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# **Planning Commission Staff Report**

Subject:	Ordinance Amendment Vote Report
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2009
From:	Charlie Campo, Project Planner
Petition:	P.Z. 25-2008 City of Chesterfield (Tree Preservation and Landscape Requirements)

## **Proposal Summary**

The City of Chesterfield is requesting to repeal City of Chesterfield Ordinance 2367 and replace it with a new ordinance that revises the procedures and requirements for the preservation of trees and landscaping within the City of Chesterfield.

### **Ordinance Amendment Analysis**

Changes have been made throughout the document based on input from the City Arborist. There have also been changes made that relate to vehicular navigation to improve safety. Other changes have been made to insure consistency with the Nuisance Ordinance (Ordinance 2498) and to make the ordinance easier to adhere to and enforce. The changes have been summarized below:

## Section II. and III. (page 1)

These sections were reorganized and revised to help clarify what projects must adhere to the tree preservation and landscape requirements.

### Section IV. (page 1-6)

Definitions were updated to reflect new terms used in other development related ordinances and were also suggested revisions from the City Arborist.

## Section V. (page 6)

This table was revised to reflect the current submittal, review and decision making authorities for various development processes.

### Section VI. (page 7-8)

The "Protection of Public or Private Trees" section was revised to include language related to fines and to reflect updated terms and titles.

## Section VII. and VIII. (page 8-11)

These sections were updated with regard to when Tree Stand Delineation Plans and Tree Preservation Plans are required.

### Section X. (page 12-14)

This section was revised to reflect updated terms and processes.

## Section XI. (page 14)

The "Plant Selections" section was changed to require an increase in variation to tree types and species required to be used.

### Section XII. (page 14-20)

This section includes changes for information required to be shown on landscape plans. Additional changes focus on planting near vehicular areas.

### Section XIII. (page 21)

Changes were made to the section regarding the instances when a Tree Protection Surety is required.

## Section XV. (21-24)

This section was amended to clarify the approval process for projects that cannot adhere to the standards of the tree manual including information required from the developer and the approval process of the City.

### Appendix A

The Tree List was revised with input from the City Arborist.

### Issues

A Public Hearing was held on December 8, 2008. At that time no issues were identified.

A comment letter was received on December 22, 2008 from the Home Builders Association of St. Louis & Eastern Missouri (HBA). The letter identified several issues and concerns that the HBA had throughout the document. Staff has reviewed their concerns and the comment letter has been attached for review and consideration by the Planning Commission.

## Request

Staff requests action on P.Z. 25-2008 City of Chesterfield (Tree Preservation and Landscape Requirements)

Respectfully submitted,

Chil Carpo

Charlie Campo Project Planner

Respectfully submitted,

Mara M. Perry, AICP Senior Planner

- Attachments
  - 1. Tree Preservation and Landscape Requirements
  - 2. Comment Letter from HBA dated December, 22 2008

# TREE PRESERVATION AND LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS

## I. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this section of the City Code is to provide a detailed guide for the preservation and planting of trees within the City of Chesterfield. Tree preservation and planting in the City of Chesterfield represents an on-going effort to maintain the character and benefits derived from trees. Whether trees exist as a natural occurrence of native tree species or as planted trees around existing developments, their protection can only be assured when tree protection measures are utilized. By selecting the trees that will be preserved before the final stages of development, tree protection design standards can be created and included prior to the early stages of development of the site. Planting of new trees should be used to supplement a site's existing landscaping, not replace it.

### II. APPLICABILITY

- A. Except where expressly exempted, the terms and provisions of this section of the City Code shall apply to:
  - 1. All vacant and undeveloped land; and
  - 2. All property to be redeveloped including additions and alterations.

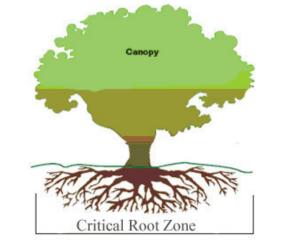
## III. EXCEPTIONS

- A. Single residential lots of less than one (1) acre that have been subdivided for more than two (2) years, are exempt from the provisions of this section of the City of Chesterfield Code.
- B. Single residential lots of one (1) acre or more are not required to submit a Tree Stand Delineation or Tree Preservation Plan when:
  - 1. Constructing a residential addition or deck less than 1,000 square feet in area; or
  - 2. No Tree Mass, as defined in Section IV of this ordinance, is being disturbed.
- C. Plants that create a public nuisance are not protected by the provisions of this section of the City of Chesterfield Code.

### IV. DEFINITIONS

1. <u>Afforestation</u>: The conversion of open land into forest through tree planting.

