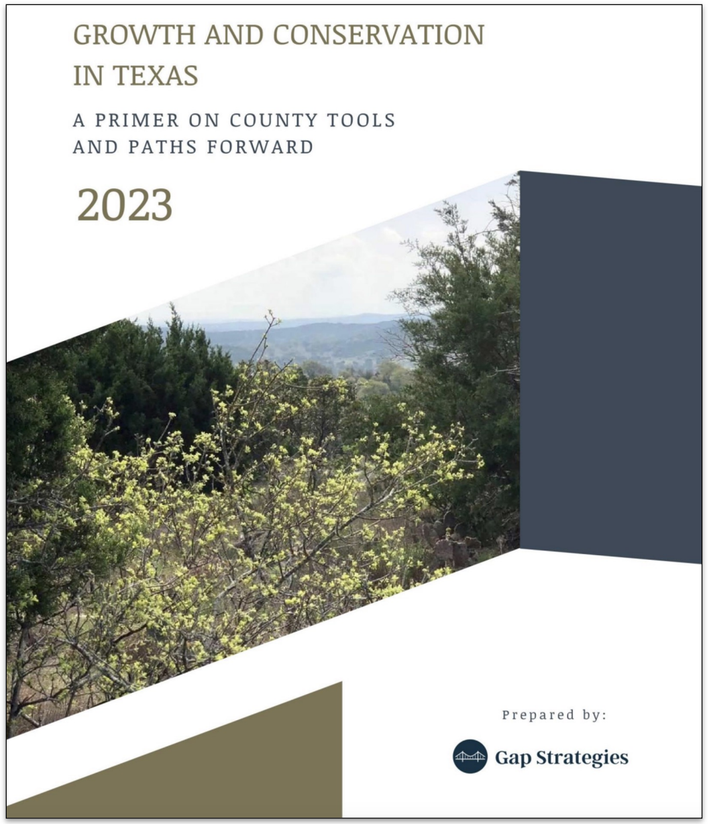
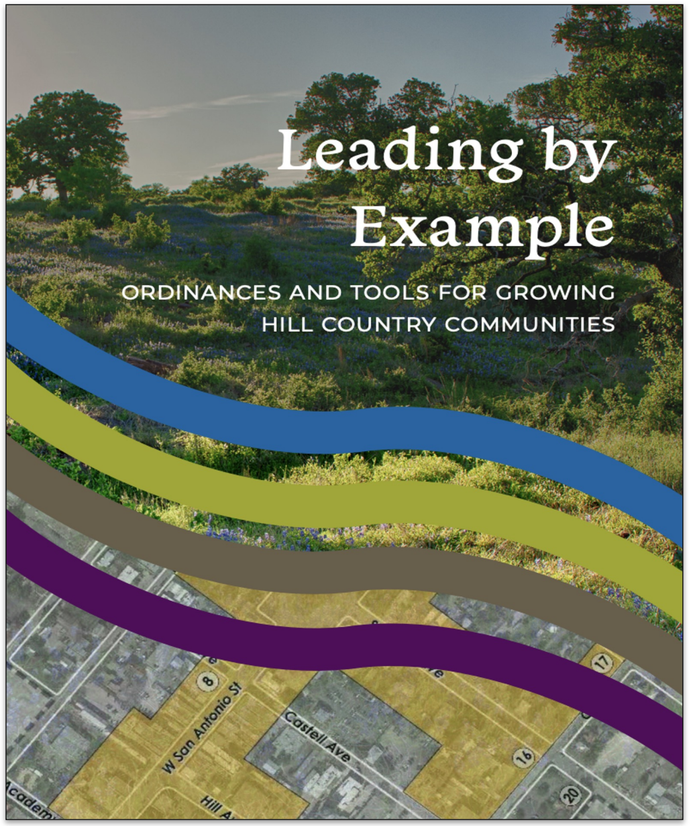
Tools to Manage Growth





