8.66.055 - Procedure for Other Significant Tree Removals. For any significant tree removal not subject to 8.66.050, a permit will be required from the City Arborist. In all cases, the City Arborist shall keep a record of the type and size of tree removed, the reason for the removal, photographs of the tree documenting the reason for removal, the date, the contractor(s) involved, and the name and address of the property owner. **No such permits will be issued for one year following ordination of this section, except for emergency circumstances, significant utility infrastructure projects undertaken pursuant to State or Federal regulations or programs, for City park projects or where a tree poses significant negative impacts on an adjacent existing structure or for dead or dangerous trees or where a lot is of such density with existing trees that the removal of certain significant trees is considered beneficial to the health of the tree canopy.** Any tree removed in violation of this section, within the one year following ordination, shall require a payment into the tree replacement fund as per section 8.66.070 according to a schedule as follows: 10% of the replacement value for property owners who qualify for the City of Cambridge residential real property tax exemption, no fee for property owners that receive established forms of financial assistance, and the full replacement cost in all other circumstances. The value to be paid into the tree replacement fund shall be equivalent to the cost of purchasing, planting, watering and maintaining said Replacement Trees for a period of not less than five years.
Summary of TPO Changes

Requires a DPW Permit for removal of all significant trees (over 8” DBH)

Allows for documentation of type, size, condition and reason for removal

One Year restriction on significant tree removals except for:

- Private Property Trees:
  - The tree is dead or dangerous;
  - An emergency exists relative to public health, safety or welfare;
  - Removing the tree may result in a healthier tree canopy; of
  - The tree poses a significant risk to an adjacent existing structure

- Park/Utility Projects:
  - significant utility infrastructure projects undertaken pursuant to State or Federal regulations or programs, and
  - City park projects
Payment into the City’s Tree Replacement Fund:

• 10% of the replacement value for property owners who qualify for the City of Cambridge residential real property tax exemption,
• no fee for property owners that receive established forms of financial assistance, and
• the full replacement cost in all other circumstances.

The value to be paid into the tree replacement fund shall be equivalent to the cost of purchasing, planting, watering and maintaining said Replacement Trees for a period of not less than five years ($850.00 per inch). Not to exceed $300/day fine.
Outreach and Notification of TPO Changes

- Created new website page
- Sent postcards to 41,000 households
- Press release to local papers
- Contacted arborist association and landscape contractors by phone and email
- Social media posts

Important Update: Private Property Tree Removal

Dear Cambridge Property Owner:

Effective March 11th, 2019, an amended City Ordinance restricts removal of “significant trees” on private property. “Significant trees” have a diameter of 8 inches or more (measured at 4 feet above ground).

Removal of any significant private property tree requires a permit from the City, which will only be issued when one of the following circumstances can be demonstrated:

1. The tree is dead or dangerous;
2. An emergency exists relative to public health, safety or welfare;
3. Removing the tree may result in a healthier tree canopy; or
4. The tree poses a significant risk to an adjacent existing structure.

Any property owner or contractor who removes a tree in violation of this ordinance must pay into the City’s Tree Replacement Fund and may be subject to a stop work order, injunction, or fines up to $300 for each day the violation continues.

Learn more about the Tree Protection Ordinance, requirements for a permit, and Tree Replacement Fund fee assessments at: www.Cambridgema.gov/TreeProtection
Proposed Amendment (CO#0-4, dated 01/13/20)

- **Current 1-year exception for removal of significant trees expires** February 25, 2020
- **Amendment would extend tree removal restrictions until** December 31, 2020
Tree Removal Permit Requirements

- A completed Tree Removal Permit Application Form
- Photograph of the tree silhouette (entire tree),
- Photograph of damaged area on the tree (if applicable),
- Photograph of the tree trunk at 4 feet high (Diameter at Breast Height),
- A completed Level 2 International Society of Arboriculture (“ISA”) Tree Risk Assessment related to the Tree provided by a Certified Arborist,
- A signed Certification from a Certified Arborist
- Detailed narrative describing the emergency circumstance signed by property owner (if applicable), and
- Detailed Report Indicating the nature of the infrastructure utility project (if applicable).
## Permit Application Summary