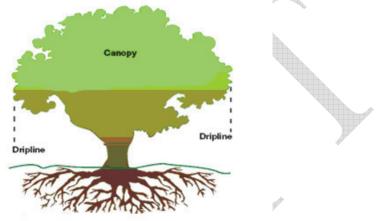
- 2. <u>Buffer Strip</u>: A strip of land with natural or planted vegetation intended to separate and partially obstruct the view of two (2) adjacent land uses or properties from one another.
- 3. **<u>Caliper:</u>** The diameter of the trunk of a young tree less than 4 inches in diameter; measured at six (6) inches above natural grade.
- 4. **Canopy Tree**: Deciduous trees that have a minimum height of thirty (30) feet at maturity.
- 5. <u>**City's Tree Specialist**</u>: A Tree Specialist retained by the City to review tree protection and preservation issues at the City's request.
- 6. <u>Critical Root Zone (CRZ)</u>: The area of tree roots within the crown dripline. This zone is generally defined as the area underneath a tree's canopy, extending from the tree's trunk to a point no less than the furthest crown dripline.



- 7. **Common Open Space:** Common open space means a parcel or area of land or an area of water or a combination of both within the planned unit development (PUD) which is designed and intended for the use or enjoyment of the residents. This area may include stream corridors, agricultural lands, archeological sites or other elements to be protected from development as well as easements for public utilities. It also includes any improvements as are necessary and appropriate for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents or land owners. Common open space does not include any portion of an improved lot, dedicated to buildings or vehicular navigation.
- 8. **Diameter at Breast Height (DBH):** The diameter of the trunk of a tree, in inches of diameter, measured at "breast height" four and one half (4.5) feet above the original soil or natural grade. If a tree

forks or separates into two or more trunks below 4.5 feet, then the trunk is measured at its narrowest point below the fork.

- 9. **Disturb:** Includes the intentional, unintentional or negligent removal, destruction, or killing of any tree, or causing the loss of the tree canopy coverage or critical root zone of individual trees or group of trees.
- 10. **Drip Line**: The location on the ground which is just below the outer extent of the tree branches.



- 11. <u>Grading:</u> Clearing, excavation or fill or any combination thereof and shall include the conditions resulting from any excavation or fill.
- 12. **Greenspace Preservation Area:** An area designated within a proposed development within which all existing healthy trees, vegetation, stream corridors, soil grade and any existing or additional landscape plantings are to be permanently protected and preserved. No structures or paving are permitted in a greenspace preservation area.
- 13. <u>Grove:</u> A group of trees similar in species or size and significant enough to be given special attention. See also Monarch Tree Stands.
- 14. **Landscape Buffer:** An area of landscaping separating two land uses, or a land use and public right-of-way, and acts to soften or mitigate the effects or impacts of one land use on the other.
- 15. <u>Limit of Disturbance</u>: A line that identifies the location on the ground where fencing will be installed to protect trees from clearing, grading, soil filling, storage of materials, parking of vehicles, utility installation or other construction activity of any kind.

- 16. <u>Monarch Tree</u>: Any tree shall be classified as a monarch tree if it meets one or more of the following conditions:
  - a. It is rare or unusual species, or
  - b. It is of exceptional quality, or
  - c. It has historical significance, or
  - d. It will be specifically used as a focal point in a project or landscape.
  - e. Small trees (dogwood, redbud, serviceberry, etc.) measuring at least 12" DBH, or
  - f. Medium/Large trees (Pine, Oak, Maple, etc.) measuring at least 20" DBH.
- 17. <u>Monarch Tree Stand:</u> A contiguous grouping of at least eight (8) trees which have been determined to be of high value or comprised of Monarch Trees. Determination is based upon the following:
  - a. A relatively mature even aged stand of trees, or
  - b. A stand of trees with a purity of species composition, or
  - c. A stand of trees which are rare or unusual in nature, or
  - d. A stand of trees with historical significance, or
  - e. A stand of trees with exceptional aesthetic quality or size that is a principle feature of a site.
- 18. **Ornamental Tree**: A small highly visual tree species that can attain a mature height of 20-35 feet.
- 19. **Openspace**: Openspace may include pervious surfaces such as ponds, grass areas, and landscaped areas. Openspace also includes water features or drainage ditches, sidewalks, and pedestrian areas such as plaza areas for seating. Openspace specifically excludes any portion of a site covered by a building, any paved area for vehicular circulation or parking, and any outdoor storage areas.
- 20. **Public Tree**: Any tree located on city owned or controlled property including parks, street right-of-ways, parkways, public facilities, etc.
- 21. <u>Sight Distance Triangle</u>: The triangular area of a corner lot bound by the property lines and a line connecting the two (2) points on the property lines thirty (30) feet from the point of intersection of the projected property lines.
- 22. <u>Street Tree</u>: Any tree that is currently located or proposed for planting as part of the row of trees required along streets or highways.