Cliff Kaplan, HCA Program Director

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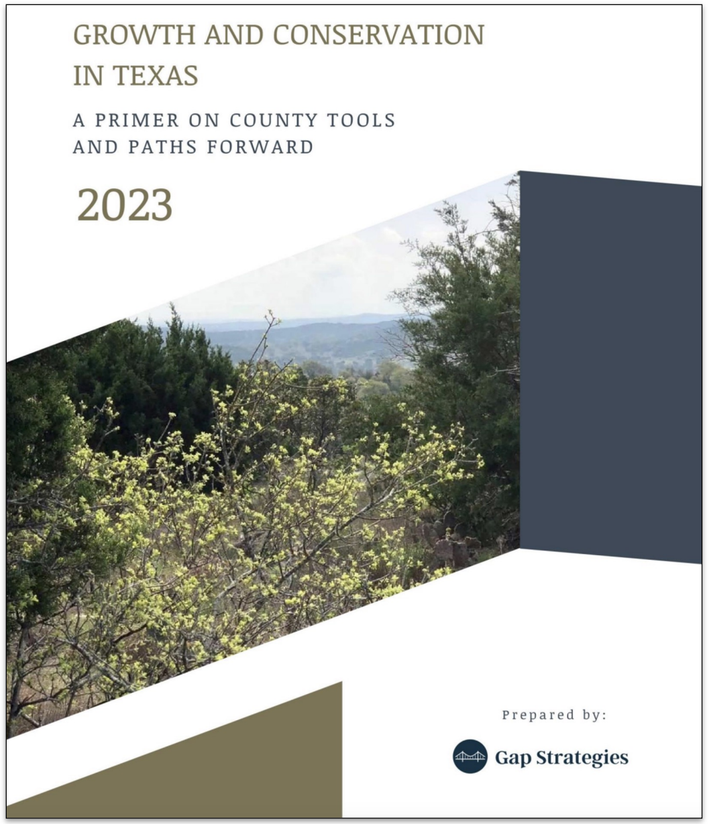
County Tools



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Cibolo CENTER FOR CONSERVATION

COMAL COUNTY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

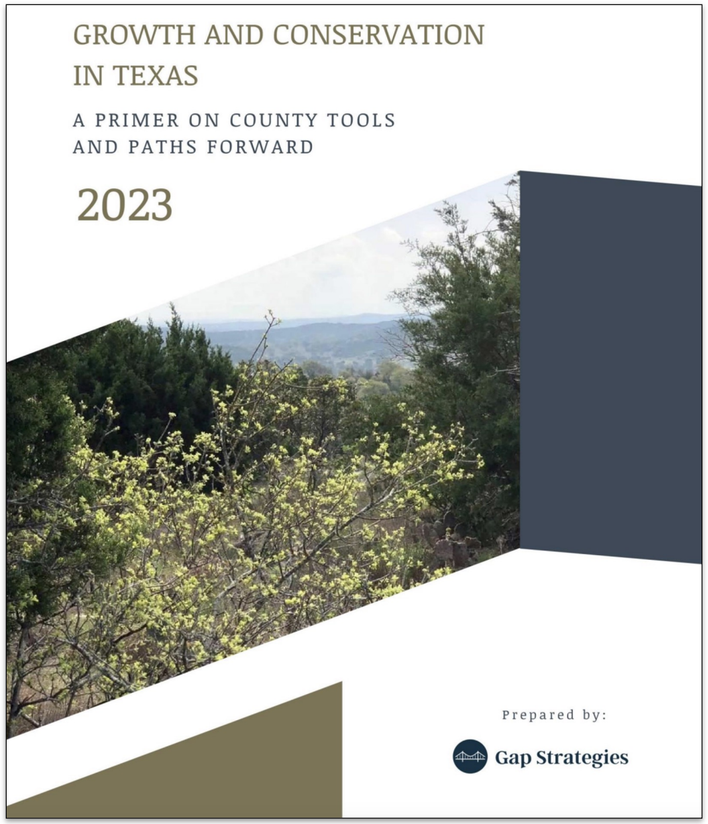
Environmental Defense Fund

GEAA Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COMAL AREA

National Wildlife Federation
Texas Coast and Water Program

County Tools



- Legal and legislative history
- Tools currently in use, even if not widely
- Ideas for the future, requiring legislation

