

# City of Norcross

*65 Lawrenceville Street  
Norcross, GA 30071*



## Meeting Agenda

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
4:00 PM**

**2nd Floor Conference Room**  
**Tree Preservation Board**

*Charlotte Osborn, Chair*  
*Charlie Riehm, Board Member*  
*Terry Sutton, Board Member*  
*Hayne Thompson, Board Member*  
*Michelle Osborne, Board Member*

- A. Call to Order**  
PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES
- B. Presentation of previous meetings minutes for acceptance and acceptance of the agenda as presented for scheduled meeting.**

[Tree Preservation Board – Regular Meeting- Dec 11, 2024, 4:00 PM](#)

**ANNOUNCEMENT: Introducing Bruce Avery as Norcross' new Arborist**

**C. Old Business**

**Tree Talk Newsletter Article:**

Terry's article "Invasive Vine Management" to appear in the January edition. Hayne's article for February is due Jan 13, and Charlotte to prepare one for March. Michelle to follow for April and Charlie for May.

**Pinnacle Park Tree Arboretum Development:**

Tracy and Jalia have a great idea of having our ribbon cutting ceremony for the Arboretum on the National Arbor Day date of April 24, 2025. Warmer temps and spring blooms in the park are two good reasons for moving to this date. All in favor.....

**New Forest Preserves:**

Council is voting to rename the Fickling Pond area to Swenson Brown Forest Preserve.

**Honoring Old Historic Trees in Norcross:**

Charlie to meet with Bruce Avery and/or Stacy Borden {SavATree} in the last half of January to come up with a plan for locating the landmark/historic trees in Norcross.

**Revised Tree Ordinances:**

Introduce our five new proposed Tree Ordinance revisions to Bruce.

**Removal of the Heritage Pecan Tree in Betty Mauldin Park:**

Vote to send Michelle's latest declaration to M&CC regarding the TPB's opposition to paving over the former Pecan tree area and keeping this entire area a green space.

**Gateway Tree Planting at N'Ptree and Medlock Bridge:**

Need an update from Hunter on progress. Area has been prepped and is ready for plantings.

**Tree Plantings at Norcross Elementary and Summerour Middle:**

Hunter has recently submitted to Joey Knight, Gwinnett County Public Schools Grounds Site Project Manager, concept renderings, considerations, species selections, and examples for Summerour Park. Need an update on Norcross Elementary tree plantings.

**2025 Arbor Day Plans:**

Michelle to update us on all aspects of our planned Arbor Day celebration February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Lions Club building front area. Speakers to include Dave Butler from the GA Forestry Comm., Mayor Craig Newton, and special speaker to the entire third grade Baldwin Elementary class, Edward Morrow. Need update from Hunter on tree planting for the occasion.

**D. New Business**

**Defining TPB Role with the City of Norcross and PG&T:**

Review and discuss Charlie's proposal clarifying the TPB's role and charter for working with city staff to maintain/expand tree canopy and to stewardship passive forested areas.

**E. Johnson Dean Business****New Front Entrance Project:**

Public Works is moving forward with the project and we expect to break ground in February.

**Johnson Dean Trail and Preserve Expansion:**

Per "New Business" above, Charlie's proposal will discuss how the TPB should move forward with the forest preserves and greenspace expansions.

**F. ADDITIONAL INPUT AND/OR DISCUSSION NOT OTHERWISE ADDRESSED BY THIS AGENDA****G. Adjourn**

# City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street  
Norcross, GA 30071



## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 11, 2024  
4:00 PM

### 2nd Floor Community Room **Tree Preservation Board**

*Charlotte Osborn, Chair*  
*Charlie Riehm, Board Member*  
*Terry Sutton, Board Member*  
*Hayne Thompson, Board Member*  
*Michelle Osborne, Board Member*

**A. Call to Order**

Tree Preservation Board was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chair Charlotte Osborn

| Attendee Name    | Title             | Status  | Arrived |
|------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Charlotte Osborn | Chair             | Present |         |
| Charlie Riehm    | Tree Board Member | Present |         |
| Terry Sutton     | Tree Board Member | Present |         |
| Hayne Thompson   | Tree Board Member | Present |         |
| Michelle Osborne | Tree Board Member | Present |         |

**Other Attendees:**

Josh Bare and Jalia Killings

**B. Presentation of previous meetings minutes for acceptance and acceptance of the agenda as presented for scheduled meeting.**

**Tree Preservation Board – Regular Meeting - Nov 13, 2024, 4:00 PM**

|                  |                                          |
|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>              |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Michelle Osborne, Tree Board Member      |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Charlie Riehm, Tree Board Member         |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Osborn, Riehm, Sutton, Thompson, Osborne |

**C. Old Business****Tree Talk Newsletter Article:**

We reviewed Terry's article on "Invasive Vine Management" for January, and Hayne is due by 1/9 for February, probably Charlotte for March.

