



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 |

3rd committee- 6:00 PM

The Committee will meet in the Mauldin City Hall at 5 East Butler Road in the Upstairs Conference Room at 6 p.m.

Please note that members of the public may attend this meeting in-person, but are encouraged to participate remotely. The meeting will be available remotely through Webex. Please visit the City's website at <https://cityofmauldin.org/your-government/meeting-minutes-agendas/> to access the meeting via audio and videoconferencing. You may also email comments about specific items on the agenda to City Clerk Cindy Miller at cmiller@mauldincitysc.com. Comments emailed about specific agenda items prior to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020 will be read during the Public Comment segment of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jason Kraeling

2. Public Comment

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

- a. Public Works Committee Meeting: August 3, 2020 (Pages 4-6)

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

- a. Department Reports (7-14)

Public Works Director Matthew Fleahman

Budget Review

- 1. Grass Clippings Update
- 2. Street Sweeper Update
- 3. Road Inventory Update
- 4. Restriction of Through Truck Traffic at the Intersection of Miller Rd. & Old Mill Rd. and Miller Rd. & Corn Rd.

5. Unfinished Business- None

Chairman Jason Kraeling

6. New Business

- a. Tire Amnesty (Pages 15-16)
- b. Non-approved Sanitation Containers (Pages 17-18)
- c. Vegetation Management Procedure (Pages 19-32)

7. Public Comment

8. Committee Concerns

9. Adjourn

Minutes
PW Committee
August 3, 2020
6:00 p.m.
2nd committee meeting

Meeting Location: City Hall

Members present: Chairman Jason Kraeling, Committee members Michael Reynolds and Carol King. Matt Fleahman, Public Works Director and Brandon Madden, City Administrator were also present.

1. Call to Order- Chairman Kraeling

2. Public Comment- None

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

b. Public Works Committee Meeting: July 6, 2020

Action: Councilman Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes.

Chairman Kraeling recused himself from voting since he was not present at the July meeting. Councilwoman King seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (2-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

b. Department Reports

Public Works Director Matthew Fleahman

Budget Review- A sewer camera has been ordered out of the enterprise fund.

One of the fiscal goals of 2021 was to evaluate the flags and poles that are installed around the City for Memorial Day and the 4th of July. Several of the

flags were tattered, so 90 flags have been ordered at a cost of approximately \$2200.

5. Unfinished Business

6. New Business

- a. **Stormwater policy**- Staff has presented a stormwater policy to committee for review. Staff's recommendation is that this policy be forwarded to Council for approval.

Mr. Madden said this policy is comprised of what the City already does with stormwater and this puts it in the form of a policy. It is a baseline document and as components are added, they will be subsequently added to this policy.

Action: Councilwoman King made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation of approval. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

Councilwoman King commended Mr. Madden and Mr. Fleahman and said this is a well written, comprehensive policy. Councilman Reynolds agreed and said it was very well done.

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns

Councilman Reynolds welcomed Chairman Kraeling to Council and the committee.

Councilman Reynolds asked how the department is doing on picking up leaves, limbs, debris, and trash. Are we getting back on schedule? Mr. Fleahman answered there is a current limb pickup schedule that allows the entire City to be picked up in about six weeks. The leaf truck is also going out on Fridays to clean up after the trash trucks to pick up limbs and debris with the knuckle boom. Another knuckle boom will be purchased this year and once it is in service, the schedule will be re-evaluated to hopefully be able to cover the City in four weeks. The knuckle boom will not be purchased until the second quarter. We want to make sure cash reserves are available and

we are watching the impact of COVID.

Chairman Kraeling asked if there was a higher volume of trash and debris due to people staying at home. Mr. Fleahman said when COVID first hit in March and April, it was higher, but it is getting back to normal. There is more contractor work that is happening now; it slows everything down because their debris has to be tagged since it is not picked up by the City.

