# **Jacksonville Tree Commission**

# TASK FORCE ON URBAN TREE PLANTING BEST PRACTICES February 20, 2025 11:00am - 2:00pm Ed Ball Building, 10th Floor, Conference Room 5 and Zoom Webinar

All agenda materials will be available at <u>https://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/public-</u> works/tree-commission by Thursday, February 13, 2025 under the meeting link (Task Force Urban Tree Planting Best Practices Meeting Notice\* February 20, 2025 11:00am - 2:00pm)

### **Task Force Members:**

Susan Fraser, Tree Commission Member, Chair Nina Sickler Tree Commission Member, Vice-Chair Curtis Hart, Tree Commission Member William Burke, Tree Commission Member

### Non-Member attendees:

Jeff Lucovsky, PDDS Jonathan Johnston, Parks Guy Parola, DIA Nancy Powell, Scenic Jax Lisa Grubba, Greenscape Valerie Feinberg, Fuse Fellow, UFMP

#### **Advisors:**

Jonathan Colburn, Urban Forestry Manager Justin Gearhart, City Arborist Shannon MacGillis, Office of General Council

#### Staff:

Joe Rainey, Executive Assistant

# **AGENDA**

Order of Agenda is Subject to Change

- 1. Call to Order Chair
- 2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum Chair Submittal of Speaker's cards
- 3. Public Comment: (up to 3 minutes, allotted at discretion of Chair)
- 4. Submittal of Speaker's Cards Chair
  - **a.** A raised hand icon will be acknowledged by the Chair.
  - **b.** For those attending in person, paper speakers' cards will be available.

## 5. Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2025 Task Force Meeting

- **a.** Policy Position Discussion
  - i. Plant for longevity and ultimate size.
  - ii. Natural Solutions First, constraints' mitigation second.
  - iii. Preserve soil structure.

## 6. Existing Standards Review Presentations (materials/summaries under meeting link)

- **a.** ANSI A300 Susan Fraser
- **b.** JEA Underground Utilities Joe Anderson
- **c.** Minimum Planting Area Detail Susan Fraser
- **d.** Silva Cell Details JTA Busway on Park Street
- e. Vertical Constraints Jonathan Colburn
- f. Existing Tree Fund Projects' Irrigation Approach Jonathan Colburn

## 7. Downtown Investment Authority

- a. Examples of Utility Conflicts Downtown Guy Parola
- b. Design Guidebook Guy Parola

## 8. The Good, Bad and Ugly

## 9. Development of Constrained Planting Environment Standards

- **a.** Overview "Bringing Order to the Technical Dysfunction within the Urban Forest", Journal of Arboriculture Volume 18, issue 2, March 1992
- **b.** Application of Approach and Matrix to Jacksonville
  - i. Matrix
  - ii. Mitigation by Degree of Urbanization
  - iii. Outline of Needed Specifications and Details
  - iv. Application Requirements Level 2 and 3 Checklists

## **10. Expand Approved Tree Planting List to Include:**

- i. Planting Zone
- ii. Mature Height and Spread
- iii. Root Characteristics (invasive?)
- iv. Suitability as a street tree adjacent to pedestrians
- v. Suitability as street tree without pedestrian adjacency
- vi. Maintenance Score
- vii. Wind Resistance
- viii. Water requirements minimum and Optimum
- ix. soil volume required
- x. Lifespan
- xi. Crown shape

# 13. Meeting Dates for March - May 2025

March 20th 11am -2pm

April 17th 11am -2pm

May 14th 11am -2pm

## ADJOURNMENT

## Summary and Excerpts from American National Standards Institute A300 Standards, December 2023 Tree Care Standards for trees, shrubs, palms and other woody landscape plants

**ANSI A300** is the tree care industry standard of care in the USA. It was developed by Tree Care Industry Association and is maintained by consensus of various industry stakeholders through periodically reviewing and updating the guidelines. The standard is divided into ten parts, of which Part 5 – Management of Trees on Construction Sites is the most relevant to the work of the Task Force under Task 1.

Other standards in A300 are summarized below for use by the Task Force on other Tasks under its Charge Memo.

- Section 4.1 Inspections
  - 4.1.2 *Location of Utilities*
  - 4.2.1 Visual Inspection to identify conditions that would affect the scope of work

Section 4.4 <u>Work Specifications</u> (= Maintenance Plan) Develop before proposing or commencing any tree care operation.

Section 4.5 <u>Work Practices</u>

Describes how tree care shall be performed; identifies testing, licensing and training requirements

- Section 4.7 <u>Monitoring and Maintenance</u>
  - 4.7.1 *Identifies monitoring intervals*
  - 4.7.2 Maintenance requirements are made to the Client.
  - 4.7.3 *Provides that scheduling maintenance shall be the responsibility of the Client.*

## Part 5. Management of Trees on Construction Sites

- Section 5.3 <u>Pruning Objectives</u>
  - Manage Risk
  - Manage Health
  - Provide Clearance
  - Manage Size or Shape
  - Improve Aesthetics
  - Manage Wildlife habitat

## Section 6. Soil Assessment

Provides that samples shall be representative of the site and shall address:

- Surface Drainage
- Soil Profile
- Soil Drainage (infiltration and percolation)
- Depth to water table
- Soil Texture

- Bulk Density ( wight of dried soil per unit of volume a measure of soil compaction
- Salts
- Nutrients
- Soil pH
- Organic matter content
- Section 6.4 Soil Management Objectives
  - 6.4.1 Assess to Improve Tree Health or Avoid Future Problems (7 of 9 listed /relevant):
    - Manage soil organic matter content
    - Mitigate soil compaction
    - Correct nutrient deficiencies
    - Moderate soil temps
    - Improve soil structure
    - Manage soil moisture content
    - Manage soil biology
  - 6.7.2 Soil Amendment
    - 6.7.2.1 If soil organic matter is outside the desirable range, treatment recommended based on soil analysis results.
  - 6.7.3 Soil Tilling
    - 6.7.3.3 Pneumatic tilling should be preferred methos to mitigate compacted soil within the root zone of plants.
- Section 6.8 <u>Fertilization Practices</u>
- Section 6.9 Drainage Practices

Treatment to mitigate may include:

- Reduce soil compaction
- Application of organic mulch
- Deep cultivation of impervious layers
- Grade changes
- Swales, ditches, drainpipes
- 6.9.3 When it is not practical to mitigate, species tolerant of wet soils should be selected,
- 6.9.4 When improvement is not practical, planting on soil mounds or berms should be preferred.
- 6.9.5 Install drainage system to prevent water accumulating behind retaining walls.
- 6.9.6 Require sufficient slope to achieve drainage desired.
- 6.9.7 Mitigation of Impenetrable Soil Layers (how to).
- 6.9.9 Mitigation/ Adjustment of Subsurface Drainage (specifications).
- Section 6.10 <u>Monitoring and Maintenance</u>
  - Establishes inspections schedule
  - Establishes monitoring intervals within the warranty period
  - Establishes monitoring intervals post- warranty

## **C6-Annex A. Soil Management Specifications**

Guidance/ outline / how to draft work specifications.

## C6- Annex B. Site Soil Sampling Guidelines

B-6 Sampling Guidelines Specific to pH

## Section 9. Management During Site Development & Construction

## 9.2.1 *Objectives (pertinent)*

- Minimize conflicts between trees and new infrastructure
- Minimize damage to trees and soil

## Section 9.4 <u>Planning Phase</u>

9.4.1 During pre-planning, tree protection standards are established.

## Section 10. Planting – Transplant Standards

10.4.3 Written Specs for planting should include:

## Installation Requirements

- Planting hole dimensions (shape, width/dia., depth)
- Backfill material
- Initial watering required
- Mulch type, depth and area
- Support System
- 10.4.4.1 Plant Acceptance Criteria (excerpt)
  - Root collar visibility
  - Rootball moisture requirement
  - Presence of existing or potential stem girdling roots
  - Other issues impacting survival potential
- 10.6.3 Post Planting Maintenance
  - Soil Moisture Management
  - Protection from mechanical injury, animals, competing vegetation, other.
  - Integrated Pest Management
  - Pruning
  - Maintenance / removal of tree
  - Support systems and trunk protection

ANSI A300 includes sample specifications.

