



## **Tree Removal & Preservation Guide**

### **Why does the City regulate trees?**

Trees are an important part of Jonestown's character and environment. Tree regulations help to preserve the natural landscape, reduce erosion and stormwater runoff, maintain shade and neighborhood aesthetics, and protect trees which are seen as desirable and important to the character of the City.

### **Do I need a permit to remove a tree?**

Yes, a tree removal permit is required for ***any*** tree removal within the City of Jonestown and its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). This applies to residential properties, commercial properties, undeveloped land, and both development and redevelopment projects.

Tree removal permits allow the City to verify whether a tree is protected or heritage, ensure compliance with preservation requirements, and identify any replacement or mitigation obligations.

### **General restrictions on tree removal**

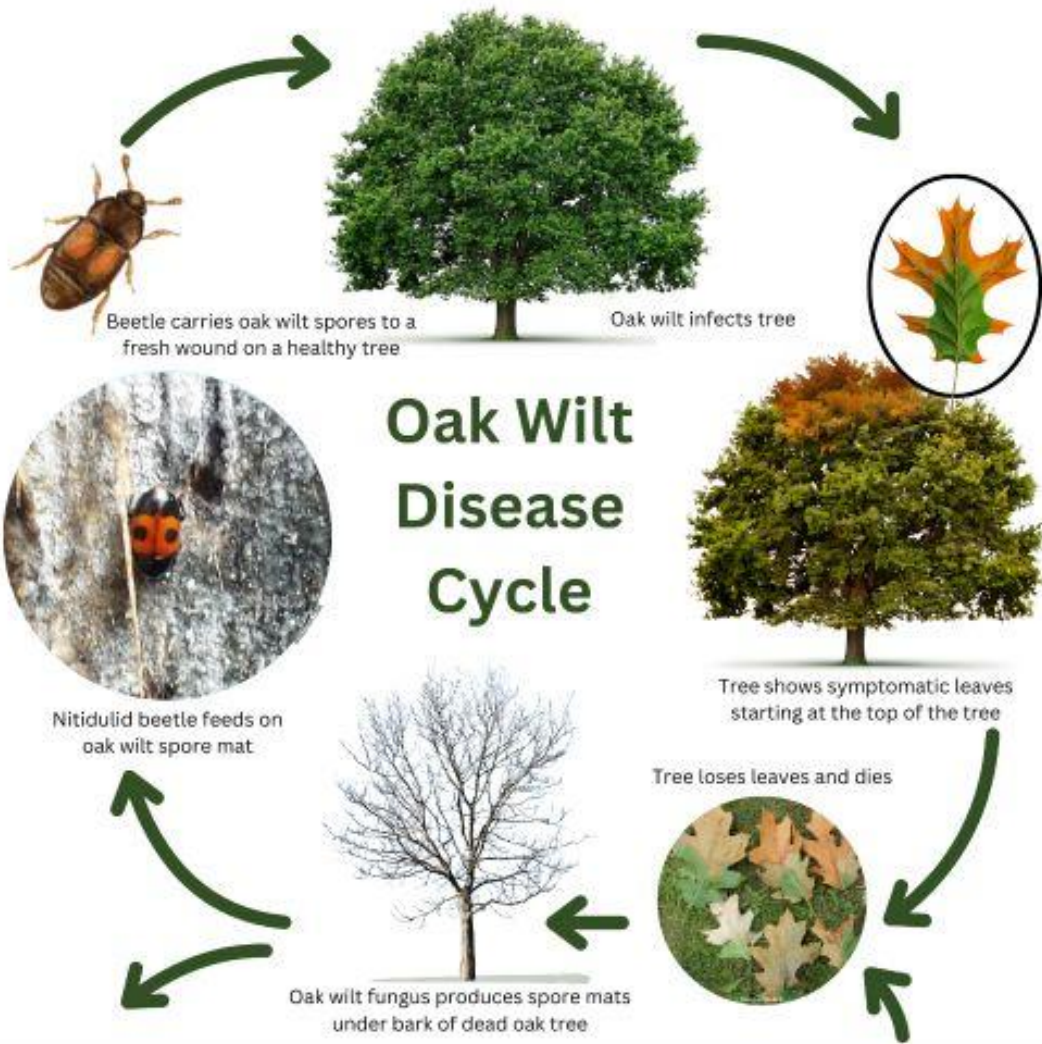
Tree removal may be limited or subject to additional requirements based on tree type and timing.