### Approved Permit Applications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for Removal Category</th>
<th>Count of Approved Applications</th>
<th>% of Approved Applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Dead or Dangerous</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. City Parks Project</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Provide a healthier tree canopy on your property</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Tree poses a significant impact to an adjacent existing structure</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Significant utility infrastructure project</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Emergency Circumstances</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Denied Permit Applications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for Denial</th>
<th>Count of Denied Applications</th>
<th>% of Denied Applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not reapply - Application incomplete</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not reapply - Did not meet category requirements</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not reapply - Incorrect Category</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anecdotal Community Feedback

**Pros:**
- Resident feedback that the Cambridge is trying to protect trees
- Learning that pruning for clearance can be an appropriate alternative to removals
- Construction redesigns to preserve trees that didn’t qualify for removal permit
- Sparked discussions among neighbors about tree preservation
- Feedback from practicing arborists working within the city is supportive of the amendment

**Cons:**
- Current amendment does not allow replanting to offset mitigation
- No protection for tree roots or aggressive pruning
- Not allowed to remove invasive species
- Cost of Arborist assessment
- Residents have said they are waiting for amendment to sunset to proceed with removals
Commercial Arborist Feedback

- Tree care companies charge between $250-300 to perform the site visit and online permit.

- Consulting arborists charge $600-$800 per tree
  - Will adjust price if multiple trees are involved.

- Tree care companies charge $50-$150 to visit a site and notify property owner if tree(s) meet the tree removal requirements.
  - Will charge the remaining balance if property owner decides to move forward with tree removal permit.

- Anecdotal feedback from residents to practicing arborists:
  - Most residents understand why the city has enacted the tree ordinance after the reasoning is explained for the ordinance. Some still complain about the amendment.
  - Few have said they will wait until the ordinance expires.

- Both tree care companies said they will not get involved with live, healthy trees. One arborist said they try to encourage property owners to preserve and maintain healthy trees on their properties.
UFMP Task Force

18 Task Force Members

Met 12 times during 2018-2019 to review progress, pose questions, and provide advice to the consultant team, and

the interaction with the Task Force has significantly shaped the content of the Technical Report, the approach to the subject, and the components of the response strategies.
Public Meetings

- Three Public Meetings
- Health & Environment Committee Presentation
- Climate Protection Action Committee Presentation
### UFMP
### CURB LOSS + GROW CANOPY
### A Menu of 47 Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Enhance and Expand the Tree Protection Ordinance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Formalize Practices for Planting and Inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Leverage Land Use Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Leverage Public-Private Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Institutionalize Tree Priorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Plant Resilient Species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Street Tree Planting Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Site New Parks and Open Space Strategically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Improve Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Expand Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Expand Planting Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Outreach &amp; Education</td>
<td>Invest in Educational Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Outreach &amp; Education</td>
<td>Build Community Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Outreach &amp; Education</td>
<td>Seek Alternative Green Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Outreach &amp; Education</td>
<td>Integrate UFMP into Complementary Planning Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Competing interests

discourage removals

encourage planting
Summary of Strategies for Ordinance Consideration

- Redefine Significant Tree to 6” DBH
- Strengthen Back of Sidewalk Program
- Earmark Tree Fund dollars for community grants/alternative uses
- Review Mitigation Costs
- Extend Tree Protection Ordinance to all Private Property
- Require City Arborist Inspection Prior to Occupancy
IN ALL CASES
Always allow removal of dead or hazardous trees

1. Get Arborist evaluation
2. File permit
3. Receive approval / No mitigation required
4. Receive free replacement if desired
VOLUNTARY REMOVAL STRATEGY 1
Replace trees One for One

1. File permit
2. Replant on site or
   Pay to support replanting elsewhere
3. Receive free replacement
   if on assistance

Notes:
— all trees are treated equally,
   no special protections for large trees
VOLUNTARY REMOVAL STRATEGY 2
Replace trees based on size

1. File permit
2. Pay to support replanting elsewhere
3. Receive free replacement if on assistance

Notes:
— larger trees require increased mitigation
— health and location are not considered
TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Summary of Strategies

STRATEGY 1

- Simple
- Replacement Cost
- Encourage Planting
- Process
- Metric
- Impact
- Discourage Removal

STRATEGY 2

- Simple
- Replacement Cost
- Encourage Planting
- Process
- Metric
- Impact
- Encourage Planting

STRATEGY 3

- Complex
- Replacement Cost
- Process
- Metric
- Impact
- Discourage Removal