9. Adjourn- Chairman Kraeling adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 6a

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Public Works Director, Matthew Fleahman

SUBJECT: Tire Amnesty

REQUEST

To request that the Public Works Committee and City Council adopt a Tire Amnesty program for the scheduled pick up of old tires.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

The City of Mauldin Public Works Department through its Sanitation Division has provided a disposal program for used/old tires. The current procedure is to pick up the tires and stockpile them at the Jenkins Facility until a full load of tires exists. Landfill requirements mandate that tires be separated from municipal waste and disposed of in a separate portion of the landfill. Additional requirements have included the licensure of the City as a "Waste Tire Hauler," and paperwork to include manifests for each tire.

ANALYSIS or STAFF FINDINGS

In preparation for the closure of the Jenkins Street Facility, Public Works has been hauling off trash, brush, soil stockpiles, and an assortment of other junk stationed around the facility. Old and damaged equipment has been removed and the back side of the tract has been cleaned up. The continued stockpiling of tires on the tract is no longer a viable option.

The Public Works facility does not have additional storage space for tire storage; however, Public Works does not want to diminish or reduce services to City Residents. If a Tire Amnesty program is implemented with two pick-up dates (first Friday in April and October), Public Works could collect all the tires City-wide and transport them directly to the landfill without stockpiling.

TIMELINE

If approved, the program would begin immediately.

RECOMMENDATION

Public Works recommends implementing the program and including the schedule on the door hangers proposed for the Sanitation Education Program. A social media blitz and placement of information on our website is also recommended.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 6c

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Public Works Director, Matthew Fleahman

SUBJECT: Vegetation Management Procedure

REQUEST

To request that the Public Works Committee and City Council adopt the attached Vegetation Management Procedure for the maintenance and management of the vegetative canopy within the City's municipal boundaries.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

Vegetation management is codified in City Ordinance Chapter 42 and provides a basic framework for the Department's activities as it relates to City owned property. Additionally, City Ordinance Chapter 42 Article II establishes a Tree Board which has the authority to make recommendations for the maintenance of vegetation on City owned property. While the Ordinances do set up a basic framework, a more comprehensive policy and procedure is needed ensure that the requirements of the Ordinances are satisfied.

ANALYSIS or STAFF FINDINGS

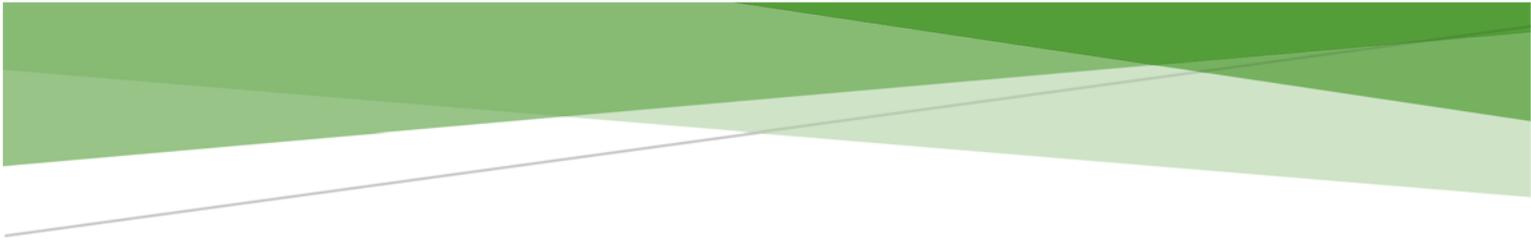
The Public Works Department has drafted the attached Vegetation Management Procedure to identify policies and procedures for staff working on City owned property. The procedure manual includes the requirements of the City Ordinances and identifies the processes to accomplish City-wide canopy maintenance. Additionally, the attached Vegetation Management Procedure provides more detail on specific aspects of canopy maintenance to ensure a consistent effort by City staff.

TIMELINE

Public Works intends to implement the procedure manual immediately upon adoption by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Public Works recommends adoption of the attached Vegetation Management Procedure.