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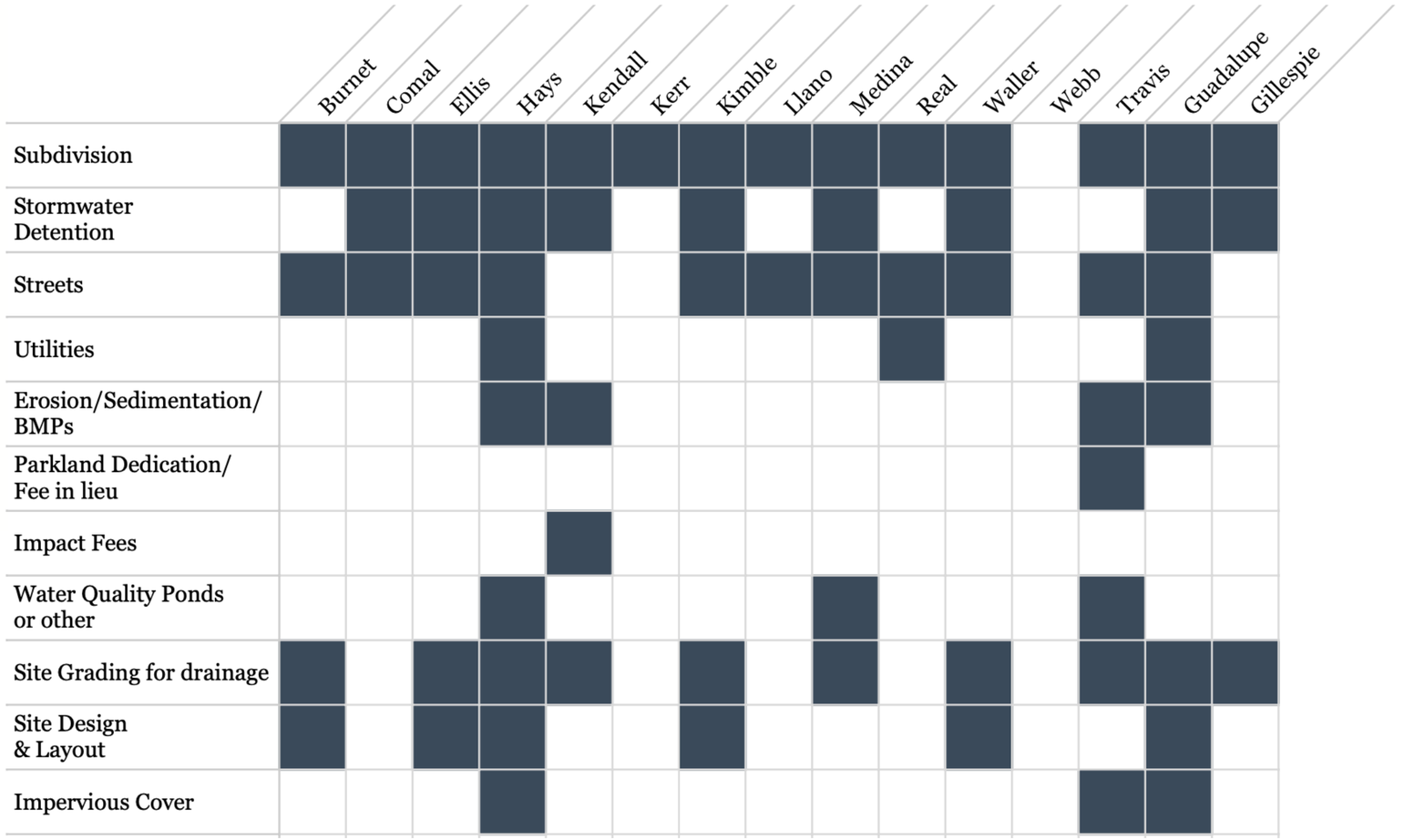
Different counties, different tools



