ANSI A300 SMA Discussion

Purpose:
- Familiarize our members and constituents with ANSI A300
- Promote and support the incorporation of the standards into community use – ordinances, policies, practices, permit conditions, and management plans.

The A300 standards include the following parts:
- Part 1 - Pruning (2008)
- Part 5 - Tree Protection (Construction) (2005)
- Part 6 – Transplanting (2005)
- Part 7 - Integrated Vegetation Mgmt. (2006)

Coming parts:
- Part 8 - Soil Management (under draft)
- Part 9 - Risk Management (under draft)
- Part 10 - Pest Management (proposed)

The ANSI A300 pruning standards were written for working on managed trees – Municipal Arboriculture!

There is a difference between tree care and manufacturing, building, and construction products. Most construction or manufacturing products are tested and produced to controlled specifications. Construction footings, foundations, or compaction create a “proven” site. Trees are usually different; rarely will the branch growth, structure, and existing condition be exactly the same. The sites and soils may be different. Decay and defects may be naturally mitigated with woundwood. During a testing process we could damage or destroy the subject trees.

Examples of language for including ANSI A300 pruning standards into our communities:

Work shall be performed in accordance with the most current version of the ANSI A300 standards and to the following specifications: (list follows)

The City adopts the most current version of the ANSI A300 Pruning Standard as the standard for pruning all trees regulated by ordinance with the following exceptions:
- Espalier and pollarding are not acceptable pruning practices.
- Specifications for pruning shall be verbal or written, developed and administered by an arborist [or qualified person] for all work performed.

Work shall be performed in accordance with A300 standards following specifications which accomplish the objective(s) for pruning the particular tree(s)
Specifications could include two things:
- The specific parts of A300, i.e.: "all work shall be completed in accordance with ANSI A300 (specific parts);" and,
- All ANSI A300 "advisory recommendations" must be either adhered to or defensible/valid reasons be given for non-compliance.

It is at this point, when no "shoulds" remain, the A300 becomes enforceable.

The key to the current A300 is the need for objectives and specifications. If someone prunes a tree without an objective, or if the objective and methods don't align, how can they be complying with the standards?

Compare use of A300 to other written specs for City projects
  - Hierarchy of Specifications – order of following
  - Important of holding a contractor to written specifications

Compare to inclusion of "certified arborists" to work on City projects 20 some years ago

Opportunities for including ANSI A300 in City requirements:
- Tree Preservation Ordinance – permit required to prune or remove trees; pruning performed to specifications written in accordance with ANSI A300
- Street Tree Ordinance – permit required to plant, prune, treat, or remove trees; pruning performed to specifications written in accordance with ANSI A300
- Bid Specifications – Pruning work shall be performed in accordance with the most current version of the ANSI A300 standards and to the following specifications: (list follows)
- Construction Plans and Tree Preservation Plans – care and pruning; pruning performed to specifications written in accordance with ANSI A300
- Permit Conditions - pruning performed to specifications written in accordance with ANSI A300
- Verified Tree Care Company List requires – (voluntary participation):
  - Current full-time Certified Arborist or Board Certified Master Arborist on staff, (Certified Tree workers will be noted as a bonus listing)
  - Current City Business License
  - Current State Contractors License (required for any job greater than $500)
  - Evidence of liability and workers compensation insurance. Certificates of insurance naming the City as additional insured will be needed to perform permitted work on City-owned trees.
  - Sign Agreement to educate their City customers about the City’s permit processes.
  - Sign Agreement to follow City’s codes for tree permit processes and tree replacement.
  - Sign Agreement to perform pruning work to specifications written in accordance with ANSI A-300 Pruning Standards