



Landscape Guidelines Update

Environmental Policy Commission

November 5, 2018

Overview

- The City of Alexandria's Landscape Guidelines establish minimum standards for landscape plan development, installation, and maintenance.
- The Landscape Guidelines are primarily intended for private development 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 clarifies City plan approval processes, and brings the City's standards current with best practices, industry standards, and City policies and plans.



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES



2018 Update

- Update process incorporates information from preceding plan updates, including Urban Forestry Master Plan, Natural Resources Management Plan, and ongoing input from environmental planning processes
- Lessons learned from development reviews
- Staff involved are experts in landscape architecture, horticulture, arboriculture, stormwater management, and other relevant fields

Changes of Particular Interest

- Invasive Species Management
 - ***New requirement:*** Invasive species removal and management if certain project criteria are met
- Native Plants
 - ***New requirement:*** Use of native plants on landscape plans
 - Percentage requirement linked to plant type, planting situation, and ability to meet diversity goals
 - Required percentage would increase over time, to address availability
- Plant Diversity
 - ***New requirement:*** Required mix of family, genus and species to increase diversity of plantings

Changes of Particular Interest

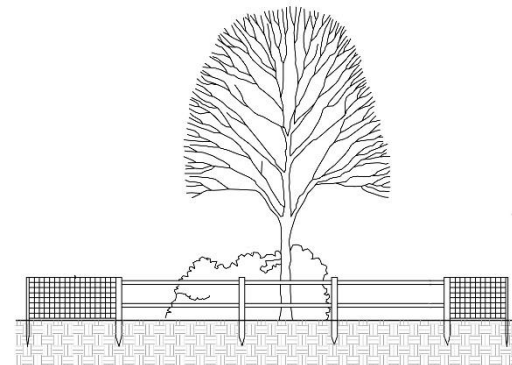
- Canopy Coverage
 - ***New requirement:*** Meet canopy coverage requirements on site or contribute to the Urban Forestry Fund
 - Amendments to above-structure requirements to encourage additional trees on-site
 - Amendments to street tree requirements to encourage additional trees in the right-of-way
 - Amendments to encourage tree preservation
- Soils
 - ***New requirements:*** Soil composition for improved planting success
 - Amended requirements for soil volume

Other 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

Other Major Changes

- 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 – January 2019
- City Council – January 2019

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, including Authority & Ordinances
- Park and Recreation Public Hearing in November
- Presentation to Planning Commission and City Council in January/February





Questions?