

## Letters to the DMN Editor April 2008

### City neglects tree preservation

Re: "More Trees, Please – City policy strips Dallas of some of its green," Wednesday Editorials.

Your editorial on Dallas trees was spot-on. As a resident of one of those older neighborhoods that developers are overrunning, it is readily apparent to me that the city is not giving much priority or attention to efforts to preserve the mature trees we have. It would seem that the public relations value of demonstrating green activity as good corporate sponsors is sidetracking us.

While it is imperative that new trees be planted, we should not neglect the fact that these trees will take many years (say three to five decades) before becoming the canopy shade trees that we ultimately want them to become.

*Jim Folger, Dallas*

### The trouble with tree policy

Re: "City's tree policy isn't particularly green," Wednesday Editorial.

The editorial accurately pinpoints the person we should rely on as a voice of authority in matters of Dallas' tree policy: the arborist. And yes, the destruction of an old, varied grouping of trees replaced by a cheaply produced monoculture of saplings, planted in a rigid line, rarely approximates what has been lost.

Even if trees are slated for preservation, the bulldozing around them and the indiscriminate running into them ensures a death sentence for "protected trees." As this procedure happened on my street, I met with city arborists many times. They had interjected these concerns every step of the way. One told me that professional advice goes regularly unheeded because an arborist's perspective "costs money."

We need to work on the current policy and, most of all, we need to listen to the professionals in these matters, the city arborists.

*Laray Polk, Dallas*

### Tree campaign still just talk

Re: "More Trees, Please – City policy strips Dallas of some of its green," Wednesday Editorials.

I lived in Dallas almost 30 years ago in a condo on Skillman Road when bulldozers mowed down dozens of old oaks along a creek to put in a pipeline and build more condos. At the time, I was shocked, but found out it was legal. Thirty years later, and you're still just talking about it.

How many trees have been bulldozed in that time waiting for someone to make a simple decision?

In the new home developments surrounding San Antonio, you will see homes that are wrapped in old live oaks. The homes were built with a minimum of destruction, preserving the beauty and value of the property. It's time to catch up, Dallas.

*Diana Prichard, Lake Dallas*

Please contact the [DMN Editors](#) with your comments regarding tree issues and the state of urban forestry in Dallas. They would love to hear what you have to say. The more the public responds, the more topical articles they write.