#### ***Oak Trees (Oak Wilt Prevention)***

**Oak wilt** is a fast-spreading tree disease caused by a fungus that blocks the flow of water inside oak trees. It spreads through root connections between nearby trees and by insects attracted to fresh cuts or wounds on infected trees. Once infected, many oaks do not survive unless quick action is taken.

Removal is prohibited from February 1 through June 30, as this is when oak trees are most susceptible to becoming infected.

Exception: Removal may occur during this period **only** if an Oak Wilt-certified arborist is on site for the entire removal process and ensures compliance with oak wilt prevention guidelines.



# Oak Wilt Disease Cycle

Oak wilt disease is spread from infected trees to healthy trees through shared roots

New tree becomes symptomatic

Michigan OakWilt

## Common North American Oak Trees



### *Ashe Juniper Trees (Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan)*

In certain areas, Ashe Junipers are subject to preservation requirements under the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP).

Removal may be prohibited from March 1 through August 31 depending on where in the City the property is located. A map of affected areas can be found at the link below. Unless the property is in Zone 3 (pink zone), this policy applies.

[Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Map](#)



**Heritage Trees**

Removal of a heritage tree requires City Council approval, a public hearing, and must meet UDC criteria.

**What is a “protected” or “heritage” tree?**

Tree classifications are based on diameter at breast height (DBH), measured at 4.5 feet above ground level.

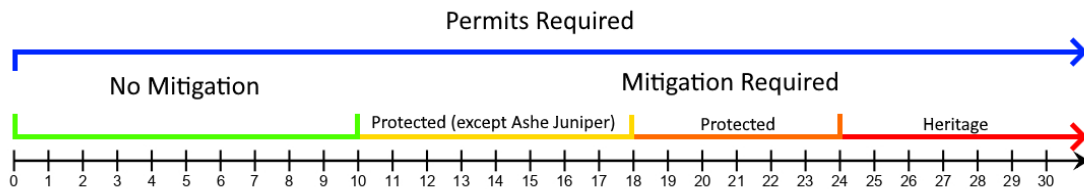
**Protected Tree:**

Non-Ashe Juniper: 10" to <24" DBH, excluding trees listed in the Tree and Shrub List (Appendix A)

Ashe Juniper: 18" to <24" DBH

**Heritage Tree:**

Trees 24" DBH or greater, excluding trees listed in the Tree and Shrub List (Appendix A)



**What is mitigation?**

Mitigation offsets loss of tree canopy and environmental impact. It is based on the size and categorization (protected vs. heritage) as outlined in the Unified Development Code. Any removal of protected and/or heritage trees must pay accompanying mitigation fees as shown in the chart below.

Protected trees between ten (10) and eighteen (18) inches	*Replacement trees minimum 2 caliper inches to equal total removed inches	<b>OR</b>	Mitigation fee of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per inch removed
Protected trees greater 18 caliper-inches and above and including Ashe Juniper trees	*Replacement trees minimum 2 caliper inches to equal total removed inches		Mitigation fee of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per inch removed
Heritage trees twenty-four (24) caliper-inches and above	*Replacement trees minimum 2 caliper inches to equal total removed inches		Mitigation fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per inch removed

All mitigation must be paid before permits are issued. If replacement trees are planted, a written request must be submitted to the City and a final mitigation inspection will be scheduled. After the mitigation inspection, the mitigation fees will be refunded.

### **What factors are considered for heritage tree removal?**

- Reasonable use of the property
- Alternatives to removal (site plan adjustment, etc.)
- Safety
- Impact minimization

### **What is required for a heritage tree removal?**

- A site plan identifying the location of the heritage tree
- The proposed or existing development layout
- A written explanation describing the efforts made to preserve the heritage tree
- An arborist assessment describing the health, structural condition, and expected longevity of the heritage tree
- A proposed mitigation plan
- A written explanation detailing how the request satisfies all of the above criteria

### **What if a tree is dead, diseased, or dangerous?**

An application must still be submitted. City staff will determine if a permit is required per the Unified Development Code. No removal will be permitted until the determination is made. An arborist report will be required if Staff is unable to determine whether the tree is dead, diseased, or dangerous.

### **Do I have to replace removed trees?**

Replacement is optional, but mitigation fees are paid upfront. If replacement trees equal removed inches and pass a final inspection, fees are refunded. Replacement trees must follow all requirements outlined in UDC 3.2.6.27

### **Process to remove a tree**

1. Apply through MyGovernmentOnline at the following link:

[City of Jonestown Tree Removal/Pruning Permit](#)

2. Staff reviews the application. More information may be required depending on what documentation is submitted within the application.