- 23. <u>**Tree Canopy**</u>: The upper portion of a tree or trees made up of branches and leaves.
- 24. <u>Tree Canopy Coverage</u>: The area in square feet of a tree's spread. Existing tree canopy is determined by measuring the ground's surface area that is covered by the branch spread of a single tree or clump or grove of trees. When trees are relatively close together, but the branches are not touching the general area covered by this group can be used to determine the area of tree canopy coverage.
- 25. <u>**Tree Mass:**</u> A grouping of three (3) or more trees whose canopies intertwine or overlap.
- 26. <u>Tree Protection Area</u>: The area above ground necessary to protect the Critical Root Zone including the trunk and scaffold branches of a tree.
- 27. <u>Tree Specialist</u>: A person who meets one of the following criteria:
  - <u>Arborist/Certified Arborist</u>: A person who is a full-time owner or employee of a commercial tree service with at least five (5) years of field experience or a person who is certified through the International Society of Arboriculture.
  - b. <u>Forester/Certified Forester</u>: A person with a degree in forestry and at least five (5) years of field experience or a person certified through the Society of American Foresters.
- 28. <u>**Tree Topping**</u>: Drastic removal or cutting back of large branches in mature trees.
- 29. <u>Ultimate Tree Canopy</u>: Ultimate tree canopy is determined by assigning the following area values for planted trees, and the tree sizes may be used in combination to attain the necessary density for tree planting.
  - a. Large Tree 400 sq. ft.
  - b. Medium Tree—300 sq ft.
  - c. Small Tree—200 sq. ft.
- 30. <u>Understory Tree</u>: Deciduous trees that have a maximum height of less than thirty (30) feet at maturity.

31. <u>Wooded Area</u>: 5,000 sq. ft. or more of tree canopy coverage and where the tree canopy is primarily comprised of trees equal to or larger than five (5) inches in DBH. The 5,000 sq. ft. may be in a single grouping or comprised of several single trees or groupings of scattered trees in old yards or old fields, as well as land with thick tree cover or forested lands. The 5,000 sq. ft. need not be contiguous.

## V. OVERVIEW OF SUBMITTAL PROCESS

Development	Plan Submittal	Staff Action	Decision Making
Process			Authority
Rezoning to a planned district	Tree Stand Delineation (TSD)	Review/Recommendation.	N/A
Site Development Concept Plan	TSD, Tree Preservation Plan (TPP), Conceptual Landscape Plan	Review/Recommendation	Planning Commission.
Site Plan/ Site Development Plan/Site Development Section Plan	TSD, TPP, Landscape Plan	Review/Recommendation	Planning Commission.
Special Conditions Request	Mitigation Plan	Review	Staff
Municipal Zoning Authorization	TSD, TPP (except where specifically exempted)	Review	Staff.
Grading Permit/ Improvement Plan	The Approved TPP	Review	If modification requested is 10% or less: Staff reviews and may approve in part or whole and mitigation may be required. If modification requested is more than 10%: Planning Commission approves.
Bond Release	N/A	Staff reviews site against approved Landscape Plan and TPP	Staff.

## VI. PROTECTION OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE TREES

- A. It is unlawful for any person to attach any sign, advertisement, notice, fence or any other man made object to any tree in the public right-of-way, park or any other City property. Exceptions: temporary devices used for normal installation or maintenance of planted trees or as permitted by the City of Chesterfield.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to damage, cut down, destroy, top or injure any tree without first obtaining the necessary approval from the City of Chesterfield. If any tree is damaged, removed, or destroyed without first acquiring approval from the City of Chesterfield this shall constitute a violation of this Tree Manual and a fine shall be assessed based upon the value and number of each tree, shrub or plant which was removed, damaged, or destroyed. Tree values shall be based on procedures in "Guide for Plant Appraisal", latest edition, published by the International Society of Arboriculture. Monies collected from fines will be placed in the Tree Preservation Account according to Section XIII of this Tree Manual.
  - 1. Trees may not be removed from any "Common Open Space" or "Greenspace Preservation Area" area unless authorized by the City of Chesterfield.
  - 2. This provision shall not apply to any ordinary care and maintenance or removal of hazardous trees or tree parts by a governmental entity or its designee authorized to exercise jurisdiction over the right-of-way, park or other infrastructure, public property, or to provide regular road maintenance.
- C. The Planning and Development Services Director has the authority to order the removal of trees or shrubs on private property which may endanger life, health, safety, or property of the public.
  - 1. Removal shall be done by owners at their expense within sixty (60) days after the date of notice served.
  - 2. Disposal of trees with communicable diseases shall be performed in a manner which prevents the spread of disease.
  - 3. In the event the owners fail to comply with such provisions, the City shall have the authority to remove such trees and charge the costs of removal as well as any costs for fees to record or release any lien and reasonably administrative costs, as a special assessment represented by a special tax bill against the real property affected, and shall be filed by the City Clerk and deemed a personal debt against the property owner and shall remain a lien on the property until paid.

- D. The Public Works Director may authorize the removal of street trees for public or private construction projects.
- E. When deemed appropriate due to the nature of the existing vegetation on the site, the City may require the Applicant to provide a landscape or forestry study by an Independent Tree Specialist.

## VII. TREE STAND DELINEATION (TSD)

A. Purpose

The purpose of the TSD is to provide a general accounting of existing vegetation so that a conceptual design of the proposed development can be done.

B. Applicability

A TSD is required for submittal as outlined in Section V. Overview of Submittal Process.

