

10 Guiding Principles for Successful Ordinances

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1. **Purposeful and objective**- the ordinance should clearly state *why* it is adopted, *what* its intended purpose is, and objectively *how* it intends to accomplish its purpose. There should be no hidden or inappropriate agenda, for example, the ordinance should not take the place of growth management policy.
2. **Flexibility** – The ordinance should be flexible, recognizing the complicated biology of trees and the difficult realities of building construction and land development.
3. **Innovative and creative** – The ordinance should be written recognizing the complicated conflicts, which exist in tree preservation and building construction, allowing for creative solutions to accomplishing its purpose and objectives.
4. **Proactive** – The ordinance and its resulting permitting process should be developed in a way that will initiate planning for tree protection very early in the building and construction planning process. Efforts should be made to increase community awareness and individual responsibility towards the ordinance's purpose.
5. **Science base** – Standards, provisions and implementation of the ordinance should be based on the best available science and nationally accepted urban forestry and arboricultural standards.
6. **Realistic** – The ordinance should be realistic and doable, recognizing the biological limitation of trees, the realities of building construction, and the rights of landownership. This principle should involve cost-benefit analysis and ecological considerations, creative solutions, and stewardship responsibilities.
7. **Service oriented** – Implementation of the ordinance should be service oriented, with a positive approach towards helping citizens accomplish its purpose and objectives.
8. **Integrative** – Implementation of the ordinance should be integrated throughout all local departments influencing development and building construction in the city.
9. **Inclusive** – The development of the ordinance and all of its provisions should be inclusive of the interests of all of the citizens.
10. **Professional** – Development and implementation of the ordinance should be delivered with clear, objective professionalism.