3. Staff evaluates and accepts the application and applies mitigation fees if applicable.

4. Heritage trees must go before City Council for removal approval.

5. Once fees are paid and before the permit is approved, an initial inspection by the Building Inspector needs to be conducted. After the permit is issued and the removal is completed, a final inspection must be completed.

### **What happens if I remove a tree without approval?**

Any construction or improvement work conducted without permits within the City of Jonestown is required to pay double permit fees. This includes any tree removal and resulting mitigation fees. If it is completed as part of a larger project, there may be fines and/or Stop Work Orders placed on the project.

### **Who should I contact if I have questions?**

Contact City of Jonestown Development Services Staff through any of the following:

<b>City Hall location</b>	<b>18649 FM 1431 Suite 16, Jonestown, TX 78645</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b>permitting@jonestowntx.gov</b>
<b>Phone</b>	<b>(512) 267-0359</b>

### **Quick Links:**

[City of Jonestown Development Services Webpage](#)

[City of Jonestown Code of Ordinances](#)

[City of Jonestown Tree Requirements\\*](#)

\*This links to Section 3.2.6.22. Tree requirements and information continues through Section 3.2.6.33.

ZONING

14 Attachment 1

Appendix A Native Plant Reference Resources

Notes:

(a) Where this plant reference resources conflicts with information from state or federal agencies about rare, threatened, endangered or invasive plant species, the state or federal listing takes precedence.

(b) Texas Superstar(r) and Earth-kind(r) plant lists may contain species considered invasive in Jonestown.

(c) Refer also to the following for suggested native plants and plant communities:

- 1. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plants Database
- 2. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- 3. Lower Colorado River Authority
- 4. Texas Native Plants Database (TAMU):

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/natives/tamuhort.html>

(d) Refer also to the following for suggested plants. Plants listed as native to Blackland Prairie are rarely suitable for Jonestown ecosystems due to our shallow, highly alkaline soils.

- 1. City of Austin Grow Green Guide  
<https://austintexas.gov/department/grow-green/plant-guide>
- 2. City of Leander Preferred Plant List
- 3. City of Cedar Park Preferred Plant List

RECOMMENDED NATIVE PLANTS

Large Native Trees (Canopy Trees)		
Latin Name	Common Name	Comments
Carya illinoensis	Pecan	Deep soil
Celtis laevigata	Hackberry	Recommended for wildlife areas or greenbelts only
Fraxinus texensis	Texas Ash	
Juniperus ashei	Ashe Juniper	*Is not recommended for replanting, but is protected if 18 inches or larger
Populus fremontii	Alamo Cottonwood	Male trees

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<i>Platanus mexicana</i>	Mexican Sycamore	Deep soil
<i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>eximia</i>	Escarpment Black Cherry	
<i>Quercus buckleyi</i>	Spanish Oak	*Susceptible to oak wilt; check source before planting. Related Shumard red oak not suitable for shallow soils in Jonestown.
<i>Quercus fusiformis</i>	Escarpment Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i> , Southern Live Oak, is not suitable for the shallow soils in Jonestown.
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	Deep soils
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Chinkapin Oak	
<i>Quercus polymorpha</i>	Monterrey Oak	
<i>Quercus texana</i>	Texas Red Oak	*Susceptible to oak wilt; check source before planting. Related Shumard red oak not suitable for shallow soils in Jonestown.
<i>Taxodium mucronatum</i>	Monterrey Cypress	
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress	
<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	Cedar Elm	
<b>Small-Medium Sized Native Trees (Understory Trees)</b>		
<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Acacia berlandieri</i>	Guajillo	
<i>Acacia farnesiana</i> var. <i>smallii</i>	Huisache	
<i>Acacia schaffneri</i> var. <i>bravoensis</i>	Huisachillo	
<i>Acer grandidentatum</i>	Bigtooth Maple	Deep soils
<i>Bauhinia lunaroides</i>	Anacacho Orchid Tree	
<i>Cercidium macrum</i>	Palo Verde	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i>	Texas Redbud	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>mexicana</i>	Mexican Redbud	
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert Willow	
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Roughleaf Dogwood	
<i>Diospyros texana</i>	Texas Persimmon	
<i>Ehretia anacua</i>	Anacua	
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possum Haw	
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yaupon	'Pride of Houston' or other tall variety
<i>Juglans microcarpa berlandieri</i>	Texas Walnut	
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	
<i>Myrsopernum sousanum</i>	Arroyo Sweetwood	
<i>Prunus mexicana</i>	Mexican Plum	
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Wafer Ash	