## Filing an Application for Planting in an Urban Environment

Apply Organizing Characteristics based on the condition of the planting environment (area within the root zone of all planted trees) at time of planting. Multiple conclusions may apply based on location within a project boundary.

## Soil Disturbance

## **Potential Mitigation Strategies**

a. Limit construction area: establish limits of grading outside of all root zones of planted and retained trees.
b. Limit all access (including laydown areas, delivery, storage, debris collection, etc.) to area outside of all root zones of planted and retained trees.

## **Potential Mitigation Strategies**

a. Use of pervious pavers with limited compacted subbase.

- Impervious Area
  - Less than 15% 15% to 50% 50% to 70% 70% to 90% Greater than 90%

Grading has occurred

Compaction has occurred

Apply Mitigation Strategies based on Urban Score(s) – See Matrix. Multiple Urban Scores may apply; strategies may differ within a project boundary.

## Soil Quantity Goal:

Provide enough soil of suitable quality to support the tree mass proposed.

Required soil volume (see Soil Volume Strategies for details):

| Small Tree:  | 300 cubic feet**   | Min vertical volume: 100 sf *  |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Medium Tree: | 1,200 cubic feet** | Min. vertical volume: 400 sf * |
| Large Tree:  | 1,800 cubic feet** | Min vertical volume: 600 sf*   |

\*\*Minimum depth of 3 feet.\*Minimum distance to trunk at planting is 5 feet

- 1. Identify compliance with minimum planting areas above based on tree size.
- 2. Demonstrate compliance with application of mitigation : S1, S2, S3, S4 or S5

### **Drainage Goal:**

### Drainage adequate to obtain root growth in the soil.

- 1. Demonstrate compliance with application of mitigation: D1.1, D1.2, D1.3, D2, D3.1, or D 3.2.
- 2. Provide detail of final grade and slope from trunk for all tree planting areas with impervious area of greater than 50% of the minimum surface area. What is desired standard to insure adequate access to water ?

## **Aeration Goal:**

Provide sufficient air to the root zone to address effectiveness of the available soil.

1. Demonstrate compliance with application of mitigation: A1, A2, A3.1, A3.2, or A4

## **Contributing Factors** <u>Provide Additional Assessment as indicated.</u>

<u>Soil Texture</u>- Very sandy, silty or clayey soils require recommendations of a soil scientist. Require ID of soils present to determine need for report/ consultation.

- 1. Identify existing soils on site from USDA Websoilsurvey (WSS). Identify soil type for each area of urban planting.
- 2. If imported soil/topsoil is proposed, provide soil analysis for soil within each area of urban planting.
- 3. If soils have been disturbed by prior development or other activity, provide Phase 1 Environmental Report of history of the site and, as indicated, soil samples for urban planting areas may be required.

Submit soil report prepared by a licensed Soil Scientist to identify specific recommendations.

<u>Soil Profile</u>- Unusual soil profiles require special details (hardpan, shallow rock, underground structures).

- 1. Identify location of underground utilities within all planting areas (depth, horizontal location and type). Standard location can be assumed if located within a City right of way unless non-standard location is identified by utility provider.
- 2. If underground utilities are located within an urban planting area, identify the volume of the planting area encumbered by utilities. Compensate for lost volume in area provided for each urban tree planting area when utilities encumber greater than 10% of the required soil volume.

<u>Site History</u>- Age of buildings and site work affects the likelihood of disrupted soil structure. Prior to 1940, site work resulted in less impact to the soil based on the way land was developed. Sites that have had several changes in configuration (grades or structures) may require more site modifications than indicated.

1. Assume compacted soils when planting area is located within any development site or right of way (only parks to be excluded). Assumption can be rebutted with bulk density testing within proposed planting areas.

<u>Maintenance</u> – Recommendations all assume some minimal maintenance is available on a long term basis. This includes regular pruning, watering during initial grow-in periods, and some ongoing insect and disease control. Less maintenance will require more sire modification to grow similarly sized trees. More, particularly irrigation and fertilizer, will allow for slightly less site modification.

- 1. Provide a post planting, warranty period maintenance plan. Projects constructed under City Tree Mitigation Contract are assumed to meet minimum maintenance requirements for the warranty period.
- 2. Provide an enforceable maintenance agreement for post warranty maintenance. City maintained projects shall be subject to adopted standards for post warranty maintenance that are in compliance with terms of a non-city maintenance agreement.



SHEET NO.



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Vertical constraints for planted trees with medium and large ultimate stature:

The origin, path, and extent of growth of the above-ground portion of a planted tree should be compatible with above ground utilities, other trees, traffic sight lines, buildings, and other features of the vertically-engineered environment. Trees originating from soil volumes next to vertical constraints must grow at an angle, and the resulting canopy encroaches upon those vertical constraints more than trees growing in centralized medians. This path can be corrected with early-life-stage maintenance pruning in small diameter branch wood, releasing the tree to gain height and spread at the most available sunlight gap.

The effect of proactive maintenance cuts on young planted trees is not singular; 1.) *Cost savings* - factoring in the entire workflow of travel time associated with reactive pruning, heavier equipment needs, debris yardage and associated dump fees, pruning a 1" diameter branch is much cheaper than pruning a 4" diameter branch, which is much cheaper than removing the same branch decades later when it is 15" diameter. Proactively pruning several trees immediately adjacent to each other amplifies these cost savings. Along with the cost savings, 2.) *Better tree health and structure* - small pruning wounds compartmentalize faster and permit a much smaller decay column to penetrate vertically into the middle of the adjacent branch or trunk. 3.) *The accrual of efficiency* - Young trees have few constraints on where the main leader can be directed to, thus heading off the compounding negative effects of pruning later on. 4.) *Mental wellness* – Trees that are well cared for convey a sense of pride. This is mental state is not only above the neutral state of feeling ambivalent, but is twice the gain over the experience of living next to trees subjected to multiple low limb removals and little or no ANSI A300-standard maintenance.

In some cases, it is more cost effective to not maintain a planted tree – trees in natural areas, and trees in expansive medians such as this one below:



There is, however, a very small list of trees that grow in urban spaces that are more confined without some assistance from pruning; Italian cypress (Cupressus sempervirens), Liquidambar styraciflue 'Slender Silhouette' sweetgum, and pine anchor the list. The next most excurrent trees such as tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) almost always require at least some pruning to keep them away from adjacent structures and other trees. Seedling southern live oak are not among this group – they are decurrent trees that will spread into available space, and cast low branches that die in shade when ensconced between other trees or buildings. Southern live oak cultivars with acute junctions ('Highrise' and 'Cathedral') as well as some elm species also require some encroachment pruning, but they accrue structural issues (bark stuck in the acute-angled branch unions inhibits the attachment of the branches to each other) similar to those present in Bradford pear. With wood that is much more dense and a larger ultimate stature, southern live oak cultivars become liabilities over time. The lifelong structural, health, and aesthetic drawbacks of these cultivars outweigh the fascination with them at the project design and installation phases. Most of us want to see more than a handful of excurrent cultivars and species in our urban surroundings, and we are available to consider cost-effective measures that lead to better outcomes for newly planted trees.

The standard for planted trees with more vertical constraints could include some or all of the following:

### Design phase:

a. Note the planned ultimate size of the tree, including DBH and crown spread.
b. Note the presence of buildings or other vertically engineered structures adjacent to planting site: none, 1-2 stories, >2 stories high.

c. Note presence of overhead utilities and traffic infrastructure.

d. Note whether proposed planting is centered in a median in the middle of the street between structures, at a corner between the street and a structure, or in a planting bed between the street and a structure.

e. Note conflicts between proposed ultimate size of tree and vertical constraints.

 f. Include a maintenance plan for a natural pruning system to develop and maintain:

 A tree with a dominant trunk and well-spaced scaffold branches with diameters subordinated to an aspect ratio of 3:2 (dominant:scaffold) or less (e.g. 2:1, 3:1) with respect to the dominant trunk.

ii. A pruning frequency that enables pruning to be reduction cuts in 2-4" diameter branch wood.

iii. Clearance achieved by directional pruning with respect to pedestrians (8'), vehicles (18' for scaffold limbs, 14' for small branches, dimensions as specified by Traffic and Engineering for lines of sight), buildings (minimum of 4'), and other trees.