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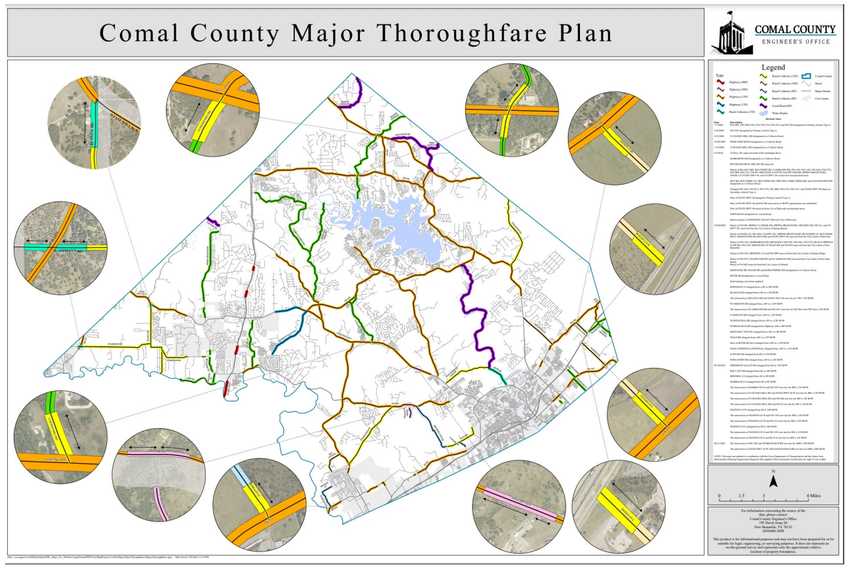
County Tools



- Long-range planning
- Variable lot sizes
- Stormwater and flood control

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City Tools

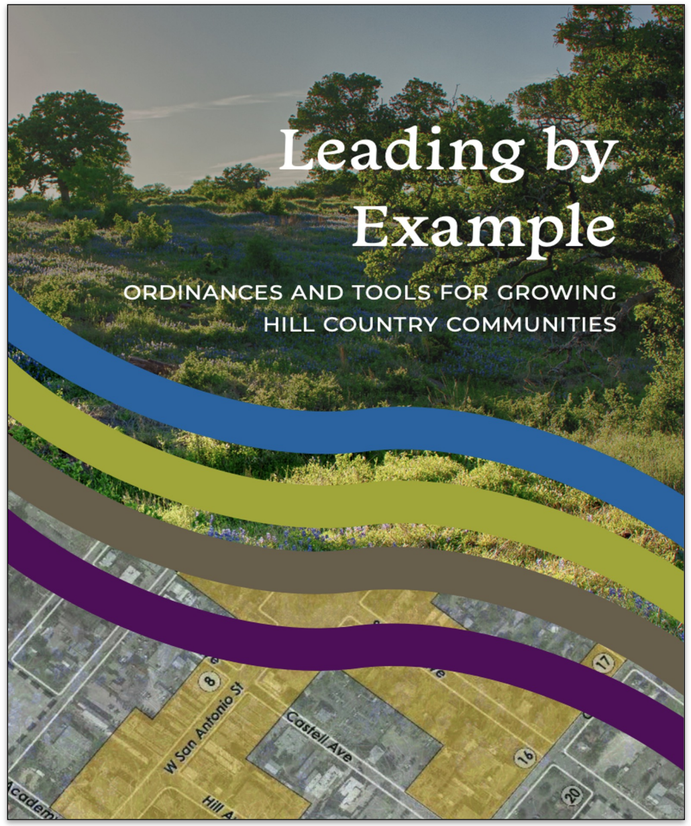

Table of Contents

WATER

WATERSHED PROTECTION & PLANNING W-4
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT W-6
IMPERVIOUS COVER LIMITS W-10
STREAM SETBACKS W-13
WATER CONSERVATION W-17
RAINWATER HARVESTING W-19
WATER REUSE W-21

LAND AND SKIES

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION LS-4
TREE PRESERVATION LS-7
OUTDOOR LIGHTING LS-10

TRANSPORTATION

COMPLETE STREETS T-4
TRAFFIC CALMING T-7
SENSIBLE PARKING REQUIREMENTS T-11
BICYCLE PARKING T-14

ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT

OVERLAY DISTRICTS Z-4
HISTORIC PRESERVATION Z-7
SIGNS Z-10
IMPACT FEES Z-13
INFILL DEVELOPMENT Z-16
ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS Z-19

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Tool Explanation

- Helps a community manage and protect its urban forest.
- Provides for the preservation of existing trees.
- Communicates tree health maintenance practices and sets short- and long-term management standards.
- Heritage trees are finite, precious resources, vital to protect.