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<i>Quercus laceyi</i> ( <i>Q. glaucoides</i> )	Lacey Oak	Good oak for use under power lines
<i>Quercus mohriana</i>	Shin Oak	
<i>Quercus pungens</i> var. <i>vaseyana</i>	Vasey Oak	
<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	Carolina Buckthorn	
<i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	Western Soapberry	
<i>Sophora affinis</i>	Eve's Necklace Tree	
<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	Texas Mountain Laurel	Evergreen
<i>Ugnadia speciosa</i>	Mexican Buckeye	
<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum	
<i>Zanthoxylum hirsutum</i>	Toothache Tree	
<b>Shrubs</b>		
<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Acacia wrightii</i>	Wright's Acacia	
<i>Aesculus arguta</i>	Texas Buckeye	
<i>Aloysia gratissima</i>	Whitebrush	
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Indigo Bush	
<i>Anisacanthus wrightii</i>	Flame Acanthus	
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Fourwing Saltbush	
<i>Berberis trifoliata</i>	Agarito	Evergreen
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American Beautyberry	
<i>Capsicum annuum</i> var. <i>aviculare</i>	Chile Pequin	
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	Texas Smoke Tree	
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	Apache Plume	
<i>Fraxinus cuspidata</i>	Fragrant Ash	
<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	Kidneywood	
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Nana'	Yaupon	Evergreen, multiple varieties with mature height less than 6 feet
<i>Karwinschia humboldtiana</i>	Coyotillo	
<i>Lantana urticoides</i>	Texas Lantana	
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote Bush	Evergreen
<i>Leucana retusa</i>	Goldenball Leadtree	
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Cenizo, Texas Ranger	Evergreen
<i>Mimosa borealis</i>	Fragrant Mimosa	
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle	Evergreen
<i>Myrica pusilla</i>	Dwarf Wax Myrtle	Evergreen
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Retama	
<i>Pistacia texana</i>	Texas Pistache	Evergreen
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac	
<i>Rhus lanceolate</i>	Prairie Flameleaf Sumac	
<i>Rhus virens</i>	Evergreen Sumac	Evergreen

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<b>Invasive Plants - DO NOT USE</b>		
<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa Tree	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Cane	
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	Paper Mulberry	
<i>Colocasis esculenta</i>	Elephant Ear	
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Common Bermuda Grass	Use only hybrids with sterile seeds
<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	Holly Fern	
<i>Eleagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive	
<i>Firmiana simplex</i>	Chinese Parasol Tree	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy	
<i>Ligustrum</i>	Wax-Leaf Ligustrum, Privet	All varieties
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle	All varieties
<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>	Catclaw Vine	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry	
<i>Morus alba</i>	Russian Mulberry	
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Heavenly Bamboo	Use only nonberrying hybrids
<i>Photinia x fraseri</i>	Red-Tip Photinia	
<i>Photinia serratifolia</i>	Taiwanese Photinia	
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Golden Bamboo	
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	
<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	Kudzu	
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Firethorn	
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson Grass	
<i>Tamarisk species</i>	Salt Cedar	
<i>Triadica sebifera</i>	Chinese Tallow Tree	
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm	
<i>Vinca major</i> and <i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle	
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Tree	
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Chinese Wisteria	
<b>Turf Grass</b>		
<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	Buffalograss (sod)	609, Prairie, Density, Prestige
<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> <i>Hilaria berlanderi</i> <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Shortgrass mixes - buffalo, curly mesquite and blue grama (seed)	May be mixed with short wildflowers
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> hybrids	Bermuda grass hybrids only - Sterile seed heads but runners still invasive to nearby plant beds (sod)	Celebration, GN1, Grimes EXP, Tex Turf, Tifsport, Tifway 419
<i>Zoysia japonica</i> hybrids	Zoysia (sod)	Palisades, Jamur, El Toro, Crowne

## ZONING

Hackberry, except as referenced in App A  
Cottonwood, except as referenced in App A  
Palm trees  
Pine trees  
Banana Trees  
Palmetto Trees  
Red Oaks, except as listed in App A  
Spanish Oaks, except as listed in App A