### Procurement and Installation phase:

As described elsewhere.

### Maintenance phase:

a. Maintain according to specifications (appended) for trees with vertical constraints:

- 1. Young trees planted in the last 5 years
- 2. Young trees planted in the last 10-15 years
- 3. Trees planted more than 15 years ago

#### SECTION 144 LANDSCAPING Excerpts regarding irrigation

#### GENERAL

#### MATERIALS

#### Sections 144.22 – 144.24

**<u>PORTABLE WATER BAG</u>**: UV treated polyethylene "Ooze Tube" 35 gallon portable water bag, chocolate brown color, from Engineered Watering Solutions (<u>www.engineeredwatering.com</u>, Atlanta, GA. Kit includes wood stake and water emitters.

**TEMPORARY IRRIGATION SYSTEM:** A run of PVC pipe and emitters with a water connection constructed to deliver water from a water truck or fire hydrant to a cluster of plants. Piping may be laid on the soil surface or buried in the soil. Remove the temporary water system at the end of the maintenance period.

#### **WATER**

- A. Provide water of suitable quality for healthy plant growth.
- B. The contractor shall pay for the cost of irrigation water used during construction, through the Initial Acceptance of the landscaping, during the plant establishment period, and until Final Acceptance. The cost of irrigation water shall be included in the unit price of each plant.

#### **EXECUTION**

#### Section 144.39

#### WATERING AFTER INSTALLATION

- A. General: Water soil sufficiently to keep plant roots moist, but not saturated, to prevent wilting, and to keep plants healthy. (The Agriculture Extension Service recommends watering daily for at least one month after installation during the growing season when there is no rain or 2 to 3 times a week during the winter and rainy weather). Following rainfall, delay watering until all free moisture has drained from the soil.
- B. After initial watering, provide water to trees and palms using water bags and/or a temporary irrigation system that will provide to each tree or palm during each watering the volume of water shown in the *Table 2* below. Water other plants with a temporary irrigation system or, if approved by the Contract Manager, use the existing irrigation system.
- C. If water bags are used to water trees and palms, place water bag around the trunk and fill with 35 gallons of water with each watering in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Install 4 emitters to provide a slow water drip over one week. Fill water bags once a week during the first 6 weeks after installation and thereafter at a frequency necessary to keep plants in healthy condition.
- D. If a temporary irrigation system is used, connect the system to a water truck or other water source and pump water until the specified volume of water in the tables 2 and 3 below is delivered to each plant through emitters. Apply at a rate that will allow the water to soak into the root ball without runoff.
- E. Maintain each temporary or permanent irrigation system and each water bag in working condition throughout the installation and maintenance period and until Final Acceptance. Immediately repair or replace each water bag or temporary irrigation system component that is missing or malfunctioning.
- F. Apply the volume of water shown in Table 2 and 3 each time plants are watered, unless water bags are used. Schedule watering frequency necessary to keep plants in healthy condition, with no wilting.

| Table 2                   | WATER VOLUM               | E FOR NEW TREES & PALMS           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Single Trunk Tree Caliper | Multi-trunked Tree<br>Ht. | Min. Water Volume Per Application |
| 2" Cal.                   | 8-10'                     | 4 Gal.                            |
| 3" Cal.                   | 10-12'                    | 6 Gal.                            |
| 4" Cal                    | 12-14'                    | 8 Gal.                            |
| 5" Cal.                   | 14-16'                    | 10 Gal.                           |
| 6" Cal.                   | -                         | 12 Gal.                           |
| Each Palm                 | -                         | 12 Gal.                           |

| TABLE 3    | WATER VOLUME FOR NEW SHRUBS &<br>GROUNDCOVERS |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Plant Size | *Min. Water Volume Per Application            |  |
| 1 Gallon   | 1 quart                                       |  |
| 3 Gallon   | 2 quarts                                      |  |
| 7 Gallon   | 1 gal.  |  |

\*If shrubs and groundcovers are located within a multiple plant bed, apply  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of water throughout the plant bed during each watering in lieu of watering each individual plant.

G. If a permanent automatic irrigation system is located within new turfgrass areas or multiple plant beds, the Contractor may seek the approval of the Contract Manager to use the existing irrigation system and to delete a temporary irrigation system and hand watering, provided that such request is made before beginning planting work. If the Contract Manager determines that there is sufficient capacity to provide the specified water volume to the area and approves the Contractor's use of the existing irrigation system, the City will modify the irrigation system to provide uniform water distribution throughout the turf area or plant bed before planting work begins.






































































# BRINGING ORDER TO THE TECHNICAL DYSFUNCTION WITHIN THE URBAN FOREST<sup>1</sup>

#### by James Urban

In order to increase the success rate of trees planted in the urban environment, there must be a significant change in the way trees are planted. The wide diversity in soil conditions found within urban areas suggests that there should be modifications to planting details from one site to another. The profession of urban forestry and landscape architecture, however, continue to use the same planting details regardless of the quality of the existing soil. Further, no protocol exists to guide the decision making process to determine when to use different methodologies.

This paper will present the framework for such a methodology and a series of possible changes to the way trees should be planted. The methodology is based on quantifiable levels of urbanization and soil quality, and proposes a logical approach to the design of planting details.

A major impasse to the development of a healthy urban forest is the technical dysfunction within the professions of urban forestry and landscape architecture with respect to the details of planting trees. The average professional knows little about how a tree actually grows. They are not skilled in the mechanics and dynamics of soil, roots and water and they are not aware of the impact these dynamics have on performance. Current planting practices are designed for the most benign sites; where soil is generally suitable to support root growth, is well drained, and is available in large quantities. Unfortunately, the urban forest is a continuum of soil conditions which range from these good sites to sites that have little or no drainage and where the soil is of such inferior quality and structure that it will not allow root penetration or function.

Urban forestry practices have largely relied on tree selection or "the right tree in the right place" as the primary method to overcome more difficult sites. Current research suggests that many urban sites are so severe that no species will reliably work. Modification of the site soil and drainage capability is often the only solution to successful growing of trees. On better sites, modification of the planting area could be used to broaden the number of species that will be predictably successful.

Predictability and success are the key words. When a professional forester or landscape architect is relied upon to specify a tree planting, the person investing in the cost of the tree should have some reasonable assurance that the tree will grow to meet some predetermined level of success. It is one of our profession's obligations to either ensure that the site is made suitable for the trees' growth potential or to define for our clients how much growth they should expect out of a given tree in a given site.

Site modification, however, is expensive and requires specific solutions for each problem. Currently, there are few guidelines or standards to assist in the designing of site modification procedures. Practitioners who attempt to propose new planting details are often viewed as extravagant and individual designers often come up with widely varying solutions to similar problems. The following protocol is proposed to begin to set standards for site modification and the design of planting sites. It is designed as a guide to help predetermine how much site modification is necessary to successfully grow large trees. The protocol is based on the principle that soil is the primary factor influencing tree growth in urban areas. It is necessary for a tree to have access to sufficient rooting space in order to grow properly. Since both soil quality and soil guantity are critical to the equation, a methodology is proposed to accommodate each factor.

<sup>1.</sup> Presented at the annual conference of the International Society of Arboriculture in Philadelphia in August 1991.

#### **Site Modification Protocol**

Step one - *Determining Soil Quality*. Soil quality is primarily a function of how much the soil has been graded or disturbed and how much the soil has been compacted. Each site (or portion of the site) should be evaluated to predict what the conditionof the soil will be after construction is completed. While soil quality is a continuum, the protocol will establish four classifications of soil quality as follows: 1) not graded and not compacted, 2) not graded but compacted, 3) graded but not compacted, 4) graded and compacted (Figure 1).