CITY OF MAULDIN GOVERNMENT

Procedure Manual

Vegetation Management

Public Works Department

1.0 PURPOSE STATEMENT

To maintain, preserve and enhance the urban forest within the City of Mauldin. To increase the overall tree canopy, tree health and tree longevity within the City's municipal boundaries and to ensure that City owned/maintained trees are managed in a manner that is consistent with other departmental and municipal policies.

2.0 DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED

- 2.1 Facilities Division
- 2.2 Streets Division
- 2.3 Sewer Division
- 2.4 Division of Parks and Grounds
- 2.5 City of Mauldin Fire Department

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **City Property** is any property that is owned or managed by the City of Mauldin.
- 3.2 **Vegetation Management Plan** is a plan for the long-term restoration, renovation and care of the vegetation within the boundaries of a particular site. A complete plan must include the following:
 - Site inventory and assessment of the area including a site map that illustrates existing topography and vegetation, as well as locating other pertinent natural resources and constructed features.
 - Trees proposed for removal and or pruning must be specifically designated.
 - Specific planting design showing species, size and location and any necessary erosion control/slope stabilization methods.
 - Public involvement plan, if applicable, in compliance with the City of Mauldin Policies and Procedures.
 - Maintenance plan that includes tasks, frequencies and resources. These may include watering, weeding, mulching, and pruning, etc.
- 3.3 **Developed landscape** is City Property that has been graded and/or planted and contains plantings that are distinct from typical native forest. These landscapes are routinely maintained by City staff for active and/or passive recreational use by the public. Developed landscapes may include, but are not limited to: lawns, athletic fields, street right-of-ways, play areas, easements, and sewer right-of-ways.
- 3.4 **Undeveloped landscape** is City Property that contains native or volunteer (self-propagated) plants and is not intended for recreational use except along designated trails. Undeveloped landscapes are usually not as intensively maintained as developed landscapes.
- 3.5 **Hazardous Tree** is a tree that can be predicted to fail and has a high probability of striking people or property causing injury or damage.
- 3.6 **Tree failure** is the breaking and falling of a tree or any substantial part of a tree. This does not include falling leaves or fruit.

- 3.7 **Crown cleaning** is the removal of the dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached and low-vigor branches.
- 3.8 **Crown thinning** is the selective removal of branches to increase light penetration and air movement, and to reduce weight.
- 3.9 **Crown restoration** is pruning to improve the structure and appearance of trees which have sprouted vigorously after the upper portion of the tree canopy has been broken, topped or severely pruned.
- 3.10 **Topping** is the removal of the terminal shoot of a tree to a stub or lateral branch that is not sufficiently large enough to assume a terminal role or cannot be expected to achieve wound closure to inhibit decay
- 3.11 **Phase of work** is a specific work activity (clearing, removal, installation, planting, maintenance, etc.) on a specific part of the project site as delineated on the permit documents and/or an appropriately scaled map.
- 3.12 **Invasive exotic vegetation** consists of species of plants that are not native to the upstate of South Carolina and exhibit aggressive growth to the exclusion of native or planted landscapes.
- 3.13 **Foliar coverage** is the percentage of the ground surface area with leaf or stem cover vertically above it, measured at a resolution of 1-foot square or finer.
- 3.14 **Mature canopy volume** is the estimated area of foliar coverage (area inside the “dripline”) that can be expected from a mature tree of a given species in a particular setting multiplied by the mature height that can be expected from that same tree in the same setting.

4.0 POLICY

- 4.1 **Criteria for Tree and Vegetation Work:** Specific criteria will be established and applied to the removal and/or pruning of trees, shrubs and/or vegetation located in or on City Property (see Section 6.5). The criteria will be used to evaluate the overall public benefit of the proposed work. In all cases, safety concerns will receive the highest priority. Priority will be given to limiting removal, increasing forest canopy, and preserving appropriate vegetation on City Property.
- 4.2 **Hazardous Tree Management:** Public health, safety and general welfare will be maintained through the use of generally accepted professional practices of evaluation and treatment to reduce risks to people and property from hazardous trees. Attention to proper selection, planting and maintenance of new trees will also be pursued to achieve long-term risk reduction. Refer to Section 8 for management criteria.
- 4.3 **Pruning Standards:** The latest pruning standards established by the International Society of Arboriculture will be used in the maintenance of City Property vegetation.
- 4.4 **Topping Disallowed:** Because “topping” of trees can cause permanent damage by promoting decay, as well as unnatural, dense and weak branching structure, topping will not be practiced or permitted except under special circumstances.

