

WHAT SHOULD ATLANTA'S METHOD LOOK LIKE?

TREE ASSESSMENT

A ranking system based on:

- Size
- Species
- Condition
- Location/Contribution
- Tree Groupings

Categories could be:

- High (most protection),
- Medium (moderate protection),
- Low (not as much protection),
- No value (these trees can go, invasives, etc.)

Only defining Excellent and High value trees

Only defining Specimen

Points or Formula: Protection compliance based on total point value of individual tree(s).

EXAMPLES FROM OTHER MUNICIPALITIES:

1 Definition only
 "Exceptional tree" means a tree or group of trees that because of its unique historical, ecological, or aesthetic value constitutes an important community resource, and is determined as such by the Director according to standards and procedures promulgated by the Department.

2 Excellent and High value:
 Any tree which qualifies for special consideration for preservation due to its size, type, condition, location or historical significance and which also meets the minimum size criteria set forth below:

Tree Size Criteria

- Pine Trees:** 30-inch diameter or larger for trees in the Pinus (Pine) genus.
- Coniferous Trees:** 20" diameter or larger for trees in the cedrus (deodar cedar), Thuja (Arborvitae), or other ecologically similar trees,
- Overstory Trees:** 30-inch diameter or larger for trees in the Liquidambar (Sweetgum) or Liriodendron (Tulip poplar) genus
- 20-inch diameter or larger** for trees in the Fagus (Beech), Nyssa (Tupelo), Diospyros (Persimmon), Sassafras (Sassafras), or other ecologically similar trees,
- 20-inch diameter or larger** for Magnolia grandiflora (Southern magnolia) and those cultivars that generally reach a mature height over 40'
- 24-inch (24") diameter or larger** for trees in all other genera
- Understory Trees:** 8-inch (8") diameter or larger.
- 10-inch (10") diameter or larger** for Oxydendron arboretum (Sourwood).

3 Total value and criteria ratings:
 To assess trees, the Trunk Formula method establishes the monetary value of the tree based on its size (as measured by the cross-sectional area of the trunk) and then adjusts for the tree's condition, species, and location.

1. Condition
2. Species. Evaluation ratings based on:
 - a. Tree stature (canopy size) at maturity
 - b. Expected tree life span

Stature	Longevity	Ratings	Examples
Large	Long	100%	Tree 1
Large	Medium	95%	Tree 2
Medium	Long	95%	Tree 3

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3. Location
 - a. Site

High	100-90%	The site is in a park or landscaped area with ample belowground and overhead growing space The species is tolerant of the site's difficult growing conditions
Medium	90-70%	Physical space limitations at the site will challenge the success of the tree over time The species is only moderately tolerant of the site's difficult growing conditions

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- b. Placement

High	100-90%	The tree is a native species in or adjacent to a natural area or large park The tree is a historic specimen or part of a grove, or is an original planting in historic landscape
Medium	90-70%	The tree is one of a group of plantings and its individual loss would have minimal visual or environmental impact on the entire group

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