Definitions. The term *graded* is defined as a soil that has had its 'A' horizon disturbed, removed and not replaced or a soil that has had its 'A' and 'B' horizon moved from one location to another. The term *compacted* is defined as a soil that has been compressed to a bulk density which prohibits root growth (greater than 1.6 gr/cm). it is very difficult to predict how much the construction process will compact soil. Worse case assumptions should be used.

Step two- Determining Level of Urbanization. The second soil factor affecting tree growth is the quantity of soil available to the tree. This protocol chooses to measure urbanization or the aggregate of total development on a site, as an effective measuring gauge of the amount of soil "likely" to be available. Urbanization actually affects two important elements. One, the amount of soil left as available to the tree, and two, the amount of resources available per tree to modify the planting site. The higher the intensity of use of a site, the more money that may be spent on tree planting. Urbanization, like soil disturbance, is a continuum. For the purpose of this protocol, levels of urbanization will be defined based on the % of impervious surface remaining after construction, as follows: 1) less that 15%, 2) 15% - 50%, 3) 50% - 75%, 4) 75% - 90%, 5) 90% or greater (Figure 2).

Step three - Find the Sites Minimum Design Criteria. Soil disturbance and urbanization are put on the axis of the Minimum Design Criteria Matrix (Figures 3 & 4). In each of the resulting 20 positions are recommendations for minimum design criteria to be used when preparing planting details. The recommendations are made for the three critical design elements that affect tree growth. These are soil modification, drainage modification and aeration modification. The recommendations are made using a numerical code which is referenced in the following sections. By using these criteria, minimum details can be developed. Not all situations, however, will match these criteria. If conditions exist which suggest that a different criterion would be more appropriate, then it may be substituted provided that the designer understands the impact on the tree of this change.

#### **Soil Modification Procedures**

The following list describes optional methods of soil modification that can be included into planting



### SOIL QUALITY

Figure 1

# URBANIZATION % IMPERVIOUS SURFACE

15% OR 15%-50% 50%-75% 75%-90% 90%OR LESS GREATER

### Figure 2

details. They are ranked from the least to the most complex of procedures. Providing enough soil, of suitable quality to support the tree mass proposed in a given location must be accounted for in the earliest phases of the project. (The codes refer to Figure 4.)

- **S1.** Dig the planting hole 60 cm (24 in) larger in diameter than the diameter of the root ball. Back fill with the unamended soil excavated from the hole
- **S2.** Dig the planting hole 180 cm (6 ft) larger in diameter than the diameter of the root ball.

#### MINIMUM DESIGN CRITERIA MATRIX

#### GUIDE



Back fill with the unamended soil excavated from the hole.

test

1.1.1

- S3. Dig the planting hole 180 cm (6 ft) larger in diameter than the diameter of the root ball. Excavate the remaining areas of soil in planters and lawn to a depth of 20 cm (8"). Till the resulting subgrade with the first 10-15 cm (4-6 in) of planting soil mix.
- S4. Excavate all areas available for planting and lawn to a depth of 75 cm (2.5 ft ). Till the resulting subgrade with the first 10-15 cm (4-6 in) of planting soil mix. Calculate the quantity of planting soil mix to determine that the volume of soil per tree being provided is sufficient to grow the tree specified (Figure 5). Modify the design to allow for adequate soil volume.
- **S5.** Perform the requirements of Step S4. Design additional subsurface soil volumes below the adjacent paving as required to provide all adequate soil volume (Figure 5). Interconnect these soil volumes whenever possible.

#### Definitions:

- Planting soil mix. A sandy loam comprised of a majority of medium to coarse sands. This soil should have a percolation rate when fully compacted of at least 2 inches per hour.
- Soil volume. All soil that is available to the roots of the tree that is of suitable quality for root

# MINIMUM DESIGN CRITERIA MATRIX

| URBANIZATION<br>% IMPERVIOUS SURFACE |                       |  | 15% OR<br>LESS |     | 15%-50% |     | 50%-75% |     | 75%-90%    |     | 90%OR<br>GREATER |         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|------------|-----|------------------|---------|
|                                      |                       |  |                |     |         |     |         |     |            |     |                  | . Attal |
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| IL Q                                 | NOT GRADED<br>BUT     | 111111   | 2              | D 1 | 5       | D 1 | 9       | D2  | 13         | D2  | 17               | D3      |
| SO                                   | COMPACTED             |  | S 1            | Al  | s 2     | A 1 | S2      | A2  | <b>S</b> 3 | A 2 | s 4              | AЗ      |
|                                      | GRADED<br>BUT NOT     | W Man Mar Tank   | 4              | D1  | 8       | D2  | 12      | D2  | 16         | D3  | 19               | D3      |
|                                      | COMPACTED             |  | S 1            | A1  | S 2     | A2  | S 3     | A2  | s 3        | A2  | S 5              | A4      |
|                                      | GRADED<br>AND         |  | 7              | D2  | 11      | D2  | 15      | D2  | 18         | D3  | 20               | D3      |
|                                      | COMPACTED             |  | s2             | A2  | S3      | A2  | S 4     | A2  | S4         | АЗ  | S5               | А4      |

### Figure 4

growth (well drained, not compacted, and possessing adequate pore space). The maximum depth for this calculation is normally 75 cm (2.5 ft).

### **Drainage Modification Procedures**

The following list describes optional methods of drainage modification that can be included in planting details. They are ranked from the least to the most complex of procedures. Adequate drainage is required to obtain root growth in the soil. Soil modification without attention to drainage can lead to saturated soils that will not support tree growth. (The codes refer to Figure 4.)

D1.1. Percolation of existing soil 5 cm (2 inches) per

hour or greater. Provide positive surface drainage, minimum of 2%.

- **D1.2.** Percolation of existing soil 2.5-5 cm (1-2 inches) per hour. Increase surface slopes in planting areas to 10% away from the tree.
- **D1.3.** Percolation of existing soil less than 2.5 cm (1 inch) per hour. Mound planting soil in the area of the tree at 20% so that the root ball is entirely above the existinggrade and/or add subsurface drain lines around the tree and loosen the soil to a depth of 30 cm (12 in).
- D2. Unpredictable percolation. Move existing water away from the site by providing subsurface drain lines within the planting area and/or provide a drain sump pit at each tree. Perform a percola-



Figure 5. The data on this chart represent a synthesis of several studies attempting to establish the relationship between tree growth and soil volume. See citations 7,8,9,13.

tion test at each tree. Apply criteria of D1.1 - D1.3 above.

- **D3.1**. Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect from tree to tree.
- **D3.2.** Trees within existing paving, perform a percolation test. If the percolation of the existing soil is 2.5 cm (1 in) per hour or greater, install drainage sump with subsurface drain line ring around the tree. If the percolation of the existing soil is less than 2.5 cm per hour, **do not plant** the tree unless drainage can be improved.

#### Definitions

- Percolation test. Dig a hole 15 to 25 cm (6 10 inches) in diameter and 25 cm deep, fill the hole with water and allow it to drain. Refill the hole with water and measure the rate of water percolation out of the hole.
- Drainage sump. A hole 20 to 30 cm (8 12 inches) in diameter by at least 1 m (3 ft) deep measured from the bottom of the planting hole. Insert a 10 cm (4 inches) diameter perforated pipe which extends up to grade and backfill with coarse gravel. Drainage sumps are only effective if they reach a pervious layer.

### **Aeration Modification Procedures**

The following list describes optional methods of aeration modification that can be included in

planting details. They are ranked from the least to the most complex of procedures. The ability of soils to conduct air to the root zone is critical. Where soil volumes are restricted, new details, which allow more air to get deeper into the soil, will greatly increase the effectiveness of the available soil. (The codes refer to Figure 4.)

- A1. Provide for periodic aeration and/or mulching of the ground within the dripline of the tree.
- A2. Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces, i.e., foundations, curbs, etc.
- **A3.1**. With existing paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting area.
- **A3.2**. With new paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting areas and under paved areas. Install coarse gravel subbase under all paved areas. Install open joint unit pavers where applicable.
- A4. Install watering tubes within the gravel subbase plus provide A3 requirements.