C. Exceptions

For Single Family Residential Dwellings, which do not meet the criteria in Section III. "Exceptions", the property owner may be required to submit letter stating the acreage, the work proposed and that no tree mass is being disturbed. If there are trees on site, a partial TSD and partial TPP is acceptable.

D. Criteria

The following items are required on a TSD:

- 1. Detailed description and location of individual trees and groups of trees including specific size and estimated number of trees within a natural area.
- 2. Identification of existing roads, building footprints, parking lots, stormwater structures and utilities.
- 3. Signed by a Tree Specialist.
- 4. For trees larger than 5" DBH, either BAF-10 study or ocular estimate method may be utilized.

- 5. As directed by the City of Chesterfield, submit a site plan with TSD overlay. An overlay is defined as a transparent sheet containing the proposed TSD line work which will be superimposed over the proposed site plan.
- 6. The City's Tree Specialist may, at the City's discretion, be asked to verify any information provided on the TSD.

## VIII. TREE PRESERVATION PLAN (TPP)

A. Purpose

A TPP is a plan based upon information provided by a tree specialist that delineates areas where trees are to be saved and details measures to be taken to ensure protection and survivability of trees to be saved, prior to and during construction, and also complies with guidelines which are listed in this Manual.

B. Applicability

A TPP is required for submittal as outlined in Section V. Overview of Submittal Process.

In addition and unless otherwise exempted in this Section of the City Code, the TPP provisions of this Section of the City Code shall also apply to all vacant or undeveloped land and all property to be re-developed including additions and alterations with 5,000 square feet or more of wooded area of any site that contains a monarch tree stand.

C. Exceptions

For Single Family Residential Dwellings, which do not meet the criteria in Section III. "Exceptions", the property owner may be required to submit letter stating the acreage, the work proposed and that no tree mass is being disturbed. If there are trees on site, a partial TSD and partial TPP is acceptable.

D. Criteria

The following items are required on a TPP:

1. A minimum 30% of any wooded area shall be maintained as protected wooded area without disturbing the roots of trees within the protected wooded area.

- 2. The Applicant shall save tree groupings within wooded areas to maintain the trees' structural integrity and natural aesthetics.
- 3. The Applicant shall not include any trees or wooded area in building areas, in areas with proposed or existing utilities, or rights-of-way as "preserved" or "protected" to satisfy the canopy coverage requirements.
- E. Plan Requirements

The following is a list of all items and information that must be included in the TPP.

- 1. Provide detailed description and location of individual and groups of trees to be preserved and the proposed protection measures.
- 2. Plan must be at the same scale as the site plan or grading plan.
- 3. Signed and sealed by a Missouri Landscape Architect.
- 4. Table listing the following:
  - a. Total site area
  - b. Existing tree canopy, in square feet
  - c. Tree canopy coverage proposed for removal, in square feet
  - d. Tree canopy coverage provided for preservation, in square feet
- 5. Existing and proposed contours
- 6. Location of existing tree canopy
- 7. Locations of all improvements with proposed utilities as shown on the site plan, including building areas, easements, or rights-of-way.
- 8. Limit of Disturbance Line
- 9. General or conceptual locations of all sediment control devices and structures
- 10. The location, type, size, and proposed removal or preservation, of all Monarch Trees as shown on the TSD and the critical root zone for those Monarch trees within fifty feet (50') of the limit of disturbance

- 11. Tree protection notes shall include the following language:
  - a. Clearing limits shall be rough staked or marked by the Applicant's surveyor in order to facilitate location for trenching and fencing installation.
  - b. No clearing or grading shall begin in areas where tree treatment, preservation, and protection measures have not yet been completed.
  - c. Protective devices with details (aeration systems, retaining walls, etc.).
  - d. Early maintenance schedule (i.e. pruning, injection fertilizing, etc.).
  - e. Name of tree specialist and company.

# IX. CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR FIELD PRACTICE

- A. Protective fencing shall be installed along the Limit of Disturbance Line to prevent damage to the roots, trunk, and tops of protected trees. This protective fence shall protect the tree and its roots from clearing, grading, soil filling, storage of materials, parking of vehicles, utility installation or other construction activity of any kind.
- B. Signs designating required Tree Protection Areas, Common Openspace Areas, or Greenspace Preservation Areas, shall be posted along the Limit of Disturbance Line.
- C. Root pruning or trenching shall occur when roots, within the critical root zone of a protected tree, would be damaged as a result of nearby excavation or the addition of fill over the root system.
- D. Trenches are not permitted inside the drip line of a tree's canopy.
- E. Sediment and Erosion Control Structures must be used to keep eroded soil from covering roots of protected trees. Siltation screens, etc., are appropriate.
- F. Tunneling may be required when utilities are to run through a tree's critical root zone. Tunneling is required for permitted work within a tree's canopy coverage. Tunneling must adhere to the requirements set forth in Table 1.