- 4.5 **Tree Retention and Protection during Construction:** Healthy trees on construction sites will be conserved wherever possible. Trees designated for retention will be protected from construction impacts according to Standard Plans and Specifications and Landscape, Horticulture and Urban Forestry Best Management Practices. Planning for construction projects near trees will include resources for arboricultural services in design and construction phases.
- 4.6 **Tree Protection:** The health and physical state of City trees will be maintained and protected whenever possible. Instances not specifically covered elsewhere in this policy include:
- 4.6.1 **Conservation of Rare Specimens:** Individual trees that are considered rare because of size, species or historical significance will be given extra protections and consideration for retention.
- 4.6.2 **Existing Trees That Are Being Impacted by Surrounding Land Uses:** A good faith effort will be made to consider options for changing park use patterns that are damaging trees. Examples: cars parking on tree lawns may be subject to an education and/or enforcement campaign to reverse the damage to the tree roots; pathways causing excessive compaction around tree roots may be relocated if other options are deemed insufficient.
- 4.6.3 **Diseased or Infested Plants That Pose Risk to Trees:** Whenever possible, action will be taken to effectively decrease risk to other trees from pests and diseases. This may include removal and destruction of affected materials, pesticide treatments and/or alternative cultural practices. Other knowledgeable agencies (South Carolina Department of Agriculture) will be consulted as needed.
- 4.6.4 **Damage, Vandalism and Illegal Cutting:** Whenever possible, action will be taken to investigate and prosecute vandalism and illegal cutting of City-owned trees.
- 4.7 **Tree Replacement:** At least one tree will be planted for every tree that is removed from City Property. Replacement tree species will be selected so that overall mature canopy volume will be maintained or increased. It is preferable to plant the replacement tree in close proximity to the original tree's location. Alternately, the replacement tree may be located elsewhere, and this is preferable if local conditions contributed to the previous tree's failure. New locations should be found on the same site or in the same neighborhood at a location of similar or greater value.
- 4.8 **Viewpoints:** Views from designated public view parks and viewpoints will be preserved through maintenance and management of parks vegetation in front of or below the viewpoint.
- 4.9 **Work Order Requests:** Requests for pruning and/or removal of City trees and other vegetation by City of Mauldin residents or property owners will be considered. No trees will be removed solely for private views. Any work related to private views must achieve public benefit beyond the view relief as outlined in Sections 6.4 and 6.5. Requests will be reviewed by criteria established in Section 6. There is no guarantee that Work Order Requests will be approved.
- 4.10 **Vegetation Management Plan:** A Vegetation Management Plan will be required for a park or City area under certain circumstances. A Plan may be required by the City based on threshold criteria listed in Section 6.5. When a plan is required, it must be approved by the Public Works Director before any work may take place.

- 4.11 **Wildlife and Habitat:** Trees and forested areas are recognized as important habitat for native wildlife. Trees and undeveloped landscapes will be managed for wildlife habitat in accordance with best practices.
- 4.12 **Slope Stability:** The relationship of vegetation to slope stability will be a primary consideration in all proposed vegetation management on steep slopes (refer to Section 6.5.4).
- 4.13 **Phasing:** When appropriate, the Department will consider a phased approach to vegetation management actions in order to reduce potential short-term negative aesthetic and/or wildlife habitat impacts associated with such actions (refer to Section 6.5.11).

5.0 RESPONSIBILITY

5.1 General

The “responsible party” indicated below will conduct the required “review” by collecting relevant information and presenting it to other appropriate Department and City staff who have responsibilities for the area under consideration. The responsible party will include the Department's relevant geographic division and other City staff as appropriate in the decision-making process particularly with complex work where community or related interests must be considered.