#### Definitions

- Aeration sheets. Three dimensional drainage cores covered on both sides with a geotextile fabric. The sheets should be 30 to 45 cm (1 -1.5 ft) wide and be placed in a vertical position in order to be effective. Aeration sheets are currently made by: American Enka Co., Enka, NC (Enka Drain # 9228); American Wick Drain Corp., Matthews, NC (Akwa Drain 112) and Mirafi Corp., Charlotte, NC (Miradrain 4000).
- Watering tubes. Five cm (2 in) diameter perforated tubes that conduct water from a surface source into the gravel under the paving.

#### **Other Determinants That Affect Tree Growth**

There are a number of other factors that affect planting detail design but are not easily accounted for in this protocol. Each of these will have to be considered by the designer and appropriate modifications to the recommendations must be considered.

- Soil Texture. Extremes of very sandy, silty or clayey soils are not accounted for in this protocol. When these soils are encountered, follow the recommendations of a soil scientist.
- Soil Profile. Unusual soil profiles such as fragipans, hardpans, shallow rock formations or under-

ground structures will require special details.

- Site History. The age of the buildings and site work can have a significant impact on the opportunities for root growth. Sites developed prior to 1940 may require less site modification to grow successful trees due to the differences in the way land was developed. Sites that have had several changes in the configuration of buildings and grades may require more site modifications than may be indicated by the protocol. Each layer of change introduces disruption to the soil structure that is often hard to determine by visual site inspection.
- Project Maintenance. These recommendations assume that some minimum maintenance will be available on a long term basis. This would include regular pruning, watering during the initial transplant period, and some ongoing insect and disease control. Less maintenance will require more site modification to grow similarly sized trees while more maintenance, particularly irrigation and fertilization, will allow for slightly less site modification.

#### Conclusions

The state of urban forestry must continue to evolve if successful urban forests are to be grown and maintained. New partnerships and institutions will have to be forged and new standards will have to be set. Much of the technical information we currently rely on will have to be set aside in favor of new ideas that will be based on research and documented experience. The protocol for tree planting detail design outlined above is only one small step in this process.

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## Bringing Order to the Technical Dysfunction within the Urban Forest James Urban ISA Annual Conference, 1991

Current planning practices are designed for the most benign sites; where soil is generally suitable to support root growth, is well drained, and is available in large quantities.

Unfortunately, the urban forest is a continuum of soil conditions which range from these good sites to sites that have little or no drainage and where soil is of such inferior quality and structure that it will not allow root penetration or function.

Urban forestry practices have largely relied on tree selection or the "right tree in the right place" as the primary method to overcome more difficult sites.

Current research (1991) suggests that many urban sites are so severe that no species will reliably work.

*Modification of the site soil and drainage* is often the only solution to successful growing of trees.

On better sites, *modification of the planting area* could be used to broaden the number of species that will be predictably successful.

When a professional forester or landscape architect is relied upon to specify a tree planting, the person investing in the cost of the tree should have some reasonable assurance that the tree will grow to meet some predetermined level of success.

GUIDE TO HELP PREDETERMINE HOW MUCH SITE MODIFICATION IS NECESSARY TO SUCCESSFULLY GROW LARGE TREES.

### Perform a conditions assessment (after construction is completed, or if infill, current conditions):

| Soil Quality       | Not Graded and Not Compacted   |
|--------------------|--|
|                    | Not Graded But Compacted   |
|                    | Graded but Not Compacted   |
|                    | Graded and Compacted   |
| Graded             | topsoil removed or disturbed and relocated on site                                     |
| Compacted          | compressed to a bulk density that prohibits root growth (worst case should be assumed) |
| Impervious Surface | less than 15% impervious   |
|                    | 15% - 50 % impervious  |
|                    | 50% - 75% impervious   |
|                    | 75% - 90 % impervious  |
|                    | over 90% impervious  |
| Degree of Urban    | percent of impervious surface remaining within mature canopy (dripline)                |

# Identify the Minimum Design Criteria:

Soil Quantity Goal : provide enough soil, of suitable quality to support the tree mass proposed in a given location.

| <u>Matrix Standards</u> : | S1         | Dig the planting hole 24 inches larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Backfill with unamended soil excavated from the hole.  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|                           | S2         | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball dimeter. Backfill with unamended soil excavated from the hole.  |  |  |  |  |
|                           | S3         | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Excavate the remaining area of soil in planters and lawn to a depth of 8 inches. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of planting soil mix.  |  |  |  |  |
|                           | S4         | Excavate all areas available for planting and lawn to a depth of 2.5 feet. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of planting soil mix.   |  |  |  |  |
|                           |            | Calculate the quantity of planting soil mix to determine that the volume of soil per tree being provided is sufficient to grow the tree specified.   |  |  |  |  |
|                           |            | Modify the design to allow for adequate soil volume.   |  |  |  |  |
|                           | S5         | Perform the requirements of Step S4. Design additional subsurface soil volumes below the adjacent paving as required to provide all adequate soil volume. Interconnect these soil volumes when possible.                                   |  |  |  |  |
| Plan                      | ting Soil  | a sandy loam comprised of a majority of medium to coarse sands. This soil should have a percolation rate when fully compacted of at least 2 inches per hour  |  |  |  |  |
| Soil                      | Volume     | all soil that is available to the roots of the tree that is of suitable quality for root growth (well drained,<br>not compacted, possessing adequate pore space). Maximum depth for this area is normally 2.5 feet.                        |  |  |  |  |
| Drainage Goal:            | Drainage a | adequate to obtain root growth in the soil.  |  |  |  |  |
| Matrix Standards:         | D1.1       | Percolation of existing soil 2 inches / hour or greater. Positive surface drainage, min. 2%.   |  |  |  |  |
|                           | D1.2       | Percolation of existing soil 1- 2 inches / hour or greater. Increase positive surface drainage in planting areas to 10% away from the tree (mounding)  |  |  |  |  |
|                           | D1.3       | Percolation of existing soil less than 1 inch/ hour or greater. Mound planting soil in area at least 20% so rootball is entirely above existing grade OR add subsurface drain lines around tree and loosen soil to a depth of 12 inches.   |  |  |  |  |
|                           | D2         | Unpredictable percolation. Move existing water away from the site by providing subsurface drain lines within planting area and/ OR provide a drain sump pit at each tree. Perform perc test at each tree; apply D1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 criteria. |  |  |  |  |
|                           | D3.1       | Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect from tree to tree.   |  |  |  |  |

|                      | D3.2            | Trees within existing paving, perform a perc test. If the perc of existing soil is 1 inch/hour or greater, install drainage sump with subsurface drain line in ring around tree.  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--|
|                      |                 | If perc is less than 1 inch/hour, do not plant trees unless drainage is improved.   |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Perc test       | Dig a hole 6-10 in in diameter and 10 in deep; fill with water and allow to drain. Refill with water; measure the rate of water percolation out of the hole.  |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Drainage sump   | A hole 8-12 inches dia by min. 3 foot depth*, measured from the bottom of the planting hole. Install a 4' perforated pipe extending to grade ; backfill with coarse gravel.*Depth must reach pervious layer.  |  |  |  |  |
| Aeration Goa         | al: Provide     | sufficient air to the root zone to address effectiveness of the available soil.   |  |  |  |  |
| <u>Matrix Standa</u> | <u>rds</u> : A1 | Provide for periodic aeration and/or mulching of the ground within the dripline of the tree.  |  |  |  |  |
|                      | A2              | Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces (foundations and curbs)   |  |  |  |  |
|                      | A3.1            | Within existing paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting area.   |  |  |  |  |
|                      | A3.2            | With new paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting areas and under paved areas.   |  |  |  |  |
|                      |                 | Install coarse gravel subbase under all paved areas. Install open joint unit pavers were applicable   |  |  |  |  |
|                      |                 | / specified to achieve minimum pervious planting area.  |  |  |  |  |
|                      | A4              | Install watering tubes within the gravel subbase plus meet A3 requirements.   |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Aeration sheet  | Three dimensional drainage cores covered on both sides with geotex fabric. Sheets to be 1-1.5 feet wide, placed vertically.   |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Watering tube   | 2 inch dia perforated tubes that conduct water from a surface source to the gravel under the paving.  |  |  |  |  |
| Contributing         | Factors:        | Address as required:  |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Soil Text       | ure Very sandy, silty or clayey soils require recommendations of a soil scientist. Require ID of soils present to determine need for report/ consultation.  |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Soil Prof       | le Unusual soil profiles require special details (hardpan, shallow rock, underground structures).   |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Site Hist       | Age of buildings and site work affects the likelihood of disrupted soil structure. Prior to 1940, site work   |  |  |  |  |
|                      |                 | resulted in less impact to the soil based on the way land was developed. Sites that have had several  |  |  |  |  |
|                      |                 | changes in configuration (grades and/or structures) may require more site modifications than indicated.   |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Mainten         | ance Recommendations all assume some minimum maintenance is available on a long term basis. This  |  |  |  |  |
|                      |                 | includes regular pruning, watering during initial grow-in period, and some ongoing insect and disease control. Less maintenance will require more site modification to grow similarly sized trees. More, particularly, irrigation and fertilizer, will allow for slightly less site modification. |  |  |  |  |
|                      |                 | particularly, inigation and reculizer, will allow for signify less site mounication.  |  |  |  |  |