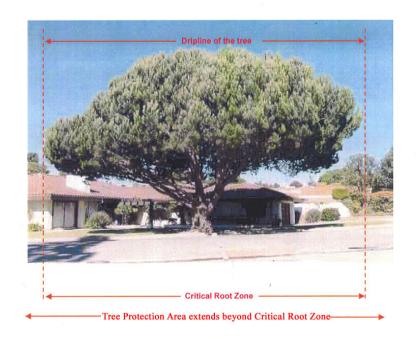
TABLE 1: TUNNELING STANDARDS								
Tree Diameter (DBH)	Tunnel Distance from trunk of tree measured in all directions							
Less than six inches (6")	3'							
6-9"	5'							
10-14"	10'							
15-19"	12'							
Over 19"	15'							

# X. PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS ON CONSTRUCTION SITE

A. Tree Protective Measures and Protected

2.

- 1. No tree shall be removed in a Greenspace Preservation Area, Tree Protection Area, or Common Openspace Area without approval from the City of Chesterfield. The location of Greenspace Preservation Areas, Tree Protection Areas, or Common Openspace Areas shall be determined during the establishment of the site specific ordinance or as established on the approved TPP.
  - The Applicant shall not disturb the Tree Protection Area of any tree to be preserved.



- 3. No healthy living plant material shall be removed, disturbed, or damaged in a Greenspace Preservation Area. The location of any Greenspace Preservation Area shall be determined during the establishment of the site specific ordinance or during the Site Plan review process.
- 4. A Tree Specialist shall be named and employed by the Applicant. Said tree specialist should be available for on-site inspections as directed by the City of Chesterfield.
- 5. During the erection, alteration, or repair of any building structure, street, sidewalk, underground pipe or utility, the contractor shall place guards, fences, or barriers to prevent injury to the trees.
- 6. During construction or during Improvement Plan review, the City of Chesterfield may determine that certain trees originally marked for preservation may have to be removed due to location of utilities or required improvements. If such determination is made, an amended plan shall be submitted to the Planning and Development Services Director for review and approval.
- B. Prior to the issuance of any occupancy permits, should any preserved tree die or be damaged beyond repair as a result of grading or construction damage the Applicant shall pay a fine to the City equal to the value of the trees that died or are damaged beyond repair as certified and determined by the City's Tree Specialist. Said cost shall include the cost of appraisal incurred by the City of Chesterfield. The City will withhold occupancy

permits and/or any other required permits until the fine is paid. Tree values shall be based on procedures in "Guide for Plant Appraisal", latest edition, published by the International Society of Arboriculture. Monies collected from fines will be placed in the Tree Preservation Account according to Section XIII of this Tree Manual.

- C. Should any tree die, or be damaged beyond repair, as a result of grading or construction within a two (2) year period after cessation of grading or completion of the required improvements which ever is less the Applicant shall be responsible for replacing the tree. Failure to replace shall constitute default and the City of Chesterfield shall be entitled to proceed against the tree protection surety.
- D. Refer to Section XIII for Surety and Escrow Procedures.

## XI. PLANT SELECTIONS

- A. All trees shall be selected from the Recommended Tree List in the Appendix of this Tree Manual.
- B. All trees within five (5) feet of existing or proposed rights-of-way or public sidewalks shall be taken from the Street Tree category in the Recommended Tree List in the City of Chesterfield's Tree Manual.
- C. A variety of trees from the Recommended Tree List must be utilized so that there is a mix of tree species, growth rate, and tree size.
- D. A minimum of thirty percent (30%) of the trees must be of a species with a slow or medium growth rate.
- E. For projects in which more than fifty (50) trees will be installed, a variety of tree species within each category of deciduous, evergreen, and ornamental trees must be utilized. Each of the three categories shall provide a minimum of twenty (20%) of the total trees to be planted. No more than 20% of the trees selected shall be from the same species. For projects that require only street trees, no one species shall comprise more than twenty (20%) of the total trees to be planted.

## XII. LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

Landscape plans must be submitted to the Department of Planning and Public Works in conjunction with a proposed development or redevelopment. A Conceptual Landscape Plan must be submitted with the Site Development Concept Plans.

## A. LANDSCAPE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

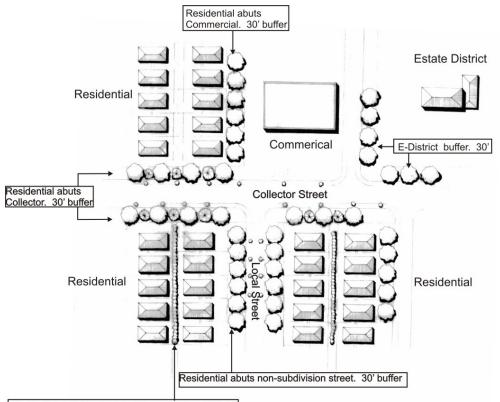
The information to be submitted as a part of the landscape plan shall include but not be limited to the following:

