



Landscape Guidelines Update

Park and Recreation Commission

October 18, 2018

Overview

- The City of Alexandria's Landscape Guidelines establish minimum standards for landscape plan development, installation, and maintenance as authorized in the City Code.
- The Landscape Guidelines are primarily intended for property owners, developers, and applicants seeking approval for Grading Plans, Special Use Permits, Development Site Plans, and Development Special Use Permits.

2018 Update

- The City adopted the original Landscape Guidelines in 1997 and a revision in 2007.
- The 2018 update is intended to clarify City expectations regarding plan approval processes, and align the City's standards with current industry standards, terminology, best practices, and City policies and plans adopted after 2007.



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES



Major Changes

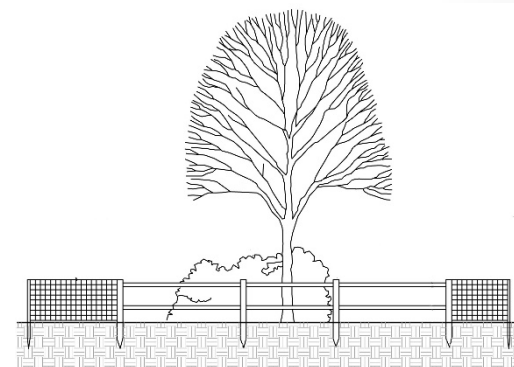
- Document Organization
- Communication Sections for Development Process
 - New sections describing what is required for all approval processes
 - New sections describing what is required at different stages in the approval processes
- Plant Material Requirements
 - New requirement to source plant material from within 300 miles of Alexandria
- Invasive Species Management
 - New requirement for invasive species removal and management if certain project criteria are met

Major Changes

- Canopy Coverage
 - New requirement to meet canopy coverage requirements on site or contribute to the Urban Forestry Fund
 - Amendments to planting above structure requirements to encourage additional trees on each site
 - Amendments to street tree requirements to encourage additional trees in the right-of-way
- Native Plants
 - New requirement for native plants on landscape plans
 - Required percentage would increase over time, to coordinate with industry availability
- Plant Diversity
 - New requirement to increase diversity of plant species proposed on landscape plans

Major Changes

- Soils
 - New requirements for soil composition
 - Amended requirements for soil volume
- Planting and Tree Protection Details
 - Amended details for planting standards
 - New details added to standardize installation of plants and tree protection measures
 - Linked to the website for improved updating
- References and Appendices
 - Updated references to required notes, canopy coverage allowances, and industry standards for native plants and invasive species
 - Linked to the website for improved updating



Outreach Process

- Listening Sessions with Industry Professionals and Designers – Summer 2018
- **Park and Recreation Commission Draft Presentation – October 18**
- Online Public Comment Period – Ends November 16
- Environmental Policy Commission – November 5
- Beautification Commission – November 8
- Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearing – November 15
- Outreach to NAIOP and Federation of Civic Associations
- Planning Commission – December 4
- City Council – December 15

Additional Coordination

- Text Amendments in the Spring
 - Revise conflicting language in the Zoning Ordinance
 - Propose to change 'Landscape Guidelines' to 'Landscape Standards'
 - Revise tree lists to remove invasive species

Next Steps

- Review the Landscape Guidelines Update over the next month
- Outreach to stakeholder groups
- Park and Recreation Public Hearing in November
- Presentation to Planning Commission and City Council in December





Questions?