5.2 Removal of Trees:

It will be the responsibility of the City Administrator and the Public Works Director to review and approve all action taken relevant to the removal of trees from all City properties.

5.2.1 It will be the responsibility of the Public Works Director or designated representative to post notices regarding the proposed removal for trees that are a prominent feature of the City landscape unless they are rated high hazards.

5.2.2 The removal of the tree stump shall be required once the tree is removed. Tree stumps shall only remain in place under the Direction of the Public Works Director if it has been determined to provide slope stabilization.

5.3 Pruning of Trees and Shrubs:

5.3.1 It will be the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor to review and approve all actions taken relevant to the pruning of trees and shrubs that require climbing and/or the use of an aerial bucket truck.

5.3.1 It will be the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor to review and approve all action taken relevant to the pruning of trees and shrubs that do not require climbing and/or the use of an aerial bucket truck.

5.4 Planting of Trees, Shrubs, and Other Vegetation:

5.4.1 It will be the responsibility of the Public Works Director or designated representative to review and approve proposed planting or replanting in undeveloped landscapes. If a Vegetation Management Plan is required, see Section 6.5.

- 5.4.2 When a plan or design is proposed, it will be the responsibility of the Landscape Architect designated for the specific site to review and approve all action taken relevant to the planting of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation in developed landscapes or in undeveloped landscapes adjacent to other public infrastructure. If a Vegetation Management Plan is required, see Section 5.11.
- 5.4.3 It will be the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor to review and approve all action taken relative to the planting of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation for routine replacement and renovation in developed landscape when there is no plan or design.
- 5.4.4 It will be the responsibility of the Public Works Director to decide if a Vegetation Management Plan will be required. See Section 6.5.
- 5.4.5 It will be the responsibility of the Public Works Director or designated representative to ensure that a proposed Vegetation Management Plan includes the proper elements and has been subject to the appropriate departmental and public review as well as the appropriate coordination with other affected agencies and property owners.
- 5.4.6 It will be the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor to approve all Vegetation Management Plans.

5.5 Construction around Trees:

- 5.5.1 It will be the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor or designated representative to review and approve all construction activities around existing trees in all City properties.
- 5.5.2 It will be the responsibility of the Project Manager or Construction Crew Chief to consult with the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor or a qualified arboricultural professional to assess the potential for tree preservation on a construction site during project planning.
- 5.5.3 It will be the responsibility of the Project Manager or Construction Crew Chief to consult with the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor or a qualified arboricultural professional to ensure standard tree protection practices and departmental Best Management Practices are properly utilized during construction activities.

5.6 Tree Protection:

- 5.6.1 It will be the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor to take actions to protect existing City trees that are at risk for damage, including the instances described in Section 4.6. It will be the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor or designated representative to determine what correction or compensation can be made for tree damage that has occurred.

