



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Master

File Number: 89254

File ID: 89254

File Type: Ordinance

Status: Council New
Business

Version: 1

Reference:

Controlling Body: Attorney's Office

File Created Date : 07/22/2025

File Name: Street Tree Protection

Final Action:

Title: Amending Sections 4.095, 10.05, 10.055, 10.08, 10.101, 23.24 and 1.08(3)(a) and Creating Section 10.105 of the Madison General Ordinances to enhance the City's street tree protection provisions and to establish a Street Tree Replacement Fund.

Notes: 6980StreetTreeProtection

Sponsors: Satya V. Rhodes-Conway And Tag Evers

Effective Date:

Attachments: 89254Body.pdf, Tree Protection
Specifications-Proposed Updates.pdf, Tree
Protection Ord Changes (7.22.25).pdf

Enactment Number:

Author: Doran Viste

Hearing Date:

Entered by: mglaeser@cityofmadison.com

Published Date:

History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Attorney's Office	07/22/2025	Referred for Introduction				
	Action Text: This Ordinance was Referred for Introduction						
	Notes: Board of Public Works (9/3/25); Plan Commission (8/11/25); Sustainable Madison Committee (8/20/25); Finance Committee (8/25/25); Common Council (9/16/25)						

Text of Legislative File 89254

Fiscal Note

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Title

Amending Sections 4.095, 10.05, 10.055, 10.08, 10.101, 23.24 and 1.08(3)(a) and Creating Section 10.105 of the Madison General Ordinances to enhance the City's street tree protection provisions and to establish a Street Tree Replacement Fund.

Body

DRAFTER'S ANALYSIS: This ordinance makes numerous changes to the City's ordinances to enhance the City's protection of its street trees.

Under the ordinance, and in combination with contemporaneous changes to the Tree

Protection Specifications of the City's Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, additional requirements will be placed on users of the public rights-of-way to identify street tree related conflicts earlier, to take precautions to protect street trees from damage, injury or removal if possible, and to require tree replacement and reestablishment where removals occur. These changes are being made to and incorporated within several permits: the right-of-way excavation permit under Section 10.05; the street occupation permit under Section 10.055; driveway permits under Section 10.08; and tree trimming, pruning and removal permits under Section 10.101. Permittees will be required to identify impacted trees at the time of application, obtain prior permission for any tree removal, and abide by the Tree Protection Specifications for any associated work. Permits may be denied if street tree impacts will occur, and permits may be revoked if street trees are damaged or removed without authority. Where street trees are removed by third parties, persons will be required to replace and reestablish street trees, which may include planting new trees or payment to the newly established Street Tree Replacement Fund, the proceeds of which will be used by the City to support the planting, establishment and protection of street trees. The goal will be to make the City whole for its loss, and provide more incentive for right-of-way users to avoid impacting street trees if possible, particularly mature, well-established trees that cannot be adequately replaced. Sec. 4.085(2)(c) is also being amended to make it clear that the costs incurred by the Urban Forestry Program that are funded by third party payments to the Street Tree Replacement Fund are not duplicative of those costs attributable to the Urban Forestry Special Charge.

This ordinance will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

Please see Legistar File No. 89254 Body in Attachments.