

CITY OF ROUND ROCK

MEMORANDUM

TO: Development Applicants

SUBJECT: Landscaping and Underground Utility Easements Policy

FROM : Brad Wiseman, AICP, Development Services Manager
Aneil Naik, Engineering Assistant
Emsud Horozovic, City Forester
Taylor Horton, Sr. Planner

DATE: September 3, 2008

Representatives from Planning & Development Services and Forestry have developed a unified policy to allow for landscaping within utility easements. The purpose is to provide a consistent set of standards that are to be applied interdepartmentally. The implementation of these standards should result in flourishing landscapes that do not interfere with underground utilities.

Single Water, Wastewater, or Storm Easement

- Large trees may be planted on the edge of easement. However, large trees shall maintain a minimum setback of five feet (5') from the most outside point of an underground line. *
- Medium and small trees may encroach two feet (2') into the easement. However, small and medium trees shall maintain a minimum setback of five feet (5') from the most outside point of an underground line. *
- Shrubs may be located anywhere within the easement, but shall maintain a minimum setback of five feet (5') from the most outside point of an underground line. *
- Easements containing open channels shall have no landscaping encroachment into the easement. Variances for these situations shall be issued on a case-by-case basis, with approval from the Forestry and Planning & Development Services.

* This assumes a typical depth utility. For greater than typical depth, a larger separation shall be required on a case-by-case basis, with the approval of Planning & Development Services.

Multiple Water, Wastewater, and Storm Easement

- Small, medium, and large trees may be planted on the easement edge. However, trees shall maintain a minimum setback of five feet (5') from the most outside point of an underground line. *
- Planting trees in between lines are prohibited.
- Shrubs may be located anywhere within the easement, but shall maintain a minimum setback of five feet (5') from the most outside point of an underground line. *

* This assumes a typical depth utility. For greater than typical depth, a larger separation shall be required on a case-by-case basis, with the approval of Planning & Development Services.

Public Utility Easements

- Large, medium, and small trees and shrubs are not allowed within Public Utility Easements (P.U.E.) and shall maintain a minimum setback of five feet (5') from the most outside point of an underground line.
- Applicants electing to decrease the size of any public utility easement to create additional planting area must follow the standard City procedure of easement vacation. Note this includes verification from all utility entities, including the City, that there is no conflict with the vacation.

Natural Gas Easements

- Small, medium, and large trees and shrubs are not allowed within natural gas easements unless a release is obtained from the utility provider.