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Example Ordinances

PROTECTED LIVE OAK ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS IN AUSTIN. SIGN IN PHOTO BELOW READS “PLEASE HELP PRESERVE THIS HISTORIC TREE, KEEP OFF.”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SYDNEY BECKNER

EXAMPLE ORDINANCES

JOHNSON CITY

BLANCO

BULVERDE

MARBLE FALLS
- Includes language around penalties for properties that are clear-cut for any reason making them ineligible for approval of other permits for three years

HELOTES

BOERNE

NEW BRAUNFELS
- Includes one of the more extensive lists of protected tree and shrub species of any community

AUSTIN

SAN ANTONIO
- An example of a thorough ordinance including helpful images, graphs and equations

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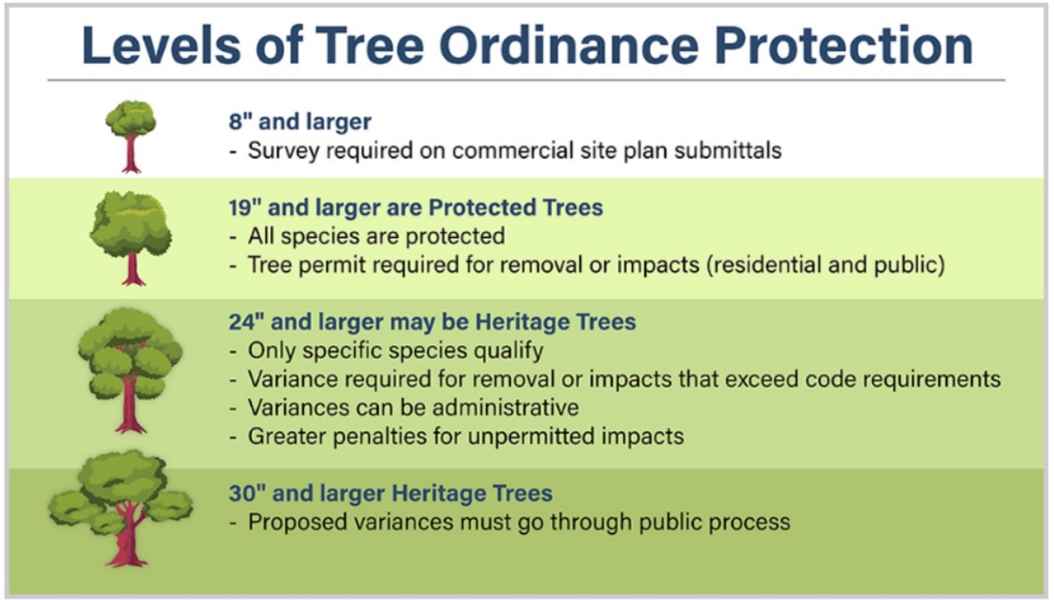
Best Practices

- Fostering community support is critical.
- Consider establishing an advisory board and/or appointing a city arborist.
- Develop and implement a tree preservation master plan.



ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, THE CITY OF AUSTIN USES THREE CLASSIFICATIONS OF TREES FOR PROTECTION PURPOSES: 8- TO 18-INCH DIAMETER, PROTECTED TREES, AND HERITAGE TREES.
SOURCE: CITY OF AUSTIN

Further Resources

Next>

Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Tree Ordinances

Guidelines for Devel
Tree Ordinances

http://www.isa-arbor.com/tree-ord/

PDF version Oct 31, 2001

Site Map

Major funding for this web site is provided by the USDA
Advisory Council and the International Society of Arboric

About this site
How to use this site

Part 1. Planning for an ordinance

- Types of ordinances
- Effectiveness of existing ordinances
- Developing a community forest manage
  - How to develop a managemer
    - What do you have?
      - Step A. Asse
      - Step B. Rev
    - What do you want?
      - Step C. Ider
      - Step D. Esta
    - How do you get wha
      - Step E. Sele
      - Step F. Imp
    - Are you getting what
      - Step G. Eva
- Goals for community forest programs

Developing Successful Tree Ordinances

NC STATE EXTENSION

Communities use tree ordinances as tools to protect trees, preserve green space, and promote healthy, managed urban forests. To protect trees and prevent their loss in the urban environment, communities need to understand tree ordinances, their limitations, and their proper implementation.

