

AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



October 2019

Plant the right tree in the right place

In Central Texas, the best time for tree planting is in the fall and winter. Planting the right tree in the right place can help you lower your energy bills as well as provide a defensible space against wildfires.

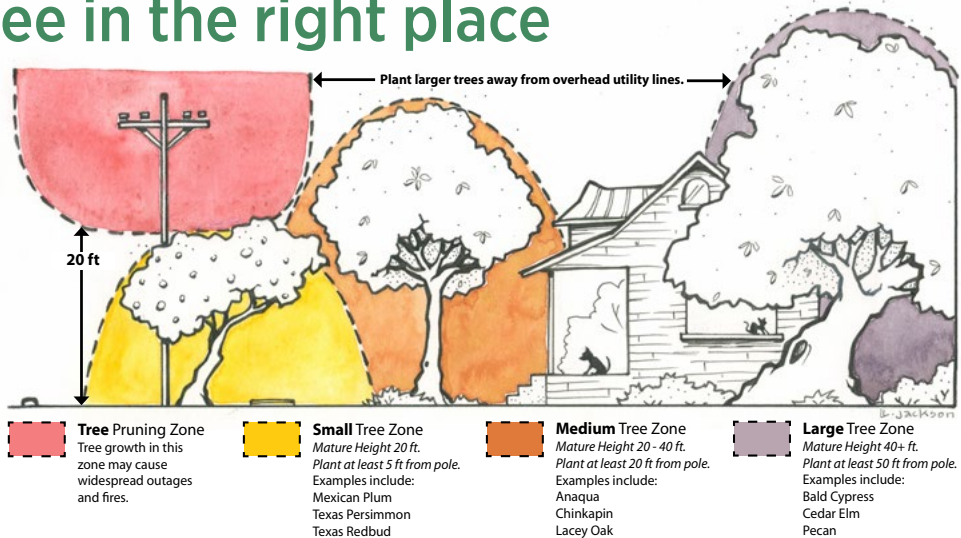
Trees reduce water consumption in the landscape by providing shade to other plants and even help increase the region's water supply by helping water soak into the aquifer.

The best trees for height and shade include pecan, elm and oak. They will shade your home during the summer months but lose their leaves during winter, allowing sunlight through to help keep your home warmer.

When planting a new tree, make sure it is far enough away from energized infrastructure. Large shade trees should be planted at least 50 feet away from power lines.

Make sure a new tree has adequate room to grow. The tree must also be clear of utility poles, roofs and gutters and underground electric and water lines.

Every year, Austin Energy and the City of Austin works with TreeFolks



to deliver 4,500 trees through the NeighborWoods program. TreeFolks has several adoption events between October and March where Austin residents can get a free tree. If you're interested in participating, visit treefolks.org/nw.

For more information on tree planting and what trees may work for your yard, or for more information regarding pruning trees near power lines, visit austinenenergy.com/go/trees. Have a question about tree removal or vegetation in the right-of-way? Contact Austin 3-1-1.



Are your tree limbs near power lines?

Never prune tree limbs within 10 feet of a power line yourself. Electricity can easily jump from an energized power line to anything that gets too close or makes contact with it. This includes ropes, tools, any part of your body and even tree limbs. Working around power lines is dangerous, so leave it to the professionals. Special training, certification and personal protective equipment are required for utility line workers to do their jobs, as well as utility-contracted tree-trimming crews. If you have an issue with a tree near a power line, call 512-322-6771.

Don't Blow It!...into the street

Leaves and grass clippings blown into the street wash into storm drains and end up in Austin's creeks and lakes. When this material decomposes in water, it can reduce oxygen levels and kill fish. Leaves can also clog storm drains and cause localized flooding.

What Can I Do?

- » Blow clippings from walkways back to your yard — keep the grass clippings on the lawn and use the leaves as mulch in gardens.
- » Add clippings to your backyard compost pile.
- » Place clippings into paper lawn bags or compost carts for the City to pick up.

For more information, visit austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do or call 3-1-1.



Free household document shredding

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019 from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Balcones Shred facility, 9301 Johnny Morris Road, Austin, TX 78724

Because of the threat of identity theft, it is important to carefully dispose of personal records including financial and medical records. Austin ARMA, along with Balcones Shred, are sponsoring the seventh annual Free Fall Shred Day.

Only dry paper packed in cardboard boxes no larger than 24 x 24 x 36 inches with fitting lids or securely closed box flaps are

accepted. Do not bring plastics of any kind, electronic media, batteries or three-ring binders. All shredded material is recycled.

Please do not arrive before 8 a.m. You will be turned away until the event begins. Monetary donations will be accepted, and a portion of the proceeds will be split between Austin ARMA and Operation Turkey.

For more information, please



visit austinarma.com/shred-day, email austinarmachapter@gmail.com or leave a message with Austin ARMA at **512-937-3347**.



Safe sleep is the best sleep for babies

Suffocation is the leading cause of death for babies in Travis County. For the safest sleep, follow these ABCs. Babies should sleep:

- » **A**lone
- » On their **b**acks
- » In a **c**rib

You can find more information at helpandhope.org/safe_sleep.

Clear the way!

We've all seen it — overgrown trees and shrubs blocking our sidewalks and making it harder to navigate around town. But did you know that property owners are responsible for maintaining areas of the right of way adjacent to their property? It's true! Remember to trim any private tree limbs, plants and other vegetation 8 feet above the sidewalk and 14 feet above the



street. This helps make sure you and your neighbors have a clear and safe path to get around town. For more information, call **3-1-1** or visit austintexas.gov/cleartherow.

Austin Code Spooktacular Bash

If you're looking for a fun-filled event this fall, join Austin Code for their Spooktacular Bash on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at George Washington Carver Museum.

Ever thought what Austin would look like if it had no rules or codes? Join our Spooktacular Bash experience, walk through a community without codes and learn how Code Inspectors see the world. There will be games, a bouncy house, face painting, costume contest and a spooky house exhibit. It's fun for the whole family, so come on by!

This event is brought to you by Austin Code Department and George Washington Carver Museum with participation from various City departments.

Learn more about the event at spooktacularbash2019.eventbrite.com, and learn more about Austin Code at austintexas.gov/department/code.



Si gusta recibir este folleto en español, llame a los Servicios Públicos de la Ciudad de Austin al 512-972-9523.

Customer Service Phone: 512-494-9400

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 512-322-9100 | 24-Hour Emergency Water Service: 512-972-1000

North Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 8716 Research Blvd., Ste. 115

Rosewood-Zaragosa Neighborhood Center (Walk-in Center): 2800 Webberville Road, Ste. 110



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The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. TDD 512-974-3256, Relay Texas 7-1-1.

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