

CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF GAHANNA
CHAPTER 914
Tree Replacement Ordinance

914.01 PURPOSE & INTENT

The city council and residents believe trees are a vital asset to any urban environment and are critical to aesthetics, health, ecology, and cost containment. The benefits include:

- Add beauty and soften the harshness of our environment by absorbing noise, and providing shade
- Absorb carbon dioxide and provide oxygen
- Increased property values
- Aid in traffic control and provide safer walking conditions by separating pedestrians and vehicles
- Provide habitat for many species of birds, mammals and other wildlife, large and small
- Provide energy efficiencies by reducing the need for cooling and heating
- Reduce storm water run-off and erosion management costs by intercepting, storing, and using rainfall
- Provide a positive physical and emotional effect on people by connecting us to nature, reducing stress, helping us to a swifter recovery from illness, and generally restoring our spirits
- Enhance tourism

Therefore, to ensure Gahanna will maintain its beneficial environment, this Tree Replacement Ordinance has been adopted.

914.02 REPLACEMENT STANDARDS

An owner of land desiring to subdivide or develop that land, shall submit as a part of the environmental plan referred to in 1109.12 a complete account of existing trees and proposed impacts prior to any work and/or clearing being done.

- a) During the course of subdivision, development or redevelopment of any property , excepting for heavily wooded sites defined as a site which has an existing tree canopy coverage prior to development of sixty percent (60%) or greater, the developer or owner shall be required to replace trees removed or injured, as determined by the City of Gahanna Forestry Technician or designee as a result of construction pursuant to Section 914.02 in accordance with the following provisions:
- (1) Major trees having a trunk diameter of five inches and over, measured 24" above ground ~~as per International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards,~~ are to be replaced on an inch per inch basis. The replacement tree(s) trunk cumulative diameter shall equal the cumulative diameter of all the trees removed. The Forestry Technician will work with the developer to determine the appropriate replacement tree formula. For example, the technician may approve the appropriate replacement value for a 15" tree that was removed to be five 3" trees.
 - (2) Replacement trees shall have a trunk diameter of at least two inches, measured twenty-four inches above the ground level, ~~as per ISA Standards.~~

EXHIBIT A

b) Replacement Schedule for Heavily Wooded Sites. In lieu of the provisions in 914.02(a) above, the developer or owner of a heavily wooded site shall, during the course of development, be required to retain or replace major trees pursuant to Section 914.02 in accordance with the following provisions:

- (1) As recommended by the City of Gahanna Landscape Board, a minimum of forty percent (40%), of the development site shall remain under canopy coverage. At the conclusion of development and installation of landscaping, a prescribed number of large canopy trees shall have been planted or retained so as to return the development site to the percentage of canopy coverage existing prior to development. The canopy coverage shall be achieved over a thirty year period. For calculation purposes, a canopy tree will achieve a canopy spread at maturity of forty feet (40') or more in diameter – a radius of twenty feet (20") or more. The canopy coverage on one acre is equal to $43,560 \text{ sq. ft.} \div 1257 \text{ sq. ft. (average canopy)} = 35$ large canopy trees per acre.
- (2) Replacement canopy trees shall have a trunk diameter at planting of at least two inches, measured twenty-four inches above the ground level, ~~or ISA standards.~~
- (3) In the event that the developer or owner of a heavily wooded site is unable to plant the number of trees required to achieve the canopy outlined above, said developer or owner shall replace such trees in compliance with (c) below.

c) Where it is impractical or not feasible to replace all of the trees on the affected lot or within the affected subdivision, the Landscape Board, may approve one or any combination of the following alternatives as a means of meeting the tree replacement requirements:

- (1) Replace as many trees as is practical on the affected lot;
- (2) Replace as many trees as is practical within affected subdivision;
- (3) Replace as many trees as is practical within another subdivision;
- (4) For those trees that cannot be replaced through steps one through three above, the developer or owner shall be required to replace the trees elsewhere in the City approved by the City of Gahanna Forestry Technician or designee; or
- (5) Pay a fee per inch of tree in accordance with the fee schedule. The fee will be \$300 per inch for trees five inches and over.

914.99 PENALTY.

A person who is convicted of violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense, and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree upon the commission of any subsequent offenses. Each tree affected by a violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense.