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AGENDA PACKET

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 8, 2025

Table of Contents

TAC September 8, 2025 Meeting Agenda	.1
TAC June 30, 2025 Unofficial Meeting Minutes	.2
Front Yard Tree Program Tree Types	.3
TAC June 30, 2025 Meeting Notes	.4
TAC August 25, 2025 Staff Report	.5

1. TAC September 8, 2025 Meeting Agenda



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Gwinnett County Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:00pm

One Justice Square
446 West Crogan Street, 1st floor, Conference Room 106
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Determination of a Quorum (5 Members)
- 3. Announcements
 - a. Community Meeting, Monday, October 27, 2025 for the Tree Ordinance Amendment at Pinckneyville Community Center
- 4. Adoption of the Agenda
- Approval of the Minutes
 - a. June 30, 2025
- 6. Old Business
 - a. Front Yard Tree Program Update
 - b. Tree Ordinance Amendment
- 7. New Business
 - a. Amend Tree Advisory Committee Establishment Ordinance
- 8. Other Business
 - a. Staff Report
- 9. Adjournment

2. TAC June 30, 2025 Unofficial Meeting Minutes



Tree Advisory Committee Minutes Monday, June 30, 2025, at 6:00pm

One Justice Square
446 West Crogan Street, 1st floor, Conference Room 106
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Present: Hilda Estrella de Lev, Nicola McIntyre, Roxanne Raven, Steve Sappington, Thomas J.

DeAngelo, Traci Leath

Absent: Jodyann Benjamin, Patrick Carey

Staff: Rinda Grooms, James Hornbeck, Calvin Kom, Patricia Huguenard

A. Call To Order

6:00pm

B. Determination of a quorum

A quorum was present.

C. Announcements

The Chairwoman, Roxanne Raven, welcomed Traci Leath as the newly appointed member representing Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.

D. Adoption of the Agenda

{Motion to Approve: Traci Leath; Second: Steve Sappington; Vote: 5-0: Hilda Estrella de Lev-Yes, Nicola McIntyre-Yes; Roxanne Raven-Yes; Steve Sappington-Yes; Thomas DeAngelo-Yes}

E. Approval of the Minutes – May 5, 2025

{Motion to Approve: Steve Sappington; Second: Hilda Estrella de Lev; Vote: 5-0: Nicola McIntyre-Yes; Roxanne Raven-Yes; Steve Sappington-Yes; Thomas DeAngelo-Yes; Traci Leath-Yes}

F. Old Business

The Consultant, CPL Architecture, Engineering, Planning presented the key findings from the Tree Canopy Assessment Report.

- Between the years 2005 and 2023 the unincorporated areas of Gwinnett County comprised of 257 square miles experienced a gained of 2.7% tree canopy overall.
- The number one factor of gain is natural tree growth in parks and low-density residential areas combined with the span of 18 years.
- The most tree canopy loss was recorded in single-family residential development with a 38.21% decline between 2005 and 2023.
- Multifamily development experienced a 19.18% decline in tree canopy within the same period.

CPL presented the key points learned from community outreach which included community meetings, small group stakeholder groups and individual stakeholder interviews.

- Prioritize preservation of trees over replanting new trees.
- Enhance tree canopy and incentivize native trees.
- Preserve old-growth specimen trees and increase recompense penalties.
- Prioritize larger areas of more diverse groups of trees.
- Update Gwinnett County Tree Species list.
- Provide more shade in parking lots and along streets.
- Provide flexibility of adding trees to other lots if there are space restrictions.
- Provide corridors of trees through developments.
- Establish tree preservation zones.
- Preserve unimproved land.
- Incentivize redevelopment of abandoned strip malls and similar lands.
- Recommended incentive ideas included:
 - o higher Tree Density Unit credits when preserving trees
 - o reduced building permit fees to home builders for planting additional trees
 - o tax credits partnering with other County departments
 - stormwater credits
- Establish partnerships with power companies.

Next Steps:

- The Tree Ordinance Review Technical Committee meeting is July 7, 2025.
- The final community meeting will be held on July 23, 2025, at the Pickneyville Community Recreation Center from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.
- CPL will continue to work on the revised ordinance language and the Executive Summary document.

G. New Business

No new business

H. Other Business

- a. Staff Report: Orientation to the TAC took place on June 26, 2025, for Traci Leath.
- b. Front Yard Tree Program: Revised with plans to begin the program in the fall of 2025 with a soft start that would prepare the webpage asking homeowners for applications. This would establish a baseline for the price agreement.
- c. The next TAC meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025.

I. Adjournment

7:06pm

{Motion to Approve: Thomas J. DeAngelo; Second: Steve Sappington; Vote: 5-0: Hilda Estrella de Lev-Yes; Nicola McIntyre-Yes; Roxanne Raven-Yes; Thomas DeAngelo-Yes; Traci Leath-Yes}

3. Front Yard Tree Program Tree Types

Front Yard Tree Program/ Website Landing Page/ Tree Types

Choose the Right Tree for the Right Space!

When choosing a tree for your yard consider:

- Space to grow
- Room for the roots
- Where the utilities are

Small Trees: For smaller lots (10,000 square feet or less) choose a smaller tree from the

following:

Tree Name: Downy Serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea)

Height: 15-25 feet Width: 15-25 feet

Spring Flowers: White

Fall Colors: Orange/ Red

Tree Name: Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)

Height: 20-25 feet

Width: 15-20 feet

Spring Flowers: Magenta

Fall Color: Yellow

Tree Name: Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida)

Height: 15-20 feet Width: 10-15 feet

Spring Flowers: White/ Pink

Fall Colors: Yellow/ Red/ Burgundy

Tree Name: Witch Hazel (Hamamelis virginiana)

Height: 15-20 feet Width: 12-15 feet

Spring Flowers: Yellow Fall Color: Bright Yellow

Medium Trees: For lots (Approximately 10,000 square feet through 35,000 square feet) choose

from the following trees:

Tree Name: Southern Sugar Maple (Acer barbatum or floridanum)

Height: 35-40 feet Width: 25-30 feet

Fall Colors: Orange/ Red

Tree Name: Tupelo or Black Gum (Nyssa sylvatica)

Height: 40-50 feet Width: 20-25 feet

Fall Colors: Orange/ Red

Tree Name: Eastern Hophornbeam (Ostrya virginiana)

Height: 35-40 feet Width: 20-25 feet

Fall Colors: Yellow/ Golden Yellow

Tree Name: American Yellowwood (Cladrastis lutea)

Height: 30-50 feet

Width: 40-55 feet

Fall Colors: Yellow/ Orange

Tree Name: American Holly (llex opaca)

Height: 30-40 feet Width: 15-20 feet

Evergreen

Tree Name: Overcup Oak (Quercus lyrata)

Height: 40-45 feet

Width: 30-35 feet

Fall colors: Red Orange/ Reddish Brown

<u>Large Trees</u>: For lots (35,000 square feet and larger) choose from the following trees:

Common Name: Bitternut Hickory (Carya cordiformis)

Height: 65-70 feet

Width: 40-45 feet

Fall Color: Brilliant Yellow

Common Name: Southern Magnolia

Botanical Name: Magnolia grandiflora

Height: 60-80 feet

Width: 35-40 feet

Summer Flowers: White

Evergreen

Common Name: White Oak (Quercus alba)

Height: 65-80 feet

Width: 55-60 feet

Fall Colors: Yellow Orange/ Wine Red

Common Name: Shumard Oak (Quercus shumardii)

Height: 70-80 feet

Width: 50-60 feet

Fall Color: Yellow/ Red/ Orange

4. TAC June 30, 2025 Meeting Notes



GWINNETT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

446 West Crogan Street, Suite 300 | Lawrenceville, GA 30046-2440 678.518.6000 GwinnettCounty.com

Gwinnett County Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

June 30, 2025, at 6:00pm

Committee Members Present: Hilda Estrella de Lev, Nicola McIntyre, Roxanne Raven, Steve Sappington, Thomas J. DeAngelo, and Traci Leath.

Committee Members Absent: Jodyann Benjamin, Patrick Carey,

Staff Present: Rinda Grooms, James Hornbeck, Patricia Huguenard, and Calvin Kom

Announcements:

The Chairwoman, Roxanne Raven, welcomed Traci Leath as the newly appointed member representing Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.

Old Business:

The Consultant, CPL Architecture, Engineering, Planning presented the key findings from the Tree Canopy Assessment Report.

There was an overall increase of tree canopy by 2.7% between the years 2005 and 2023 in the unincorporated portions of the county. The growth of trees in open areas such as parks and low-density residential areas is thought to have contributed to this gain. The biggest decline in tree canopy was seen in new single-family residential developments with just over 38% loss. Following multifamily development with a 19.18% decline within the same period.

CPL presented the key points learned from community outreach which included community meetings, small group stakeholder groups and individual stakeholder interviews.

- Prioritize preservation of trees over replanting new trees.
- Enhance tree canopy and incentivize native trees.
- Preserve old-growth specimen trees and increase recompense penalties.
- Prioritize larger areas of more diverse groups of trees.
- Update Gwinnett County Tree Species list.
- Provide more shade in parking lots and along streets.
- Provide flexibility of adding trees to other lots if there are space restrictions.
- Provide corridors of trees through developments.
- Establish tree preservation zones.
- Preserve unimproved land.
- Incentivize redevelopment of abandoned strip malls and similar lands.
- Recommended incentive ideas included:
 - Award higher Tree Density Unit credits when preserving trees
 - reduce building permit fees to home builders for planting additional trees
 - provide tax credits partnering with other County departments
 - provide stormwater credits for amenitizing facilities

The next steps include:

• The Tree Ordinance Review Technical Committee meets on July 7, 2025.

• The final community meeting was to be held on July 23, 2025; however, staff decided to delay the last community meeting until the consultant and staff were able to provide a more final draft of the amendment at the meeting.

New Business

There was no new business.

Other Business

- a. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025, instead of September 1, 2025.
- b. The Front Yard Tree Program is moving forward. Applications from homeowners will be requested in the fall of 2025 for spring planting 2026. The inner workings of the website and software program are being built now with the help of several county departments.

Adjournment

• The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

Note: These meeting notes do not represent official meeting minutes of the TAC. They are for internal record keeping purposes only.

5. TAC August 25, 2025 Staff Report

Item No.	Topic	Status Date	Comments
1	Train New Board Members with TAC Orientation	4/3/2023 9/10/2023 1/2/2024 2/16/2024 2/26/2024 4/16/2024 6/21/2024 10/28/2024 11/4/2024 1/24/2025 6/18/2025	3/28/2023 Orientation held with Olayinka Aiyere and Bob DeRoth (D.A. Williams could not attend). 6/14/2023 emailed D.A. Williams asking days he's availble for orientation and waiting to hear back as of 6/26/2023. 6/29/2023 D.A. and Patrick are scheduled for orientation on 6/30 andf 7/5 respectively. 6/30/2023: Orientation took place with Mr. Williams. 7/7/2023: Orientation took place with Mr. Carey. 8/30/2023: Orientation took place with Mr. DeAngelo. 2/26/2024: Orientation took place with Ms. Estrella de Lev. 3/6/2024: Orientation took place with Roxanne Raven. Orientation to be set up with Olayinka Aiyere. Olayinka has indicated due to recent family obligations and outside responsibilities he will be resigning. Waiting for official letter. Orientation with Olayinka will not take place. 11/4/2024: Orientation took place with Jodyann Benjamin. 1/24/2025: Orientation took place with Nicola McIntyre. 6/18/2025: Orientation with Traci Leath scheduled for 6/26/2025.
2	Train New Board Members on Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)	4/3/2023 4/21/2023	Presentation to be re-recorded by staff prior to offering to new members. 4/21/2023 Presentation I, II and II were sent to TAC Members.
3	TAC Comments on the 2023 UDO Amendment	4/3/2023 4/14/2023	Comments from TAC Members were incorporated into UDO amendment. Amendment was sent via email to TAC Members on 4/14/2023.
4	Motion: Staff to provide opportunity for additional review and feedback regarding the 2023 UDO amendment going to BOC in June with prior TAC comments addressed	4/3/2023 7/20/2023 9/15/2023 1/2/2024	6/6/2023 Heard by PC and parts were tabled. 6/21/2023 TAC Members have opportunity to comment before August 2023 Planning Commission meeting. 7/20/202: Link to current UDO Amendment on website sent to TAC Members via email with instructions on what the color of the text signified. 9/15/2023: UDO Amendment to Tree Bank Section 630-80 1/1/2024: UDO Amendment is in effect
5	Send Bioretention Schematic and Details to Kate and sent them again to TAC Members	4/3/2023	Bioretention details sent to TAC Members on 2/13/2023. Bioretention details sent again to TAC Members 4/21/2023
6	Stormwater Management Manual requires update to plant list	4/3/2023 7/10/2023	5/15/2023 Rinda inquired with DWR. 6/6/2023 Katherine Gurd from DWR is working with Rinda and Patricia to review tree list. 7/10/2023 The plant list from Stormwater Management Manual was presented at 7/10/2023 TAC meeting. No further comments.

7	Motion: Table discussion on RFP at April meeting until all members have had a chance to review (Hilary stated either wait until their next meeting to make comments or schedule a called meeting)	4/3/2023 7/10/2023 7/24/2023 9/15/2023 1/2/2024 2/16/2024	3/31/2023 RFP sent to TAC Members for 4/3/2023 meeting. 5/9/2023 RFP sent again requesting comment by 5/31 6/9/2023 Staff received no comments to date 7/10/2023: Discussed RFP at TAC meeting. Staff received feedback 7/18/2023: Staff sent revised RFP to TAC members 7/24/2023: Staff received RFP feedback and questions from TAC members via email and will be addressed at Oct. 2nd TAC meeting. 9/15/2023: Minor updates to RFP (in yellow highlight) 1/2/2024: Revisions to final version are in process. 1/11/2024: RFP sent to Finance Department for preparation. 1/22/2024: Redlined versions of RFP were sent to TAC Members. See row #17 titled Request for Offers (RFO)
8	Susan Gamble appointed on 4/18/2023 by Commissioner Carden/ District 1. Did not attend a meeting before resigning on 5/2/2023	5/2/2023	5/16/2023 Resignation official per BOC
9	Bob DeRoth appointed on 2/7/2023 by Commissioner Holtkamp/ District 4. Attended meeting on 4/4/2023, resigned on 5/15/2023	5/15/2023	6/6/2023 Resignation official per BOC
10	A quorum = 5 members in attendence	5/15/2023	5/15/2023 TAC members were polled as to their attendence on 7/3/2023 for a quorum. 5/26/2023 Staff sent a cancellation notice for the July 3rd meeting.
11	Kate Pittman appointed by Commissioner Ku/ District 2, submitted resignation on 5/29/2023.	5/29/2023	6/20/2023 Resignation official per BOC
12	Patrick Carey appointed by Commissioner Carden/District 1	6/20/2023	Appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee
13	Thomas DeAngelo appointed by Commissioner Holtkamp/District 4	7/18/2023	Appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee
14	Hilda Estrella de Lev appointed by Commissioner Ku/ District 2	12/5/2023	Appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee
15	Thomas DeAngelo re-appointed by Commissioner Holtkamp/District 4	12/5/2023	Re-appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee
16	Patrick Kien re-appointed to represent Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful	12/5/2023	Re-appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee

17	Request for Offers (RFO) in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) to rewrite the tree ordinance sections of the UDO. Proposals reviewed. Board of Commissioners Vote.	2/16/2024 3/26/2024 4/16/2024 6/18/2024	2/14/2024: Advertisement of RFO 2/21/2024: Advertisement of RFO 2/27/2024: Pre-Preposal Meeting 3/11/2024: Kick-off Meeting 3/26/2024: Scoring Meeting 5/19/2024: Staff Recommendation Letter Due 6/4/2024: Recommendation Letter considered by BOC at Business Session. Moved to 6/18/2024. 6/18/2024: Board of Commissioners approved CPL Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architect and Surveyor D.P.C. (P.C.) as the consultant firm for the Tree Ordinance Rewrite Project.
18	Roxanne Raven appointed by Chairwoman Hendrickson	2/20/2024	Appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee as representative for Citizen at Large position
19		3/6/2024 4/16/2024 5/6/2024 10/29/2024 1/2/2025	2/23/2024: Patricia met with Trees Atlanta 3/6/2024: Subcommittee formed and comprised of Hilda Estrella de Lev and Roxanne Raven. 3/18/2024: Hilda and Roxanne met with Patricia to gather information, set up a strategy to build a foundation and distribute responsibilities. 4/16/2024: Presentation of the Front Yard Tree Program took place at the Tree Advisory Committee meeting by Roxanne Raven. 5/6/2024: Patrick Carey to meet with the Law Department's Mike Ludwiczack prior to September TAC meeting. 11/4/2024: Staff begin writing Draft RFP to request a vendor for administration, maintenance, and planting of trees for the Front Yard Tree Program. 1/2/2025: It was determined if the budget for Front Yard Tree Program is projected under \$100,00, an RFP is not required. Next steps to be determined at meeting between staff on 1/28/2025.
		1/28/2025	1/28/2025: Staff met as scheduled. It was decided to pursue the price agreement type of renewable contract rather than an RFP and to prepare a draft.
		2/14/2025	2/14/2025: Draft price agreement was prepared prior to meeting with Finance Department and discussion pursued resulting in major revisions based on the likelihood a landscape company may not have the capability to maintain a website and a GIS database. Rewriting draft in progress.

		3/14/2025	3/14/2025: Version 2 of Draft price agreement was reviewed and discussed. In order to obtain the highest success with this program, t was agreed to rewrite the agreement to: * Include four to five vendors because of the County's size. It may not be cost feasible for the vendor to drive from Lilburn to Buford to plant one tree. * Call landscape companies to find out what would make the program a success for them, what is cost feasible and to obtain ideas on how to execute program from their perspective.
	Front Yard Tree Program	3/17/2025	3/17/2025: Patricia met with Department of Planning and Development GIS team.
		4/1/2025	4/1/2025: Internal P&D Team met with Department of Communications to discuss setting-up and maintaining a website to get the word out about the Front Yard Tree Program and for for homeowners to apply and send pictures. Next Meeting with Finance Department scheduled for 4/29/2025
		6/4/2025	4/292025: Internal P&D team met with Finance Department to review 3rd draft of price agreement. Suggestions were made to have two line item costs rather than one. Cost per gallon and rate per hour. A map of the unincorporated areas of the County divided into four areas for vendors was presented and discussion resulted as to how the vendors will provide service to the different areas. 6/4/2025: Internal P&D team met with Finance and reviewed. Finance asked if there has been a survey or any numbers collected towards interest in the program. There has not been a survey. Based on that question it was decided to change course and get the weboage, application process and case creation in place and launch in October 2025 if possible. In this way P&D staff and Finance will know how many requests we will have and the location of the trees. At which point we can advertise the price agreement to vendors. Next Steps: Patricia to meet with Information Technology Services and the Accela teams for case creation and smart form operation on webpage.
		8/25/2025	Patricia continues to coordinate and meet with GIS and IT teams to build the application that will launch from the website's landing page. 8/6/2025: Documents were sent to the Law Department and comments were received, revisions made. 8/15/2025: Landing Page, Tree Types, and Homeowner Agreement and Release documents were sent to Communications for review. 8/21/2025: Testing began on the Application Phase that has been built by the GIS and IT Teams. 9/8/2025: Present Application Phase Process to the Tree Advisory Committee.
20	Jodyann Benjamin appointed by Commissioner Watkins III/ District 3	9/17/2024	Appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee

21		10/28/2024	10/2/2024: Collaboration with Planning and Development, CPL, and Department of Communications to work on building project webpage. 10/19/2024: Public event at Alexander Park. Gathered public feedback, ideas and opinions on trees within their community. Provided flyers with QR code link to questionnaire about trees within Gwinnett. 11/4/2024: CPL and InterDev to present project's progress and findings to TAC
21		11/4/2024	Chirag Date with CPL summarized the activities from the October 19, 2024, Community Block Party at Alexander Park and presented the public's comments regarding their thoughts on removal of trees, protection of trees, and how trees benefit them and their communities. The feedback will be utilized in development phase of the rewrite. Major take aways include: Balancing preservation of trees with new developments Prioritize native species Stricter rules for tree removal if alive and healthy Safety of people ranked higher in priority over removal of trees The attendees were generally very happy that County was doing this activity to engage the community and gather feedback. Tunan Hu with InterDev summarized the tree canopy assessment progress to date for unincorporated portions of the County.
		2/3/2025	2/3/2025: Rebecca Keefer and Chirag Date with CPL summarized progress to date on the project. The online tree survey concluded on 1/31/2025 and very preliminary statistics were presented at the TAC meeting. Further data assimilation must take place by CPL to compile the written comments by the survey participants. Tree Canopy assessment is 50% complete and is headed for completion in March.
	Rewrite Tree Ordinance sections of the UDO	2/12/2025	2/12/2025: CPL provided the project management team with the completed reseach documents (Document Benefits Research, Benchmarking and Best Practices, Infill and Redevelopment Strategies) and are under review. Ongoing are the small group stakeholder meetings concluding at end of February. A community event is taking place open to the public on 2/26/2025.
		4/25/2025	Tree Ordinance Community Event to be held on 4/30/2025 at OneStop Centerville at 3025 Bethany Curch Rd. 3/31/2025: Small Group Stakeholder interviews complete 4/1/2025: Individual Stakeholder interviews begin 4/11/2025: The data collection phase of the tree canopy assessment is complete. The data is being analyzed by InterDev and CPL, with report to follow. On 5/1/2025 the individual stakeholder interviews will conclude 5/1/2025: Initial phase of amendment writing begins

		6/12/2025	6/9/2025: The first portion of the tree ordinance amendment was sent from CPL and is under review by the project management team. 7/7/2025: The Tree Ordinance Review Technical Committee is reconvening on July 7th to discuss and provide comments on first portion of amendment. 7/23/2025: The final Tree Ordinance Community Event is at the Pickneyville Park Community Recreation Center, located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Berkeley Lake, 30096 on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 from 6:00 to 7:30pm.
		8/25/2025	Final Community event was rescheduled to October 27, 2025 at the Pickneyville Park Community Recreation Center located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Berkeley Lake, 30096. 8/8/2025: First draft of tree species list sent to PM with preliminary comments sent back to CPL on 8/22/2025 to be addressed. Second draft expected back mid-September and will be shared with TAC for review. 8/19/2025: Parts 1 and 2, version 3 comments were sent back to CPL to be addressed. Fourth Tree Ordinance Review Technical Committee meeting set for 9/16/2025. Part 3, Version 1 expected back to PM 9/2/2025.
20	Nicola McIntyre, Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Member volunteered to serve on the TAC	11/20/2024	Voted unanimously by the DAC members to serve on the Tree Advisory Committee to fill the vacant position previously filled by D.A. Williams.
21	Thomas DeAngelo, Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) Member volunteered to serve on the Development Advisory Committee (DAC).	2/3/2025	Voted unanimously by the TAC members to serve on the Development Advisory Committee to fill the vacant position previously filled by Carol Hassell.
22	Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful found a person to fill Patrick Kien's position on the TAC	3/27/2025	Patrick Kien will be bringing Traci Leath as a guest to the May 5, 2025, TAC meeting. Ms. Leath will be represented on the next available BOC agenda to fill the vacant position of Patrick Kien as of 5/5/2025.
23	Traci Leath appointed by the Board of Commissioners to serve as the Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Member.	6/17/2025	Appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee
	1		