

FACT SHEET

TREE TRUST FUND

Overview

Established in 2001, the Atlanta Tree Trust Fund is a separate account from the City's General Fund. It was created to collect and spend monies associated with actions related to the Tree Protection Ordinance.



Funding Sources

RECOMPENSE

The dollar value of a tree on private or public property. The established recompense value as of January 2003 is \$100.00 per tree and \$30.00 per diameter inch.

Infrastructure: Trees removed in the construction of streets and related infrastructure in new subdivisions or other planned developments, a max recompense is set at \$5K per acre, pro rated.

Maximum: New subdivisions, lots of record, and vacant lots, a max recompense is a pro rated per acre basis by zoning classification.

Zoning	Max Recompense/ac
R1	\$10K
R2	\$10K
R2A	\$7.5K
R3, R3A	\$7.5K
R4, R4A, RG, RLC	\$5K
RG4, RG5	\$10K
R4B	\$5K
R5	\$5K
O&I, C (1-5), I1, I2	\$10K
OTHER	Use underlying Zoning

APPEAL FEES

A \$75.00 administrative fee used to help defray the administrative costs of appeals.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

Fines for illegal removal or destruction. When the number of trees is known, the first violation shall be no less than \$500.00, and each subsequent violation shall be \$1,000.00. Where unable to determine the exact number of trees, a density of 1,000 inches DBH of trees per acre is assumed, and specifically that the lot contains 60 trees of 16.67 inches DBH per acre. A fine of \$60K per acre of land will apply. If the site is less than (1) acre, the fine shall be prorated.

FAQ's:

How are the funds budgeted?

Both the Department of City Planning and the Department of Parks and Recreation expend monies from the Tree Trust Fund. DCP for staffing, TPO administrative costs and the Tree Conservation Commission. DPR for replanting, maintenance, projects and staffing. All budget considerations are taken into account during the annual budget setting period.

What happens to unspent funds?

Unspent funds are rolled over into the next year's budget. There is no expiration on funds.



Approved disbursement

Per the Tree Protection Ordinance, monies should be spent on the protection, maintenance, and regeneration of the trees and other forest resources of Atlanta. Below are the codified resources.

1. Replanting on public property
2. Procurement of forested property with the following met:
 - i) 80 percent or more canopy cover;
 - ii) minimum forestation standards of 1,000 DBH inches; and/or
 - iii) 50 mature trees per acre.
3. Administrative costs, such as:
 - Posting for trees to be removed
 - Advertising Committee hearings
 - Court Reporter
4. Staffing
 - Senior Parks Arborist (oversees new tree plantings, maintenance, invasive species removal, project management, RFPs)
 - (2) Arborists
 - Tree Trimming Crew (providing services that maintain and enhance the health of the city's tree canopy):
 - Forestry Trimming Supervisor, Senior Tree Trimmer, Tree Trimmer
5. Tree Conservation Commission (TCC)
 - TCC Administrative Analyst
 - Education Outreach Account (educational materials, educational programs, and educational outreach)
 - Honoraria for commission members (\$75/month)

Code References

Recompense: Sec. 158-103 (b), (c)

Appeal Fees: Sec. 158-65(a)(3)(b)

Illegal Activity: Sec. 158-34 (a)

Tree Trust Disbursement: Sec. 158-66 (a), (b)

[Full ordinance available on Municode or by clicking here](#)

