

April 1, 2026

Council President Crow-Iverson and Members of Council  
Office of the City Council  
107 N Nevada Ave. #300  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Madame President,

The Old North End Neighborhood (ONEN) supports the City Forestry Division's proposal for the requested updates to city code that: 1. clarify the responsibilities of property owners and the City regarding trees and other vegetation in the public right of way and 2. establishes enforcement capabilities for staff foresters to help make their jobs more effective and efficient. We also note, and appreciate, that the proposed code changes will not impact or shift responsibility for existing trees planted before 2020.

We understand the proposed changes will help align the City Forestry Division's standards with other Colorado cities and note that it has been nearly 60 years since the last update/change to the segment of the city code pertaining to the city's forestry operations. The last changes occurred in 1968.

ONEN recognizes the herculean task City Forestry does in caring for the more than 150,000 trees spread out over so many square miles. They work with a dearth of funds and small number of staff members to care for our urban forest while helping ensure the safety of our roadways and public right of way. ONEN especially appreciates the collaborative efforts between the foresters and ONEN's Parkway tree program and the North End Woodlands, Inc. who together have planted hundreds of trees to replenish our tree canopy.

The proposed updates to the City's forestry code are critical to ensure the safety of our community and the well-being of our trees. These changes are a first step in making the City's management of the urban forest more efficient, benefiting our community, and allowing staff to take the best possible care of our urban canopy.

With grateful support and appreciation for all the City Forestry Division does for our community's trees, ONEN respectfully asks you to make these necessary changes to city code.

The Board of Directors of the Old North End Neighborhood

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dutch Schulz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dutch Schulz, President