6.0 CRITERIA FOR DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

- 6.1 Trees, shrubs, and vegetation that will be considered for REMOVAL will include:
- 6.1.1 Hazard trees which pose substantial risk to the residents, roadways, adjacent properties or park facilities.
 - 6.1.2 Trees, shrubs and vegetation which are dead, dying, or diseased.
 - 6.1.3 Trees, shrubs and vegetation which create visibility problems (sight line) near roadways, bikeways and service access areas and may contribute to unsafe conditions will be removed to a point where public safety is insured.
 - 6.1.4 Removal from properties being improved or developed under an approved design, but with prior consideration to retention given whenever possible (see Section 4.5).
 - 6.1.5 Trees shrubs, and vegetation that may interfere with a designated public viewpoint.
 - 6.1.6 Trees that block trails, drains or otherwise obstruct the use and function of City infrastructure elements.
 - 6.1.7 Trees on sites that were overplanted by design or are crowded from natural competition. As the landscape grows, the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor may selectively remove trees on a site to maintain spacing for optimal tree growth and function.
 - 6.1.8 Trees in undeveloped landscapes as part of forest management to create light gaps, snags or other restorative features.
 - 6.1.9 Requested removal by a City of Mauldin property owner. Certain requirements and criteria must be met in order to qualify for removal. See Section 6.4. Such requests do not obligate the Department to remove or allow removal of any trees, shrubs, and/or vegetation.
- 6.2 **REPLACEMENT PLANTINGS** will be undertaken to mitigate effects of vegetation removal and to reestablish the landscape and increase overall mature forest canopy. Vegetation Management Plans will be required under the conditions outlined in Section 4.10 and will be subject to the definitions of Sections 3.1 and the objectives of Section 6.5.
- 6.3 Trees, shrubs, and vegetation that will be considered for PRUNING will include:
- 6.3.1 City areas identified as places of illegal or inappropriate activity in order to improve general visibility and increased police surveillance.
 - 6.3.2 Dead, dying, and diseased sections to improve the health, and appearance of the tree and to prevent accidents.
 - 6.3.3 Removal of lower tree limbs to a height of 8 feet for pedestrian clearance and 14 feet for vehicular clearance on boulevards and parkways.
 - 6.3.4 General park pruning for clearance to prevent injuries and facilitate maintenance.
 - 6.3.5 Pruning for clearance around street and security lights.

- 6.3.6 Pruning by City Light Department and Metro Transit, subject to advance notice and assurance of least damage to aesthetic value.
 - 6.3.7 Pruning back for authorized passage on service roads, walkways and paths.
 - 6.3.8 Pruning for crown cleaning, crown thinning, and crown restoration.
 - 6.3.9 Pruning for public viewpoints as designated in Section 9.1.
 - 6.3.10 Requested pruning by a City of Mauldin property owner. Such requests do not obligate the Department to prune trees, shrubs, and/or vegetation. See Section 6.4.
- 6.4 **WORK ORDER REQUESTS:** Consideration will be given to requests made by a City of Mauldin property owner for pruning, and/or removal, of trees, shrubs, and vegetation on City Property including, but not limited to, open space, undeveloped landscapes, easements, and right-of-ways. Such requests will be reviewed by the Public Works Director. Overall public benefit of the proposed work will be evaluated by the Senior Urban Forester, including, but not limited to the following criteria:
- 6.4.1 The purpose for which the property was acquired by the City.
 - 6.4.2 Historical background of the property.
 - 6.4.3 Current use and function of the property.
 - 6.4.4 Proximity to overhead power lines and other utilities.
 - 6.4.5 The condition, value, type and amount of the vegetation.
 - 6.4.6 The aesthetic and biological impacts of pruning or removal on the vegetation.
 - 6.4.7 The potential for replacement with more desirable vegetation.
 - 6.4.8 The potential impacts on Department's maintenance workload.
 - 6.4.9 The potential impacts on the aesthetic quality of the surrounding area.
 - 6.4.10 The potential impacts on the symmetry of the street, boulevard, or way.
 - 6.4.11 Potential environmental impacts on soils, slope stability, water quality, native wildlife, and wind exposure.
 - 6.4.12 Consistency with the standards of Environmentally Critical Areas policies and regulations.
 - 6.4.13 Special consideration for native vegetation in undeveloped landscapes.
 - 6.4.14 Special consideration for unique varieties, vegetation of great age, rare vegetation, or vegetation of horticultural or historical significance.
 - 6.4.15 The potential increase to overall forest canopy.

6.5 **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT:** Vegetation Management Plans will be required for certain projects if they modify the existing vegetation already established on City of Mauldin property and are completed by non-City personnel. Proposed Vegetation Management Plans will be evaluated for public process and content to achieve the following performance criteria and management objectives. Not all items will be applicable for all situations.

6.5.1 Threshold Criteria

- Compliance with Departmental Policy: Does the scope of work comply with departmental policy?
- Enhancement Potential: Does the scope of work have the potential to achieve enhancement of the vegetation resource for public benefit, specifically with regards to policies presented in Section 4 concerning tree protection, tree replacement, wildlife habitat, slope stability, and partnerships. Does the scope of work have the potential to achieve management objectives listed below?

