

Commission will not undertake more (particularly in the way of tree planting) than the City can afford to maintain. But it also allows the City to use an urban tree inventory system, accessible through its data processing section, to detect problems and to propose solutions in the Tree Commission's annual tree-management plan.

Other duties of the Tree Commission include coordinating an annual Arbor Day observance, general public education about local tree problems, and monitoring local tree-service companies to insure that they hold state professional licensure before they are granted City business licenses.

The Commission also has authority to participate in other projects, such as recycling of tree-maintenance residues, encouragement of private and public tree-planting projects, and technical assistance to developers that request help in developing naturally-wooded areas.

Like most other tree ordinances, Huntsville's defines several offenses related to trees on public land and rights-of-way. Most of these deal with intentional abuse or negligent construction practices, but penalties are oriented toward restitution rather than simple punishment.

To have proposed a system of permits and in-

spections would have doomed the whole effort to failure, as some well intentioned groups in other cities have discovered. The death of a proposed tree ordinance is not just a return to Square One: it can poison the water indefinitely, obscuring the tree problems that can cost a community thousands, sometimes millions, of dollars.

One seemingly minor innovation involved the title of the ordinance. Early drafts bore the phrase "tree protection" but it became clear that "protection" not only failed to do justice to the scope of the ordinance, but even misrepresented its intent and unjustly prejudiced anyone suspicious of the committee's intentions. The title "tree management ordinance" fit better and avoided these problems, and so was chosen.

There is much to be said for cutting out administrative overhead. But there is still plenty of work to be done at the level where the trees grow, and Huntsville can be justly proud of having seen this truth and joined hands for the common good.

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ABSTRACT

CHAPMAN, DOUGLAS. 1980. **Honeylocust grows rapidly, provides open shade for turf.** *Weeds, Trees & Turf* 19(12): 23-24.

Honeylocust is an outstanding urban tree. It has been overused, leading to increased reports of insect and disease problems. If not overused (diversity — no more than 5 percent of the same tree specimen in the community), insect and disease problems will not be significant. If overused, borers and many other problems will crop up. This did happen with 'Moraine' honeylocust in the 60's, but with a shift of emphasis and more knowledgeable urban foresters, landscape architects, and horticulturists, this plant is again becoming a desirable tree for city streets, large area landscapes, parks, and home landscapes. Its ability to compete with turf, providing open shade and the fine texture make it outstanding. Its rapid rate of growth is certainly another desirable characteristic. In fact, it is not uncommon to see this vigorous tree grow 2 to 3 feet annually the first 10 years planted in the landscape. There have been some pest problems, but if our rule of diversity in any landscape is maintained, this tree has a place in difficult sites for most urban landscapes.