



Legislation Text

File #: 2023-177, **Version:** 1

Consider a resolution removing the monarch designation for a tree located on a proposed development site at 901 N. Red Bud Lane.

This request, submitted by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc, will remove the monarch tree designation for one tree located on the proposed Red Bud Industrial development site. The monarch tree is a 38-inch pecan tree and it is located in the northwest quadrant of the property as depicted in Exhibit A. Measurements of the tree are taken of the diameter of the trunk at four and a half feet above ground level. In accordance with Section 8-18 of the Code of Ordinances, removal of a monarch tree requires City Council to first remove the monarch designation from the tree.

De-designation of the monarch tree will allow it to be removed as part of the development process to accommodate one of three new industrial buildings. If approved by City Council, 114 tree inches must be replaced on-site or a fee in the amount of \$17,100 shall be paid to the City tree fund. This calculation is solely for the removal of the monarch tree, and does not include removal fees or replacement inches for any other protected trees that are proposed for removal. A total of three monarch trees currently exist on-site. Should City Council approve this request, two monarch trees will remain: a 36-inch pecan tree and a 36.5-inch live oak.

Given the site considerations and development layout, staff does not oppose this request. The location of the tree impacts the footprint of the building closest to the street. Generally, industrial buildings are of a larger size, and limiting the footprint would prevent said building from screening the site's industrial activities, such as loading docks, which is required per PUD No. 146 (Red Bud Business Park). Further, the tree has been determined by a certified arborist to be in a state of poor health due to existing branch failures and notable decay, which will limit its ultimate lifespan. The developer has worked diligently with staff on potential site adjustments and has taken staff's recommendation to revise the northern access drive to preserve the other monarch trees. Lastly, the proposed use of this site is in compliance with the Round Rock 2030 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map, which designates this property as industrial.

All monarch tree removal requests are reviewed on a case by case basis. Staff support on one request does not indicate support for another. Staff recommendations are determined based on the context, conditions, land use, site constraints, and good-faith effort made to preserve monarch trees, all while realizing that reasonable development of a subject site must be facilitated along with tree preservation.