arbor citizens.

If you reduce setbacks in residential, it will be all out war with the people who really love Ann Arbor. It will be the Save tree city Slate against the developer, tree killer, park, Raiders slate, and guess who will win... Every seat available I think. Then the excess of this will have to be reversed  
Please just get it right right now. Thank you so much.  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chuck Ream  
**Date:** June 13, 2025 at 4:57:41 PM EDT  
**To:** Chuck Ream  
**Subject:** Tree protection, ordinances

Sent from my iPhone

## Modern Municipal Tree Protection Ordinances in the U.S.

This document outlines recent trends in municipal tree protection ordinances across the United States, highlighting new legislative models in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Evanston, Illinois, with additional examples from other leading cities. It is designed to inform city officials and policy-makers about the defining features of contemporary urban tree preservation strategies.

### Cambridge, Massachusetts (2024–2025 updates)

- • Lowered protection threshold: Trees  $\geq 6''$  DBH (previously 8'') are now protected.
- • “Exceptional Tree” designation: Trees  $\geq 30''$  DBH face stricter removal/replacement requirements.
- • Incentivized mitigation: Developers get credit for on-site replanting; Exceptional Trees incur 1.5× fees.
- • Expanded use of Tree Fund: Now supports planting and maintenance citywide.
- • Duty of Care: Property owners must maintain both Significant and Replacement Trees.
- • Mandatory arborist oversight: Large developments require tree studies and protection plans.

### Evanston, Illinois (Effective June 2024)

- • Protection on private property: Trees  $\geq 6''$  DBH require permits if construction is within 25 ft.
- • Permit required for nearby construction: Tree Preservation Permit (\$75–\$100) enforced.
- • Arborist review: Mandatory review and site visit, 14-day turnaround.
- • Emergency exemption: Removal of hazardous or invasive trees allowed without permit.
- • Variation process: Needed for removals not tied to development.
- • Supports climate strategy: Ordinance aligns with Climate Action and Resilience Plan.

### Common Features of Modern Tree Ordinances

- • Lowered DBH thresholds (commonly to 6 inches).
- • Permit and arborist review for tree removal or construction near trees.
- • Replacement tree formulas or payment into city tree funds.
- • Special protections for large or ecologically valuable species.
- • Drip-line/root-zone construction protections.
- • Application to private as well as public land.
- • Clear emergency and hazard exemptions.

### Other Cities with Similar Ordinances

- • Austin, TX – Species-based DBH thresholds and mandatory arborist surveys.
- • Tampa, FL – Permit requirements with exemptions for small residential projects.

- • Chesapeake, VA – Detailed protections for construction phase and private trees.
- • Prince George’s County, MD – Extensive replacement requirements.
- • San Juan Capistrano, CA – Explicit bans on topping/pruning abuse.
- • Canton Township, MI – Replacement fees ruled unconstitutional in 2021 due to property rights conflicts.