6.5.2 Performance Criteria

- Completeness: The plan must be complete, including all elements in Section 3.1.
- Adequacy of detail: The plan must show a level of detail so that exact trees and vegetation designated for work can be identified in the field with the information provided in the plan. The plan must detail what activities will happen where and in what time frame.
- No unacceptable element: The plan must not contain any element that is contrary to departmental policy, applicable laws or best management practices.
- Application process followed: The plan must demonstrate that all required steps of the planning and review process were followed thoroughly, including procedures required under the department's Public Involvement Policies and Procedures.
- Adequacy of resources to complete the project: the plan must describe what resources are required to complete the project, which are currently secured, and how other resources will be secured to meet the plan's timelines.

6.5.3 Management Objectives

- Extent of Vegetation Management: The area considered for vegetation management shall consider site conditions and the adjacent landscape makeup to avoid fragmenting the appearance and ecological function of the overall landscape.
- Phasing of Vegetation Management: For projects exceeding clearing thresholds, wholesale tree removal should be limited in area, unless public safety would be compromised to do so. Where a large number of removals are anticipated, they should be phased over several years, and/or done selectively to lessen aesthetic and wildlife

impacts. Replacement of trees and other vegetation will be done concurrently with removal work to ensure timely reestablishment of vegetative canopy.

- **Public Safety:** All trees in an area being considered for Vegetation Management will be evaluated for safety by a qualified arboricultural professional. Remedy for any unacceptable hazards will be included in the Vegetation Management Plan.
- **Soil and Water Conservation:** All proposed vegetation work will meet or exceed the specifications of Greenville County's Construction Best Management Practices Manual. In addition, the following criteria should be met. Selective clearing should be employed wherever possible to retain desirable vegetation. Phases of work should be scheduled to minimize the amount of time any area remains unvegetated. Site access should be planned on existing trails or along defined travel corridors to prevent widespread trampling and soil compaction in work areas. Mulch, geotextile fabric or other surface treatment should be utilized to ensure that no bare mineral soil is left exposed after site work is completed.
- **Historical and Design Considerations:** A Vegetation Management Plan will describe the historical context of the site, including the existence of any adopted landscape design for the area under consideration. If an adopted design does exist, the Vegetation Management Plan will adhere to the design, or the plan may need to be considered for revision. For parks that are designated as a City of Mauldin landmark or are in a landmark or special review district, the responsible party will verify that a Certificate of Approval has been obtained from the respective board or commission.
- **Habitat Improvement:** Vegetation Management Plans should improve wildlife habitat. The Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor may require involvement of a wildlife biologist in plan development.
- **Limiting Canopy Reduction:** The number and extent of work areas that lower canopy heights or reduces canopy coverage will be limited so as to avoid widespread loss of native forest structure, which typically consists of trees that achieve closed canopy in excess of 100 feet of height. Furthermore, canopy reduction areas should be located so as not to fragment existing habitat areas. Mitigation and planting will be required to match or exceed the loss of mature canopy. Exceptions to this will be made for designated public viewpoints.
- **Native Vegetation:** Native vegetation, especially conifers, are considered preferable for undeveloped landscapes. Exceptions to this may be made where disease or other environmental factors make reestablishing exclusively native vegetation problematic.
- **Control of Invasive Exotic Vegetation:** Areas that contain significant amounts of invasive exotic vegetation should be aggressively managed to reduce or eliminate these populations. Once they are controlled, competitive plantings should be established to provide defense against reinvasion.
- **Retention of Vegetation:** Recognizing the value of established trees and the cost of reestablishing vegetation, projects should retain and protect all vegetation not scheduled for removal. Exceptions to this will be made for areas excessively infested with invasive exotic species. Special consideration will be given for unique varieties,

vegetation of great age, rare vegetation, or vegetation of horticultural or historical significance.

