

Arborist Process Flow -- Sticky Note Comments

(Comments grouped by topic)

Process:

Need plans made available electronically; overall process too complex and/or expensive for elderly and poor; need more instructions; need more focus on saving vs. removing trees.

- Pre-removal plan and inventory should be made available to the public electronically as soon as the tree removal notice is placed.
- Plans should be electronic.
- Problem: The existing process present challenges for elderly who are not savvy with online interface. What provisions are there for older residents not computer literate?
- Need funding to support guidance + resources from city on navigating the system for individual residents (esp. to avoid untenable financial burden on elderly and/or poor residents.
- Need instructional videos with scenarios and processes.
- *(In reference to "Want to remove a tree? Start here.")* Where's category to: "Want to SAVE A TREE(S)?"

Enforcement:

Greater need for enforcement; need Saturday coverage; too many trees coming down even under existing ordinance; nuisance trees not followed up on.

- Arborist need to start enforcing current regulations! They seem to concede to all other departs and developer pressure.
- No enforcement on Saturdays. Cops never come. Do not give certificate of occupancy until final tree review is done!
- Use *(covered by other sticky note)* app that reports scooters to also report violations and illegal tree cutting.
- In just a few years, Tuxedo Park (behind the Governor's Mansion) has lost 40 acres of tree canopy to spec builders with no morals.
- Seems like they're always allowed to remove under TPO.
- *(In reference to "A field arborist will determine if it's a nuisance tree)* Yes. Have done this for neighbor's tree. Been declared a danger X 2. Who makes owner take down tree?

Appeals:

Appeals should be free, with more than 5 days to appeal, have clear notification, and occur earlier in the permitting process.

- Appeals should be free! Your database should be good enough to do this quickly & not lose # of his & \$.
- Need more than five days to file an appeal!
- *(in reference to a potential tree appeal hearing.)* What are the means of notification?
- Retain appeal process, earlier in process!
- Appeal process must remain critical to check & balance. And be moved to earlier in the process.
- Have more than one review process.
 - Pre-plan
 - Once building starts
 - At completion

Public Trees:

Workflow does not seem to apply to trees on public property; Parks Department non-responsive.

- *(In reference to the arborist process flow overall.)* This should apply even more so to public trees.
- Is tree on public property? Ordinance must apply!
- *(In reference to contacting Arborists in Parks and Recreation)* DEAD END.

Staffing:

Too little staff, front desk needs more training, dissatisfaction with Arborist Division Manager.

- Hire more staff.
- Educate the staff who answers the phone in Arborist office to be more aware and informed.
- Fire David Zaparanick.