# Minumum Design Criteria Matrix

| _       | % Imper    | rvious |    | or Less<br>rvious |    | -50%<br>rvious | 50%-<br>Imper | 70%<br>vious |    | - 90%<br>rvious |    | <sup>r</sup> More<br>rvious |
|---------|------------|--------|----|-------------------|----|----------------|---------------|--------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------------------------|
|         | Not Graded | AND    | 1  | D1                | 3  | D1             | 6             | D1           | 10 | D2              | 14 | D2                          |
|         | Not Compac | ted    | S1 | A1                | S1 | A1             | S2            | A1           | S2 | A2              | S3 | A2                          |
| ₽       | Not Graded | BUT    | 2  | D1                | 5  | D1             | 9             | D2           | 13 | D2              | 17 | D3                          |
| Quality | Compacted  |        | S1 | A1                | S2 | A1             | S2            | A2           | S3 | A2              | S4 | A3                          |
| Soil Q  | Graded     | BUT    | 4  | D1                | 8  | D2             | 12            | D2           | 16 | D3              | 19 | D3                          |
| S       | Not Compac | ted    | S1 | A1                | S2 | A2             | S3            | A2           | S3 | A2              | S5 | A4                          |
|         | Graded     | AND    | 7  | D2                | 11 | D2             | 15            | D2           | 18 | D3              | 20 | D3                          |
|         | Compacted  |        | S2 | A2                | S3 | A2             | S4            | A2           | S4 | A3              | S5 | A4                          |

source: Bringing Order to the Technical Dysfunction within the Urban Forest, Urban, 1991

|               | M                | litigation by Degree of Urbanization - Unconstrained to Highly Constrained  |
|---------------|------------------|---|
|               |                  | 1 - Not Graded and Not Compacted / 15% or Less Impervious   |
|               |                  | 2 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 15% or Less Impervious   |
|               |                  | 13 - Not Graded and Not Compacted / 15% - 50% Impervious  |
| σ             |                  | 4 - Graded and Not Compacted / 15% or Less Impervious   |
| Unconstrained | S1               | Dig the planting hole 24 inches larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Backfill with unamended soil excavated from the hole.                           |
| nstr          | D1.1             | Percolation of existing soil 2 inches / hour or greater. Positive surface drainage, min. 2%.  |
| co            |                  | Percolation of existing soil 1-2 inches / hour or greater. Increase positive surface drainage in  |
| ň             |                  | planting areas to 10% away from the tree (mounding)   |
|               | D1.3             | Percolation of existing soil less than 1 inch/ hour or greater. Mound planting soil in area at least 20%  |
|               |                  | so rootball is entirely above existing grade OR add subsurface drain lines around tree and loosen   |
|               | A1               | soil to a depth of 12 inches.<br>Provide for periodic aeration and/or mulching of the ground within the dripline of the tree.                                   |
|               |                  | Provide for periodic aeration and/or mulching of the ground within the dripline of the tree.  |
|               | Constraint Level | 15 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 15% - 50% Impervious  |
|               | Constraint Level | 6 - Not Graded and not Compacted / 50% - 70% Impervious   |
|               | S2               | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball dimeter. Backfill with unamended   |
|               |                  | soil excavated from the hole.   |
| n 1           |                  | Percolation of existing soil 2 inches / hour or greater. Positive surface drainage, min. 2%.  |
| Urban 1       | D1.2             | Percolation of existing soil 1-2 inches / hour or greater. Increase positive surface drainage in  |
| 5             | D1.3             | planting areas to 10% away from the tree (mounding)<br>Percolation of existing soil less than 1 inch/ hour or greater. Mound planting soil in area at least 20% |
|               | 01.5             | so rootball is entirely above existing grade OR add subsurface drain lines around tree and loosen   |
|               |                  | soil to a depth of 12 inches.   |
|               | A1               | Provide for periodic aeration and/or mulching of the ground within the dripline of the tree.  |
|               | Constraint Level | 17 - Graded and Compacted / 15% or Less Impervious  |
|               | Constraint Level | 8 - Graded BUT Not Compacted / 15% - 50% Impervious   |
|               | Constraint Level | 9 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 50% - 70% Impervious   |
| 7             | Constraint Level | 10 - Not Graded and Not Compacted / 70% - 90% Impervious  |
| Urban 2       | S2               | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball dimeter. Backfill with unamended   |
| nrt<br>U      |                  | soil excavated from the hole.   |
|               | D2               | Unpredictable percolation. Move existing water away from the site by providing subsurface drain lines   |
|               |                  | within planting area and/ OR provide a drain sump pit at each tree. Perform perc test at each tree; apply D1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 criteria.                            |
|               | A2               | Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces (foundations and curbs)   |
|               |                  |   |

|         | I                      | Mitigation by Degree of Urbanization - Unconstrained to Highly Constrained   |
|---------|------------------------|--|
|         | Constraint Leve        | el 11 - Graded and Compacted / 15% - 50% Impervious  |
|         | <b>Constraint Leve</b> | el 12- Graded BUT Not Compacted / 50% - 70% Impervious   |
|         | Constraint Leve        | el 13 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 70% - 90% Impervious  |
|         | Constraint Leve        | el 14- Not Graded and Not Compacted / 90% or More Impervious   |
| Urban 3 | \$3                    | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Excavate the remaining area of soil in planters and lawn to a depth of 8 inches. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of a law in the second secon |
| C       | D2                     | planting soil mix.<br>Unpredictable percolation. Move existing water away from the site by providing subsurface drain lines<br>within planting area and/ OR provide a drain sump pit at each tree. Perform perc test at each tree;   |
|         | A2                     | apply D1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 criteria.<br>Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces (foundations and curbs)  |
|         | Constraint Leve        | el 15 - Graded and Compacted / 50% - 70% Impervious  |
|         | S4                     | Excavate all areas available for planting and lawn to a depth of 2.5 feet. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of planting soil mix.   |
| Urban 4 |                        | Calculate the quantity of planting soil mix to determine that the volume of soil per tree being provided is sufficient to grow the tree specified.   |
| Ū.      | D2                     | Modify the design to allow for adequate soil volume.<br>Unpredictable percolation. Move existing water away from the site by providing subsurface drain lines<br>within planting area and/ OR provide a drain sump pit at each tree. Perform perc test at each tree;<br>apply D1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 criteria.   |
|         | A2                     | Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces (foundations and curbs)  |
|         |                        |  |
|         | Constraint Leve<br>S3  | <b>I 16 - Graded BUT Not Compacted / 70% - 90% Impervious</b><br>Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Excavate the remaining area  |
| 10      |                        | of soil in planters and lawn to a depth of 8 inches. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of planting soil mix.   |
| Urban 5 | D3.1                   | Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect from tree to tree.   |
| ر       | D3.2                   | Trees within existing paving, perform a perc test. If the perc of existing soil is 1 inch/hour or greater,<br>install drainage sump with subsurface drain line in ring around tree.<br>If perc is less than 1 inch/hour, do not plant trees unless drainage is improved.   |
|         | A2                     | Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces (foundations and curbs)  |
|         |                        |  |