Tree ordinances establish official policies for how a community wants to maintain and protect its trees. They set standards for selection, planting, maintaining, and conserving community trees. Ordinances seek to establish a legal means of protecting the public interest.

Where Tree Ordinances Work Best

Properly applied ordinances prescribe community tree management to maximize the benefits provided by trees. Different kinds of ordinances can be used to conserve urban forests near streets, in parks, around public and commercial buildings, and in neighborhoods.

Street Tree Ordinance: Contains provisions regarding planting, maintenance, and removal of trees within the rights-of-way. A street tree ordinance may contain provisions for dealing with private trees when they impact public interest or pose a public hazard.

Tree Protection Ordinance: Protects or conserves desirable trees, tree canopy, or trees with historic significance on public and private property. Some tree protection ordinances require a permit before protected trees can be removed, encroached upon, or pruned.

Landscape Ordinance: Establishes required landscaping provisions, such as number, placement, and types of suitable plants or trees. May require trees or landscaping in parking lots or buffer yards.

Buffer Ordinance: Protects amenities (views) of adjacent property owners in commercial and residential developments, and protects water quality in streams and other water bodies. Establishes specifications for acceptable noise buffers, visual buffers, and riparian buffers.

Tree protection regulations typically do not stand alone, with the exception of street tree ordinances, but are often incorporated within other ordinances. Regulations are often created by amending existing zoning ordinances or unified development ordinances (UDO) and may be found in the landscaping and vegetative buffer sections of these ordinances.

Why protect and enhance your community forest?

A tree ordinance can help protect and enhance the benefits of your community forests by establishing a permanent and official tree protection policy. Ordinances establish municipal authority over public trees; set standards for tree planting, maintenance and management;

Municipal Regulation of Trees & Lands

by Alessandra Gad

Scenic C
Scenic Texas – F
Frederi
July

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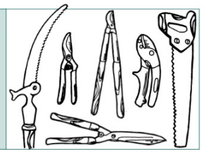
LAW
TexasMunic

FACT SHEET 6

Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry

Annual Work Plans for Tree Commissions



Municipal tree commissions have so much work to do every year that routine tree care can easily be overlooked. An annual work plan can ensure that public trees receive the regular care they need to remain attractive, healthy, and safe. A plan will help you identify and prioritize important tasks, schedule work, assign responsibility, reduce liability, and even build support for a tree program. In addition, using an annual plan to document the maintenance needs of trees in your community will show administrators that annual tree maintenance is warranted and has been carefully planned.

To create a work schedule, your tree commission will need to identify tasks that must be done each year, decide when they should be done, and assign personnel to the tasks. Use the example on the back of this fact sheet as a guide. Each section of the form is explained below.

1. Planning and Administration
Generally, tree commissions organize and prioritize their work each January.

2. Tree Planting
Decrease long-term costs and increase long-term enjoyment by selecting trees and locations carefully. Use a street tree inventory and an annual field survey to identify available planting sites and develop annual tree planting plans. Place orders for trees several months before tree planting dates. In other words, plan fall plantings in the spring and spring plantings in the summer.

3. Tree Pruning
Develop a schedule or rotation so that all trees are pruned once every five years. Young trees properly pruned in their first three to five years will develop a strong branch structure and require less work as they mature. Always remove dead and hazardous limbs immediately.

4. Tree Removal
Keep your trees safe and protect your community from injury and property damage by evaluating the health and structure of all public trees at least once a year. Trees identified as dead or dying should be removed promptly, and hazardous trees must be removed immediately. Check potentially hazardous trees frequently and keep written records of tree conditions at the time of inspection.

5. Public Relations and Funding
In addition to caring for public trees, you should build community support for funding by keeping administrators informed of program plans and activities and involving residents whenever possible. This support should help ensure ongoing tree care and may enable you to expand your program.

6. Other Tasks
Consider using a system such as Plant Health Care to monitor and plan for insect and disease problems.

Identify tasks in each of the categories above and create a form like the example provided. Then use the form to schedule completion of the tasks during the appropriate season.

- Prune in late summer or fall, or during the dormant season.
- Plant during spring or fall. (Some species should be planted only in the spring.)
- Evaluate tree hazards each summer.
- Remove hazardous trees as soon as they are discovered.
- Evaluate and prioritize tree planting opportunities in the summer.
- Water newly planted trees during hot weather and periods of little rain.
- Prune young trees after the first year.
- Conduct crew training during the winter.