- **Replacement of Trees:** At minimum, each tree that is removed will be replaced by planting another tree close to the original location. Tree species selection and numbers will be required to meet or exceed the loss of mature canopy proposed by the project. Where large trees are removed, the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor may require several trees to be planted to replace each tree removed. The replacement tree will be of the same species, unless cultural (e.g. promoting natural succession) or design (e.g. death was a result of poor original selection) considerations are strong indications for another species. If an adopted landscape or vegetation plan exists for the site, its recommendations for replacement species and locations will supplement the site conditions as selection criteria.
- **Replacement of Vegetation:** At a minimum, an area where vegetation has been removed will be replanted with mixture of woody and herbaceous plant species well adapted for the site conditions so as to achieve 100% projected foliar coverage within four years of planting. If an adopted landscape or vegetation plan exists for the site, plants that it specifies will be utilized if the existing site conditions are conducive to their growth.
- **Maintenance:** The landscape that ultimately results from Vegetation Management will be designed to minimize long-term maintenance requirements. A Vegetation Management Plan will identify all maintenance resources needed to establish and maintain the landscape until it achieves the intended results. Existing Departmental maintenance resources will not be impacted by Vegetation Management unless funding sufficient for the additional work is provided.

7.0 PROCEDURE FOR TREE WORK ORDER REQUEST:

The following procedures are for the City of Mauldin Work Order Requests only. The following does not include procedures for other Department permits or permits that may be required by other agencies for a project.

- 7.1 Requests by City of Mauldin residents or private property owners for the removal or pruning of trees located within or on City Property are subject to the procedures listed below. Requests by public agencies for the removal or pruning of City trees will be considered by the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor and may be subject to some or all of the procedures outlined below.
- 7.2 Obtain written comment from affected neighbors and/or property owners. Since each request will be considered on its own merit, the scope of required survey will be determined by the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor, but will, at minimum be all properties within 300 feet of the area of work. Applicants are encouraged to involve neighbors and interested citizens in all phases of the plan development to facilitate a positive outcome for the public involvement process.
- 7.3 Submit a Work Order Request to Public Works including comments from neighbors to the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor, to prune or remove any tree, shrub, and or vegetation.

7.4 Meet with the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor or designated representative on the site, after submitting the Work Order Request, to indicate which trees, shrubs and vegetation are involved, and to determine that such pruning or removal does not adversely affect the area.

7.6 **Response and Decision**

7.6.1 The Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor will review the Work Order Request and supporting materials (if necessary) and provide a response to the applicant.

7.6.2 If necessary, the applicant will provide additional information and resubmit to the Work Order Request to the Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor.

7.6.3 The Public Works Director or designated representative may accept or reject a Work Order Request.

7.6.4 A starting and completion date for each phase of work will be set by mutual agreement of the resident and Division of Parks and Grounds Supervisor.

8.0 **HAZARDOUS TREE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES**

8.1 The Department will assess and manage the risk of tree failure within the limits of available fiscal and human resources. Priority will be given to locations and situations with high probability of failure and high potential damage or injury that may result.

8.2 Visible defects that will be considered in hazard evaluation include, but will not be limited to, cracks in limbs and/or trunk, seams in limbs and/or trunk, spiral cracks in limbs and/or trunks, rib cracks, weak branch unions (V crotches), decay in limbs and/or trunk, cankers in limbs and/or trunk, deadwood, root problems, and poor tree architecture (form).

8.3 Aggravating factors in hazard evaluation will include, but not be limited to fast-growing species, sprouting from topping cuts, weak branch attachments, heavy end weight of branches, included bark, evidence of past branch/trunk failure, saturated soil, frequent irrigation, more than 30% of buttress roots decayed and/or disturbed, evidence of excessive mechanical bark damage, large dense crown, lack of basal trunk flare (poor taper), recent construction activity, willow soil, and mushrooms visible at base or in root zone. A combination of any of these factors may greatly elevate the hazard rating.

8.4 Corrective action for high hazard rated trees will be reasonable and prudent and may include:

- Moving any at-risk structures, equipment, fixtures or recreational sites
- Correction of the defect-by pruning, cabling and bracing, or tree removal
- Closure of the area