

## Division D: Landscaping, Buffering and Tree Preservation

### Section 5-1300 Tree Planting and Replacement

5-1301 **Purpose.** The purpose and intent of this Section is to promulgate regulations for the planting and replacement of trees destroyed or damaged during the development or redevelopment process, pursuant to Section 15.2-961 of the Code of Virginia.

### 5-1302 General Standards.

- (A) All trees to be planted shall meet the specifications of the American Association of Nurserymen.
- (B) The planting of trees shall be done in accordance with either the standardized landscape specifications jointly adopted by the Virginia Nurserymen's Association, the Virginia Society of Landscape Designers and the Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, or the road and bridge specifications of the Virginia Department of Transportation. The Town shall maintain current copies of these specifications available to the public.
- (C) The minimum caliper of all deciduous trees planted shall be one (1) inch, and the minimum height of all evergreen trees shall be six (6) feet.

### 5-1303 Canopy Requirements.

- (A) **Site Planning.** A Final Site Plan, or Construction Plans and Profiles for single family attached units in those districts where applicable, required under Section 6-701, shall include the planting and replacement of trees on site to the extent that, at maturity of ten (10) years, minimum tree canopy shall be provided as follows:
  - (1) Ten (10) percent tree canopy for sites zoned business, commercial, or industrial in the GB, PD-IP, PD-OP, PD-GL, MR-HI, PD-CC, PD-RDP, PD-SA PD-TRC, PD-TC, CLL, RC, and PD-H Districts.

- (2) Ten (10) percent tree canopy for sites zoned PD-H and R-24 with densities of twenty (20) or more units per acre.
- (3) Fifteen (15) percent tree canopy for sites zoned PD-H and R-16 for multi-family and single family attached units with densities of eleven (11) to nineteen (19) units per acre.
- (4) Twenty (20) percent tree canopy for sites zoned PD-H and R-8 for multi-family and single family attached units with densities of three (3) to ten (10) units per acre.

(B) **For development requiring a plan of subdivision, but not a site plan, property not zoned A-3, A-10, AR-1, AR-2, I.e. single family and duplex dwellings.** When a plan of subdivision is required under the Land Subdivision and Development Ordinance and the property is not zoned A-3, A-10, AR-1, AR-2, a landscape plan shall be included at Record Plat or construction drawings, whichever shall occur first, that provides for the planting or replacement of trees on the site to the extent that, at maturity of ten (10) years, minimum tree canopies will be provided as follows:

- (1) If the site has a tree canopy coverage of 20% or more, the plan shall provide for the preservation, or planting and replacement of trees on site so as to result in a tree canopy of at least 20%, calculated at 10 years maturity.
- (2) If the site has a tree canopy coverage of less than twenty (20%) prior to recordation of the subdivision, the plan shall provide for the preservation or planting and replacement of an equivalent percentage of tree canopy coverage as existed prior to development, calculated at 10 year maturity.
- (3) Every platted lot shall have a minimum tree canopy coverage of 2.5%, or 3,000 square feet, whichever is less, calculated at 10 years maturity, exempting lots for which no permits for new structures will be sought and the designated parent tract. Such trees shall be counted toward the minimum tree canopy requirements in (1) and (2) above.

(4) Trees shall be planted at a density of one tree per 50 linear feet along all areas dedicated for use for vehicular access. Such trees shall have a minimum caliper of 1" and a height at maturity of 15 feet or more. Such trees shall be counted toward the minimum tree canopy requirements in (1), (2) and (3) above.

(C) **Exclusions.** For the purpose of calculating the area of a site, to determine tree canopy coverage requirements, the following areas shall be excluded:

(1) Properties reserved or dedicated for future street construction or other public improvements.

(2) Ponds and un-wooded wetlands.

(3) Properties reserved or dedicated for school sites, playing fields and other non-wooded recreation areas, and other facilities and areas of a similar nature.

(4) Portions of a site which contain existing structures that are not the subject of a pending application.

(D) **Existing Conditions.** Existing trees which are to be preserved may be included to meet all or part of the canopy requirements, and may include wooded preserves, if the site plan or record plat, or construction plans and profiles, identifies such trees and the trees meet standards of desirability and life-year expectancy established by the Zoning Administrator.

**5-1304 Variations.** Reasonable exceptions to or deviations from the requirements in this Section to allow for the reasonable development of farmland or other areas devoid of woody materials, including the preservation of wetlands, or when the strict application of the requirements would result in unnecessary or otherwise unreasonable hardship to the developer, shall be considered by the Zoning Administrator upon application by the owner.

**5-1305 Enforcement.** Penalties for violations of the requirements of this Section shall be the same as those applicable to violations of other provisions of this Ordinance.