**Pinnacle Park Tree Arboretum Development:**

Josh is still pursuing Tracy for cooperation from the City for a ribbon-cutting or grand opening ceremony for the Arboretum.

**New Forest Preserves:**

Deferred to later with Charlie proposal (Section 'D').

**Honoring Old Historic Trees in Norcross:**

Charlie will meet with Stacy in the last half of January to try to come up with a plan for locating the landmark/historic trees in Norcross.

**Revised Tree Ordinances:**

Jalia reported arborist candidates are being actively interviewed and one should be hired by January 15. Then the revised ordinances can be presented to the council.

**Removal of the Heritage Pecan Tree in Betty Mauldin Park:**

Michelle will send her latest declaration, stating the TPB's opposition to paving over the former Pecan tree's area in Betty Mauldin Park, by email to TPB members for approval, then will send to M&CC and City Manager without PG&T joining in. Josh said there are no plans underway for the area as yet.

**Gateway Tree Planting at N'Ptree and Medlock Bridge:**

Hunter reported that the ground at the gateway area has been prepped and amended and they are working now on sourcing trees. Other plantings orders are coming in.

**Tree Plantings at Norcross Elementary and Summerour Middle:**

Hunter has discussed plans for Summerour with the Grounds Site Manager, who will next review them with his boss. Shahin was handling Norcross Elementary, and there was no update on that.

**2025 Arbor Day Plans:**

Michelle reviewed and approved the contract with Edward Morrow for speaking to the elementary students. Charlotte said they are still looking for other ways to entertain over 200 kids that day!

**D. New Business****Defining TPB Role with the City of Norcross and PG&T:**

Charlie sent the attached proposal (Exhibit A) to TPB members on 12/9, clarifying that TPB will focus on its charter for working with city staff to maintain/expand tree canopy and to manage greenspaces/"passive parks" like Johnson-Dean. Pushing for trails, buying greenspace, and helping manage recreational parks should be done by and in cooperation with PG&T. Members were asked to provide comments before next TPB meeting. Terry suggested he and Charlie meet with PG&T on Jan. 19 to get agreement on the respective roles and to promote future cooperation.

[Exhibit A: Defining TPB Role with the City of Norcross and PG&T](#)

**E. Johnson Dean Business**

**New Front Entrance Project:** Public Works is moving forward with the project as/of the November 18 Policy Session. Charlotte noted the scope of work was approved as we asked. Len Housley is working on obtaining a second site work bid as required. He estimates work to be ready to begin in February.

**Johnson Dean Trail and Preserve Expansion:** See "D" above.

**F. ADDITIONAL INPUT AND/OR DISCUSSION NOT OTHERWISE ADDRESSED BY THIS AGENDA****G. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM with a motion to adjourn made by Michelle, seconded by Charlie.

**Proposal To Move Forward On Johnson-Dean Preserve (JDP) And Future Steps In Obtaining And Maintaining Additional Preserves/Passive Parks.**

Now that the city is moving forward with improvements to the JDP entrance, I'd propose the TPB to begin forming an "action plan" for the future steps in obtaining and maintaining additional preserves/passive parks, in keeping with the article in the December edition of the Norcross Newsletter. Suggested initial steps in this plan are:

1. Work with the Parks Dept. to manage our larger greenspaces as forest preserves—"passive parks" like JDP where citizens can enjoy quiet nature, walk along peaceful, unpaved nature trails, and enjoy nature-based programs. Primary attention would be given to maintaining the tree canopy and trail/stream maintenance. Parks that are primarily for recreation and large events would be managed by city staff and PG&T.
2. TPB should actively cooperate and coordinate with PG&T to develop and implement our respective plans. For example, in keeping with the new Parks Master Plan, we can quickly add more greenspace by asking PG&T to acquire the connecting property behind the church and add it to the JDP. This can be readily done because:
  - By selling the old Thrift Store property, the church has removed the possibility of both a trail and ready access to the land from HBR. Also, with the runoff stream running through it, the property is now no longer suitable for residential development, but perfect for use as a forest preserve with a nature path along the sewer easement.
  - Without the possibility of development, the appraised value and acquisition price should be affordable.
  - Stream erosion with recent storms has caused a deep gully that is a real hazard to walkers. Also, development along Barton will lead to increased runoff that may impact our storm water flow. The city will likely have to deal with this erosion very soon.
3. Working with the Parks Dept., TPB should develop plans for each forest preserve to include trails, nature centers, tree maintenance, and event facilities to enhance and encourage citizen use of these areas, and to reinforce our status as a Tree City!
4. As Michelle proposed, stress to council and PG&T that any development plans that will affect the tree canopy should include TPB from the start.

CER—12/9/24