|         | -   | inigation by Degree of orbanization - Onconstrained to highly constrained   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|         | Constraint Leve   | l 17 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 90% or More Impervious  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | 53  | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Excavate the remaining area of soil in planters and lawn to a depth of 8 inches. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of planting soil mix. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| an 6    | D3.1  | Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect from tree to tree.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Urban 6 | D3.2  | Trees within existing paving, perform a perc test. If the perc of existing soil is 1 inch/hour or greater, install drainage sump with subsurface drain line in ring around tree.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | 42.1  | If perc is less than 1 inch/hour, do not plant trees unless drainage is improved.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | A3.1<br>A3.2  | Within existing paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting area.<br>With new paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting areas and under paved areas.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | A3.2  | Install coarse gravel subbase under all paved areas. Install open joint unit pavers were applicable<br>/ specified to achieve minimum pervious planting area.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | 1   | y specified to achieve minimum pervious planting area.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | Constraint Level 18 - Graded and Compacted / 70% - 90% Impervious |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | S4  | Excavate all areas available for planting and lawn to a depth of 2.5 feet. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of planting soil mix.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         |   | Calculate the quantity of planting soil mix to determine that the volume of soil per tree being provided is sufficient to grow the tree specified.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ~       | 53.4  | Modify the design to allow for adequate soil volume.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| an      | D3.1  | Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect<br>from tree to tree.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Urban 7 | D3.2  | Trees within existing paving, perform a perc test. If the perc of existing soil is 1 inch/hour or greater,  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ∍       |   | install drainage sump with subsurface drain line in ring around tree.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         |   | If perc is less than 1 inch/hour, do not plant trees unless drainage is improved.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | A3.1  | Within existing paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting area.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | A3.2  | With new paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting areas and under paved areas.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|         | 11  | Install coarse gravel subbase under all paved areas. Install open joint unit pavers were applicable   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Mitigation by Degree of Urbanization - Unconstrained to Highly Constrained

### Mitigation by Degree of Urbanization - Unconstrained to Highly Constrained

|         | Constraint Leve | el 19 - Graded BUT Not Compacted / 90% or More Impervious  |
|---------|-----------------|--|
| Urban 8 | Constraint Leve | el 20 - Graded and Compacted / 90% or More Impervious  |
|         | S5              | Perform the requirements of Step S4. Design additional subsurface soil volumes below the adjacent          |
|         |                 | paving as required to provide all adequate soil volume. Interconnect these soil volumes when possible.     |
|         | D3.1            | Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect        |
|         |                 | from tree to tree.   |
|         | D3.2            | Trees within existing paving, perform a perc test. If the perc of existing soil is 1 inch/hour or greater, |
|         |                 | install drainage sump with subsurface drain line in ring around tree.                                      |
|         |                 | If perc is less than 1 inch/hour, do not plant trees unless drainage is improved.                          |
|         | A4              | Install watering tubes within the gravel subbase plus meet A3 requirements.                                |

Source: Bringing Order to the Technical Dysfunction within the Urban Forest, J. Urban , ISA Annual Conference 1991

Gradedtopsoil removed or disturbed and relocated on siteCompactedcompressed to a bulk density that prohibits root growth (worst case should be assumed)

# Surface Mitigation by Degree of Urbanization - Unconstrained to Highly Constrained

|               | Constru<br>Constru  | aint Leve<br>aint Leve | el 1 - Not Graded and Not Compacted / 15% or Less Impervious<br>el 2 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 15% or Less Impervious<br>el 3 - Not Graded and Not Compacted / 15% - 50% Impervious  | ID                    |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
|               | Constru             |                        | el 4 - Graded and Compacted / 15% or Less Impervious  |                       |
| Unconstrained |                     | <b>S1</b>              | Dig the planting hole 24 inches larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Backfill with unamended soil excavated from the hole.   | Provide Cross Sectio  |
| ıstr          | tion                | D1.1                   | Percolation of existing soil 2 inches / hour or greater. Positive surface drainage, min. 2%.  | Require Perc Test. P  |
| ICOL          | itiga               | D1.2                   | Percolation of existing soil 1-2 inches / hour or greater. Increase positive surface drainage in  |                       |
| 'n            | assigned mitigation | -                      | planting areas to 10% away from the tree (mounding)   |                       |
|               | igne                | D1.3                   | Percolation of existing soil less than 1 inch/ hour or greater. Mound planting soil in area at least 20%  |                       |
|               | ass                 |                        | so rootball is entirely above existing grade OR add subsurface drain lines around tree and loosen soil to a depth of 12 inches.   |                       |
|               |                     | A1                     | Provide for periodic aeration and/or mulching of the ground within the dripline of the tree.  | Provide written spec  |
|               | 11                  | 71                     | rovide for periodic delation ana/or malening of the ground within the driphice of the free.   |                       |
|               | Constru             | aint Leve              | el 5 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 15% - 50% Impervious  | ID                    |
|               | Constru             | aint Leve              | el 6 - Not Graded and not Compacted / 50% - 70% Impervious  | שו                    |
|               |                     | S2                     | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Backfill with unamended soil excavated from the hole.  | Provide Cross Sectio  |
| 1             | ion                 | D1.1                   | Percolation of existing soil 2 inches / hour or greater. Positive surface drainage, min. 2%.  | Require Perc Test. P  |
| Urban 1       | igat                | D1.2                   | Percolation of existing soil 1-2 inches / hour or greater. Increase positive surface drainage in  |                       |
| 'n            | 1 mit               |                        | planting areas to 10% away from the tree (mounding)   |                       |
|               | assigned mitigation | D1.3                   | Percolation of existing soil less than 1 inch/ hour or greater. Mound planting soil in area at least 20%  |                       |
|               | assi                |                        | so rootball is entirely above existing grade OR add subsurface drain lines around tree and loosen soil to a depth of 12 inches.   | Detail for subsurface |
|               |                     | A1                     | Provide for periodic aeration and/or mulching of the ground within the dripline of the tree.  | Provide spec (interv  |
|               | Constru<br>Constru  | aint Leve<br>aint Leve | el 7 - Graded and Compacted / 15% or Less Impervious<br>el 8 - Graded BUT Not Compacted / 15% - 50% Impervious<br>el 9 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 50% - 70% Impervious<br>el 10 - Not Graded and Not Compacted / 70% - 90% Impervious | ID                    |
| an 2          | uo                  | <b>S2</b>              | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Backfill with unamended  | Provide Cross Sectio  |
| Urban         | assigned mitigation |                        | soil excavated from the hole.   |                       |
| -             | miti                | D2                     | Unpredictable percolation. Move existing water away from the site by providing subsurface drain lines   |                       |
|               | ned                 |                        | within planting area and/ OR provide a drain sump pit at each tree. Perform perc test at each tree;   |                       |
|               | issig               | 4.7                    | apply D1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 criteria.  |                       |
|               | o I                 | A2                     | Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces (foundations and curbs)   | Provide specs and de  |

# ID Inspection Schedule

tion detail.

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ID Inspection Schedule

tion detail.

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ID Inspection Schedule

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detail.