- 1. The landscape plan shall be of the same size and scale as the applicable site plan(s) submitted to the City.
- 2. The landscape plan shall be produced by a Missouri Landscape Architect, whose name and seal are attached.
- 3. Trees shall be selected from the Recommended Tree List included in Appendix A.
- 4. All proposed deciduous trees shall be a minimum caliper of 2.5 inches, and evergreen trees shall be a minimum of 6 feet in height.
- 5. Tree locations, species, and numbers which shall be identified on the scaled drawing. A Conceptual Landscape Plan only indicates the proposed landscaping along arterial and collector roadways.
- 6. Trees shall be selected according to Section XI of the Tree and Landscape Guidelines.
- 7. Elevations and plan views of proposed landscaping shall be provided as requested by the City of Chesterfield.
- 8. The landscape plan shall include a legend identifying the symbols for the various types of trees.
- 9. The landscape plan shall show the location of any easements or utilities.
- 10. Protection measures must be identified around all trees required to be retained.
- 11. The landscape plan shall list the percentage of openspace in relation to total area of the site.
- 12. The landscape plan shall include a summary table for all plant materials listing Common and Scientific name and variety, Deciduous, Evergreen or Ornamental, Quantity, Maturity, Height and Caliper.
- 13. Plant Selection shall comply with all other applicable sections of the City of Chesterfield City Code.
- B. LANDSCAPE BUFFERS, SETBACKS, BERMS, OR WALLS
  - 1. Landscape buffers are required per the criteria set forth in Table 2 below. Landscape buffers shall contain a combination of deciduous trees, evergreen trees, ornamental and shrubs and should enhance and preserve native vegetation.

TABLE 2: LANDSCAPE B	UFFER REQUIREMENTS
TYPE OF SUBDIVISION *	LANDSCAPE BUFFER REQUIRED
When a Residential Subdivision Abuts a	Minimum 20 foot wide buffer strip, 10
Residential Subdivision	feet of which may be satisfied by
	installing landscaping on the abutting
	property with property owner consent.
When a Residential Subdivision Abuts a	Minimum 30 foot wide buffer strip, 10
Non-Residential Subdivision	feet of which may be satisfied by
	installing landscaping on the abutting
	property with property owner consent.
When a Non-Residential Subdivision	Minimum 30 foot wide buffer strip, 10
Abuts a Residential Subdivision	feet of which may be satisfied by
	installing landscaping on the abutting
	property with property owner consent.
When a Residential Subdivision Abuts a	Minimum of 30 foot wide buffer strip.
non-subdivision street	
For all property zoned as an "E" District	Minimum of 30 foot wide buffer strip.
	The buffer strip shall not be counted
	towards minimum lot size.
Development along collector or arterial	Minimum of 30 foot wide buffer strip.
roadway	

\*For the purpose of this section, if the abutting property is zoned NU Non-Urban, the Comprehensive Plan is to be consulted to determine if the abutting property should be considered residential or non-residential.

- 2. Landscaped berms, walls or fences are required to screen automobile headlights from areas zoned residential or non-urban.
- 3. Flexible residential landscape buffer requirements may be granted by the Planning and Development Services Director in cases where it can be demonstrated that the proposed landscape buffer encourages a creative design solution to the issue of buffering adjacent land uses.
- 4. For all districts, landscape buffers must be outside of any right-ofway dedication.
- 5. For all districts, no plantings are allowed within drainage swales or ditches.
- 6. For all districts, entrance islands and cul-de-sacs shall be landscaped as directed by the City of Chesterfield.



Residential abuts Residential. 10' on each side - 20' total.

Figure 1: Buffer Requirements

c.

- C. LANDSCAPING FOR PARKING LOTS AND TREE ISLANDS 1. Landscaped Islands
  - a. Landscaped islands shall be placed at the ends of parking aisles and within aisles.
  - b. Landscaped islands shall contain plantings consisting of deciduous trees and ground covers such as shrubs, ivy, flowers, and grasses that do not block required line of sight for vehicles.
    - All parking aisle and end cap islands shall be at least nine (9) feet wide as measured face to face of curb.
  - d. Landscaped islands with trees shall be at least nine (9) feet wide measured face to face of curb, with at least 135 square feet of pervious area per tree.
  - e. Interior islands landscaped without trees shall be at least six(6) feet wide as measured face to face of curb.

f. Landscape Islands shall be landscaped in accordance with Table 3 below:

TABLE 3: LANDSCAPE REQU	REMENTS FOR TREE ISLANDS
Type of Island	Landscaping Required
Single Island	One deciduous tree required. Minimum landscape width of nine (9) feet with minimum island pervious area of 135 sq ft.
Double Island	Two (2) deciduous trees are required per double landscaped island. Minimum island pervious area of 135 sq ft per tree.
Double Island at end of double row of parking	There shall be a double island of two- hundred-ten (210) square feet placed at the ends of a double row of parking. Two (2) deciduous trees are required that do not block required line of sight for vehicles. Minimum island pervious area of 135 sq ft per tree

- 2. Parking Lots
  - a. No parking space shall be located further than fifty (50) feet from a tree.
  - b. Vehicular areas should have minimum fifteen (15) feet landscape setback from existing or proposed rights-of-way lines.
  - c. Vehicular areas along a collector or arterial roadway shall have a minimum landscape setback of thirty (30) feet.
  - d. Parking islands are not required to have a tree in instances where the adjacent parking spaces are within fifty (50) feet of a tree in other areas of the development.
  - e. Trees planted in parking islands at no time shall block the required sight lines for motorist.
- D. STREET TREES, SHRUBS AND PLANTINGS
  - 1. The use of street trees and shrubs in landscaping for residential and non-residential subdivisions shall adhere to the requirements set forth by Table 4. Acceptable street trees for residential and non-

residential subdivisions are approved by Council policy and are listed in Appendix A.

