

# Is Your Neighborhood MISSING TREES?

You, or your neighbors, could be owed trees that were never planted. Newly constructed homes are required by city law to have trees planted in the yards before completing the permitting process. If you want a neighborhood full of shady trees, please take time to follow these recommendations.

## What is the TREE REPLACEMENT CODE ?

For single family and duplex properties, existing trees are not protected. All trees may be cut down, but new trees must be planted according to the Tree Replacement Ordinance.

(Chapter 17.24.100, Section 2., b.) [Link to ordinance- click here.](#)

The ordinance requires replacement of trees based on the "lot frontage\*" of the property. For every thirty feet (30') of "lot frontage", or portion thereof, one tree must be planted.

The tree must be at least two inches (2") in caliper\*\* and at least six feet (6') tall. It should be chosen from Metro's Urban Tree Planting list. [Link to approved tree list- click here.](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Mature Trees are **NOT PROTECTED** in Nashville.

Currently in Nashville, no laws apply to protect existing trees. A property owner may cut down any number of trees, of any size or type, without any recourse.

As for now, we can work to enforce the Metro Tree Replacement Ordinance and ask your city officials to create Tree Protection laws.

Also, you can register and protect individual Historic and Specimen Trees within Metro thru this volunteer program. [Link to program- click here.](#)

If you are thinking, **"WOW, that's a lot to remember!"**

Here's an easy way to remember it:

**ONE-TWO-THREE!**

**ONE**

Tree from the Urban Tree Planting List

**TWO**

2 inches in diameter (caliper)

**THREE**

For every 30 feet of "lot frontage"

\*Lot frontage is simply the sides of the property that touch a street, excluding the alley.

\*\*Measurement six inches (6") from the base of the tree.

Existing trees remaining on the property do not count toward the requirement unless they were protected during construction in accordance with 17.24.110 - Protection of Trees During Development Activities Ordinance.

[Link to ordinance- click here.](#)



## My NEW HOUSE is Missing Trees. What do I do?

If you find that your new property is missing trees, it's likely your developer didn't know about the code or the city missed it during inspection.

### REACH OUT TO YOUR HOME BUILDER

If you want your home builder to plant the required trees missing on your property, you should request immediately that they plant the trees as required by the code. Remember, just because your house passed inspection, doesn't mean the Tree Replacement Ordinance was satisfied. The **Use and Occupancy Letter** issued to them by the Building Inspector Department can remind the builder of their responsibility to comply with the code even after they receive the Use and Occupancy Permit. [Link to letter-click here.](#)

### IF THE BUILDER DOESN'T COMPLY

It may be that your home is several years old, or for some other reason you feel it is too late to work with the builder. If so, you can reach out to one of the local non-profit tree groups and ask for a free tree.

### IF ALL ELSE FAILS

You can plant your own tree and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are doing something that will ensure the future beauty and health of your property. [Link to NTCC tree sale-click here.](#)

## My NEIGHBOR'S NEW HOUSE is Missing Trees.

Here is what you can do for other houses that are missing trees.

### IF THE HOUSE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

While a house is being built, remind the project manager of their responsibility to plant a tree(s). You can either do this in person, or print and leave the letter in the following link where it will be found by the project manager of the construction site. [Link to letter-click here.](#)

### IF THE HOUSE IS COMPLETE BUT IS NOT OCCUPIED

If the landscaping is installed and trees are missing, immediately report them using this [link to file a complaint.](#)

### IF THE HOUSE IS OCCUPIED BUT MISSING TREES

Leave a copy of this 'Is Your Neighborhood Missing Trees' flyer with the owner. [Download this flyer-click here.](#)



**NASHVILLE TREE  
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