# Surface Mitigation by Degree of Urbanization - Unconstrained to Highly Constrained

|         |                     |           | el 11 - Graded and Compacted / 15% - 50% Impervious   |                        |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|---|------------------------|
|         | Constra             | aint Leve | el 12- Graded BUT Not Compacted / 50% - 70% Impervious  | ID                     |
|         |                     |           | el 13 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 70% - 90% Impervious   |                        |
|         | Constru             | aint Leve |   |                        |
| 13      | 5                   | <i>S3</i> | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Excavate the remaining area                                | Provide Cross Section  |
| Urban   | assigned mitigation |           | of soil in planters and lawn to a depth of 8 inches. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of<br>planting soil mix.     |                        |
|         | d mi                | D2        | Unpredictable percolation. Move existing water away from the site by providing subsurface drain lines                                   | Always situation; pro  |
|         | ıssigne             |           | within planting area and/ OR provide a drain sump pit at each tree. Perform perc test at each tree;<br>apply D1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 criteria. |                        |
|         | 5                   | A2        | Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces (foundations and curbs)   | Provide detail and w   |
|         |                     |           |   |                        |
|         | Constr              | aint Leve | el 15 - Graded and Compacted / 50% - 70% Impervious   | ID                     |
|         |                     | <b>S4</b> | Excavate all areas available for planting and lawn to a depth of 2.5 feet. Till the resulting subgrade with                             |                        |
|         | 6                   |           | the first 4-6 inches of planting soil mix.  |                        |
| 4       | assigned mitigation |           | Calculate the quantity of planting soil mix to determine that the volume of soil per tree being   | Establish volume sta   |
| Urban 4 | nitig               |           | provided is sufficient to grow the tree specified.  |                        |
| л<br>Ч  | m pa                | D2        | Modify the design to allow for adequate soil volume.  | Alt, provide detail fo |
|         | igne                |           | Unpredictable percolation. Move existing water away from the site by providing subsurface drain lines                                   |                        |
|         | ass                 |           | within planting area and/ OR provide a drain sump pit at each tree. Perform perc test at each tree;                                     |                        |
|         |                     | 42        | apply D1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 criteria.  | Ducuida datail and u   |
|         | I                   | A2        | Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces (foundations and curbs)   | Provide detail and w   |
|         | Constr              | aint Lova | el 16 - Graded BUT Not Compacted / 70% - 90% Impervious   | ID                     |
|         | Constr              | S3        | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Excavate the remaining area                                | Provide Cross Section  |
|         |                     | 55        | of soil in planters and lawn to a depth of 8 inches. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of                           |                        |
|         | ио                  |           | planting soil mix.  |                        |
| n 5     | nitigation          | D3.1      | Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect                                     | Provide detail and w   |
| rban    |                     |           | from tree to tree.  |                        |
| Ŋ       | issigned            | D3.2      | Trees within existing paving, perform a perc test. If the perc of existing soil is 1 inch/hour or greater,                              | Require perc test. P   |
|         | ssig                |           | install drainage sump with subsurface drain line in ring around tree.   |                        |
|         | ä                   |           | If perc is less than 1 inch/hour, do not plant trees unless drainage is improved.   |                        |
|         |                     | A2        | Provide aeration sheets along accessible surfaces (foundations and curbs)   | Provide detail and w   |
|         |                     |           |   |                        |

## ID Inspection Schedule

tion detail. Provide written spec.

provide detail for subsurface drain lines.

l written spec.

ID Inspection Schedule

standards for small, med and large trees.

for mitigation (silva cell/ structural soil.

written spec.

*ID Inspection Schedule* tion detail. Provide written spec.

l written spec.

Provide detial for sump and drain line.

l written spec.

# Surface Mitigation by Degree of Urbanization - Unconstrained to Highly Constrained

| Const                           | traint Leve       | el 17 - Not Graded BUT Compacted / 90% or More Impervious  | ID                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|
|                                 | <b>S</b> 3        | Dig the planting hole 6 feet larger in diameter than the root ball diameter. Excavate the remaining area   | Provide Cross Sectio       |
|                                 |                   | of soil in planters and lawn to a depth of 8 inches. Till the resulting subgrade with the first 4-6 inches of  |                            |
|                                 |                   | planting soil mix.   |                            |
| и                               | D3.1              | Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect  | Provide detail and w       |
| <b>rban 6</b><br>mitigation     |                   | from tree to tree.   |                            |
| Urban<br>ed mitiga              | D3.2              | Trees within existing paving, perform a perc test. If the perc of existing soil is 1 inch/hour or greater,   | Require perc test. P       |
| <b>U</b>                        |                   | install drainage sump with subsurface drain line in ring around tree.  |                            |
| <b>U</b><br>assigned            |                   | If perc is less than 1 inch/hour, do not plant trees unless drainage is improved.  |                            |
| as                              | A3.1              | Within existing paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting area.  | Provide detail and w       |
|                                 | A3.2              | With new paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting areas and under paved areas.  | Provide detail and w       |
|                                 |                   | Install coarse gravel subbase under all paved areas. Install open joint unit pavers were applicable  | Provide detail and w       |
|                                 |                   | / specified to achieve minimum pervious planting area.   | Alt, provide detail fo     |
|                                 |                   | 119 Craded and Compared (70% 00% Importions  |                            |
| Const                           | traint Leve<br>S4 | e <b>l 18 - Graded and Compacted / 70% - 90% Impervious</b><br>Excavate all areas available for planting and lawn to a depth of 2.5 feet. Till the resulting subgrade with                       | ID<br>Provide Cross Sectio |
|                                 | 54                | the first 4-6 inches of planting soil mix.   | Provide cross sectio       |
|                                 |                   |  |                            |
|                                 |                   | Calculate the quantity of planting soil mix to determine that the volume of soil per tree being provided is sufficient to grow the tree specified.   |                            |
|                                 |                   |  |                            |
| tion                            | D2 1              | Modify the design to allow for adequate soil volume.   | Drovido dotoil ond w       |
| Urban 7<br>assigned mitigation  | D3.1              | Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect  | Provide detail and w       |
| Urban<br>ed mitiga              | 6 60              | from tree to tree.   | Doquire perotect           |
| nea                             | D3.2              | Trees within existing paving, perform a perc test. If the perc of existing soil is 1 inch/hour or greater,   | Require perc test. P       |
| issig                           |                   | install drainage sump with subsurface drain line in ring around tree.  |                            |
|                                 | A 2 1             | If perc is less than 1 inch/hour, do not plant trees unless drainage is improved.<br>Within existing paying, provide coration shoets within the planting area.                                   | Provide detail and w       |
|                                 | A3.1              | Within existing paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting area.  |                            |
|                                 | A3.2              | With new paving, provide aeration sheets within the planting areas and under paved areas.<br>Install coarse gravel subbase under all paved areas. Install open joint unit pavers were applicable | Provide detail and w       |
|                                 |                   |  | Provide detail and w       |
| I                               |                   | / specified to achieve minimum pervious planting area.   | Alt, provide detail fo     |
| Const                           | traint Leve       | el 19 - Graded BUT Not Compacted / 90% or More Impervious  | 10                         |
| Const                           | traint Leve       | el 20 - Graded and Compacted / 90% or More Impervious  | ID                         |
|                                 | S5                | Perform the requirements of Step S4. Design additional subsurface soil volumes below the adjacent  | Provide Cross Sectio       |
| on 🗴                            |                   | paving as required to provide all adequate soil volume. Interconnect these soil volumes when possible.   | Provide detail for mi      |
| gati                            | D3.1              | Trees within new paving, provide subsurface drain lines to remove water from the site which connect  | Provide detail and w       |
| <b>Urban</b><br><i>mitigati</i> |                   | from tree to tree.   |                            |
| Urban 8<br>assigned mitigation  | D3.2              | Trees within existing paving, perform a perc test. If the perc of existing soil is 1 inch/hour or greater,   | Require perc test. P       |
| sign                            |                   | install drainage sump with subsurface drain line in ring around tree.  |                            |
| as                              |                   | If perc is less than 1 inch/hour, do not plant trees unless drainage is improved.  |                            |
|                                 | A4                | Install watering tubes within the gravel subbase plus meet A3 requirements.  | Provide detail and w       |

Source: Bringing Order to the Technical Dysfunction within the Urban Forest, J. Urban, ISA Annual Conference 1991

### ID Inspection Schedule

tion detail. Provide written spec.

l written spec.

Provide detail for sump and drain line.

l written spec.

l written spec.

l written spec.

I for mitigation (silva cell/ structural soil.

### ID Inspection Schedule

tion detail. Provide written spec.

l written spec.

Provide detail for sump and drain line.

l written spec.

l written spec.

l written spec.

I for mitigation (silva cell/ structural soil.

# **ID Inspection Schedule**

tion detail. Provide written spec. mitigation (silva cell/ structural soil. l written spec.

Provide detail for sump and drain line.

l written spec.

\* When is soil amendment/ supplement/ replacement req'd?