

Subject: Trees, Smoking Gun, "Atlanta for All" PROTECTS TREES

From: Chuck Ream

Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2026 5:05 PM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>; Ryan J Stanton <RStanton@mlive.com>

Subject: Re: Trees, Smoking Gun, "Atlanta for All" PROTECTS TREES

So here is our solution from my perspective.

Any non-invasive tree over 6" DBH, requires planning for, and then either preservation or paying mitigation funds into a Tree Replacement Fund. Cambridge Mass. has an \$850 per inch of DBH payment. Yes, you would get a few less units, but the city would remain lovely and your plan could go forward with your voters onboard!!

Wouldn't this be valuable?

On Sat, Jan 24, 2026 at 4:53 PM Chuck Ream wrote:

Atlanta's Tree Protection Ordinance: The Basics

When is a Permit Required? A permit is required to remove, destroy, or injure any tree on city-owned property, regardless of size, or any tree of 6 inches or greater diameter-at-breast-height (dbh) on private property. There are no exceptions, either by species or present condition. Even dead trees require a permit for removal. [Sec. 158-29; Sec. 158-101(a)]

How do I remove a dead, dying, diseased, or hazardous tree (DDH)? You need a permit from the City of Atlanta. DDH applications are approved or denied based on a tree inspection by a City Forester or Arborist. Denied DDH applications may be appealed. Approved permits may not be appealed. Anyone removing a dead, dying, or hazardous tree must have a permit to do so in their possession. [You may apply online by registering for an account here.](#)

How can trees be removed for construction projects? When the City receives applications for building, construction, renovation or demolition, the plans are submitted to the Office of Buildings. Copies are provided for review to the Arborist in the Office of Buildings (private property trees) and, if necessary, to the Forestry Division of the Office of Parks (public trees). [Sec. 158.101(d)]

What are Tree Appeals? Appeals may be filed by individuals who disagree with tree-related decisions by a City Arborist or administrative official. A valid appeal describes how the appellant believes the city official erred in their interpretation of the tree ordinance or the facts of the case. When trees are to be removed in association with a building or landscape project, public notice is provided by the posting of a sign at the property. An orange sign is used to notify the public that trees may be affected by construction. A yellow sign is posted to notify the public that a construction plan resulting in the removal of trees has received preliminary approval by the City Arborist.