2. The Planning and Development Services Director may require that street trees be provided for all public streets within and adjacent to any proposed development where insufficient street trees presently exist. Proper approvals and permits must be obtained from the applicable agency. Planting locations will be guided by specifications found herein.

	TABLE 4: STREET TREE PLACEMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL AND NON- RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS							
Frontage Requirement	A minimum of one (1) street tree for every forty (40) feet of lot frontage for single family subdivisions and fifty (50) feet of street frontage for multi-family subdivisions, including common land, and non-residential subdivisions.							
Size Requirement	Street trees shall be at least two and one-half $(2 \frac{1}{2})$ inches in caliper.							
Species Utilized	A maximum of 20% of one species may be utilized for street trees.							
Location to right-of-way	Street trees shall be located within a street right-of- way unless so approved by variance.							
Location to curb and sidewalks	Street trees shall not be planted closer than three (3) feet to any curb.							
Location to street lights, street signs, and intersections	Street trees shall not be placed within twenty-five (25) feet of street lights, street signs and intersections.							
Location to street inlets or manholes.	No trees shall be planted within ten (10) feet of street inlets or manholes.							

- 3. For all districts, landscaped entrance islands shall not block required lines of sight.
- 4. For all districts, no tree, shrub or planting shall be placed within the sight distance triangle or the area of adjacent right of way bounded by the street pavement and the extension of the sight distance triangle.
- 5. Shrubs at mature size shall not extend over pavement or sidewalks. Trees shall be placed such that they can be trimmed to provide a minimum clearance of ten (10) feet over City-maintained sidewalks and twelve (12) feet over roadways. Trees shall not obstruct the view of street signage.\*

\*These requirements apply to shrubs and plantings that at mature height exceed three (3) feet above the elevation of the adjacent pavement or sidewalk and trees that at mature height have bottom branches less than seven (7) feet above the adjacent pavement.

- E. INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE
  - 1. Consideration must be given to year round appearance.
  - 2. All landscaped areas, including islands, shall be provided with mechanical, in-ground irrigation system.
  - 3. All landscaped areas should be curbed or protected by parking stops. Consideration should be given to access for mowing equipment.
  - 4. Burlap and twine shall be removed from at least top one third of the root ball, and wire baskets shall be completely removed, prior to backfilling.
  - 5. Mulch may be used instead of grass or in combination with grass. When mulch is used, it shall completely cover the root area with a maximum of 2-4 inches of mulch.
- F. LANDSCAPE BONDS
  - 1. Prior to the signing of any mylar for a record plat or approval of any Municipal Zoning Authorization other than for a display house plat, a landscape bond shall be posted.
  - 2. The requirements for landscape installation and landscape maintenance bonds in the City of Chesterfield are as follows:
    - a. Landscape Installation Surety When the estimated material's costs for new landscaping

When the estimated material's costs for new landscaping shown on the site development plan exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1,000), as determined by a plant nursery, the Applicant shall furnish a two (2) year bond or escrow sufficient in amount to guarantee the installation of said landscaping. Alternatively landscape installation surety may be included in the subdivision escrow, as approved by the Planning and Development Services Director.

Landscape Maintenance Surety
Upon release of the Landscape Installation Bond, a two (2)
year Landscape Maintenance Bond is required.

## XIII. TREE PROTECTION SURETY AND ESCROW PROCEDURES

- A. Prior to the issuance of any grading permit or improvement plan approval, a Tree Protection surety shall be posted to account for trees that die, or are damaged beyond repair, as a result of grading or construction damage. The Tree Protection surety will remain for two (2) years after the issuance of the cessation of grading or completion of the required improvements whichever is later.
- B. The amount of the Tree Protection surety shall be in the amount of \$10,000 per 100 lineal feet, or portion thereof, of wooded canopy perimeter to be preserved adjacent to any proposed clearing, grading, or other disturbance; or \$20,000 per acre to be preserved which ever is less.
- C. The number of replacement trees is determined by matching the total caliper inches of trees to be planted with the total DBH inches of the trees that were lost.
- D. A Landscape Plan shall be developed for the replacement trees according to specifications shown in this Tree Manual.
- E. Failure to replace trees shall constitute default and the City of Chesterfield shall be entitled to proceed against the surety. Monies collected from fines will be placed in the Tree Preservation Account according to Section XIV of this Tree Manual.
- F. A Tree Protection Surety is not required for projects or sites that are exempt from the provisions of this Tree Manual as described in Section III "Exceptions", or for single family residential lots over one (1) acre in size which are not disturbing any monarch tree stand or as determined by the Planning and Development Services Director.