On a separate page, add details about dates, people, and equipment needed to accomplish the work.

By planning ahead, you can ensure that your community forest receives proper care all yearlong.

PENNSTATE
1855
College of Agricultural Sciences

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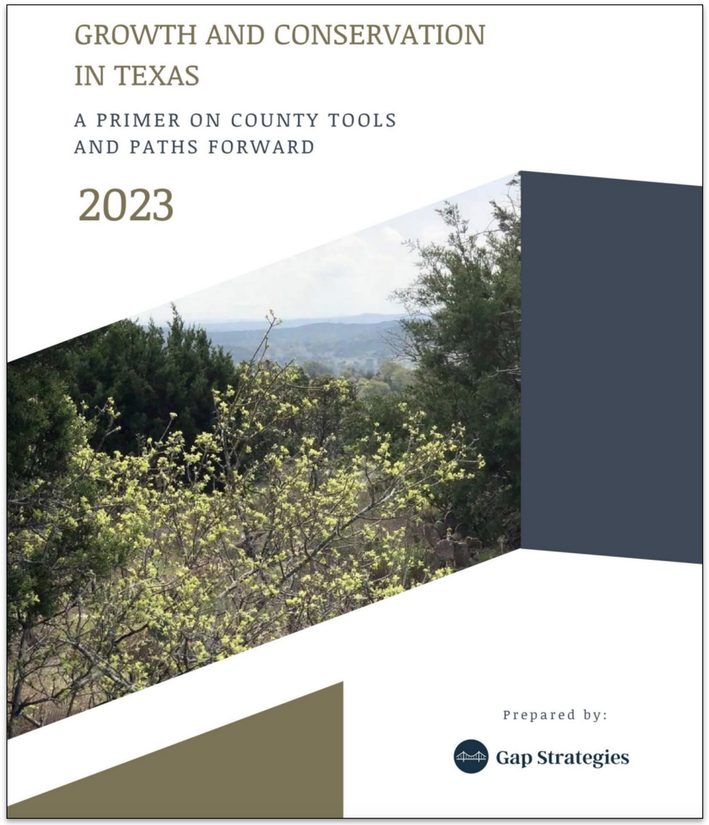
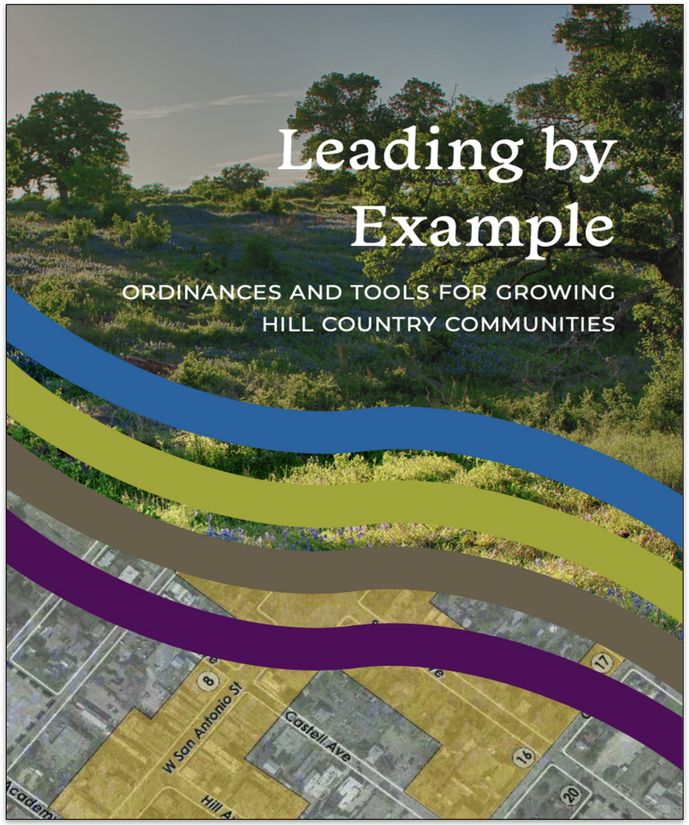
One more for the road!





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