## XIV. TREE PRESERVATION ACCOUNT

There is hereby established a "Tree Preservation Account" which shall be held as a separate account from the City's general fund. The monies paid as a result of fines or payments under the mitigation provisions of this ordinance or monies paid into this account pursuant to any other term of this ordinance, shall be used only for tree plantings on public property in the City of Chesterfield.

## XV. REQUESTS FOR MODIFICATION

Modifications to the requirements found in this section of the City Code may be granted in whole or in part for sites with special or unusual conditions, which prevent an Applicant from adhering to these standards. Requests will be reviewed for approval by the Planning and Development Services Director. For consideration of a modification to any requirement of this Tree Manual, it must first be established that special conditions exist on the site.

A. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

C.

To establish that Special Conditions exist on a site which necessitates a modification to the requirements of this Section of the City Code, information must be submitted which shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1. Explanation of Project Qualification as a Special or Unusual Site. The site to which a modification is being requesting must meet one of the following criteria:
  - a. Property for which:
    - i an ordinance, detailing development requirements, has been in existence as a result either by the City of Chesterfield or St. Louis County (prior to the City's incorporation), and;
    - ii a valid Site Development Concept Plan, Site Development Plan, Site Development Section Plan or a Final Development Plan has been approved prior to the adoption of the original Tree Ordinance Number 1345 enacted on November 17, 1997; or
  - b. Property zoned commercial or industrial which will allow for clearing of the lot for the development of the square footage as previously approved by the current ordinance in place by the City of Chesterfield or the St. Louis County on the date of the adoption of the original Tree Ordinance Number 1345 enacted on November 17,1997; or
    - Property for which a Tree Specialist determines that the Applicant is unable to provide tree preservation in accordance with this Tree Manual due to highly unique and severe circumstance such as extremely poor quality of trees, extreme topography, unusual lot shape, or other similar condition.
- 2. A Tree Stand Delineation (TSD) with an overlay of the existing conditions when applicable. When seeking a modification to the 30% preservation requirement, a TSD is required.

- 3. An engineering plan and/or drawings which depicts and describes that development of the structures as proposed or authorized is impracticable because of the unique character or topography of the site which is not generally applicable to other sites.
- 4. A statement by a tree specialist stating why the development cannot adhere to the requirement.
  - a. When seeking a modification to the 30% preservation requirement, the statement certified by a tree specialist must include that a minimum 30% of the original wooded canopy will be replanted with appropriate tree species on the site. Specific details as to the location, tree type, tree size, etc. must be included. New trees required as part of a mitigation plan may not be used to meet the minimum requirements for landscaping on a site.
  - b. When seeking a modification to the landscape buffer requirement, the statement certified by the tree specialist must include specific details as to the width of the landscape buffer that will be provided, the location, tree type, tree size, etc. must be included. An alternate landscape plan showing this information is required to be submitted for review and approval.
- B. APPROVAL

2.

- 1. The Planning and Development Services Director will review information provided by the Applicant requesting consideration that special conditions exist on the site. The Applicant will be notified in writing of the decision of the Planning and Development Services Director.
  - If Special Conditions are identified to exist on the site, projects seeking modification from the 30% preservation requirement shall submit a Mitigation Plan explaining how the Applicant plans to mitigate the loss of trees on the site. This will be reviewed and approved by the Planning and Development Services Director. The Mitigation Plan may be approved in full or in part.
- 3. Where site constraints or other factors prevent replacement on or off site, the Applicant shall make a cash contribution to the Tree Preservation Account, according to Section XIV of this manual, in an amount equal to the cost of replacing the trees which are not able to be preserved. Said costs shall include labor and plant material.

### C. MITIGATION PLAN

If the Applicant/Owner has shown that a site has special conditions in accordance with Section XV.A, then a Mitigation Plan shall be required and will show at a minimum, the following information and shall be submitted for review and approval by the Planning and Development Services Division.

- 1. Selective clearing and supplemental planting shall be displayed on an overlay plan.
- 2. An on site afforestation plan using larger or smaller stock; the number of trees will depend on the species selected and the ultimate tree canopy; based on tree sizes noted in the list of trees in Appendix A of this manual.
  - a. 400 sq. ft. for large trees
  - b. 300 sq. ft. for medium trees
  - c. 200 sq. ft. for small trees
- 3. Planting must achieve a minimum of 30% of the area of original tree canopy coverage.
- 4. Applicants submitting mitigation plans must utilize a mix of trees that vary in species, size, growth rate, and life span and consists of no more than 20% of one category.

#### XVI. APPEAL

- A. Decisions of the Planning and Development Services Director regarding the application of this ordinance may be appealed to the Board of Adjustment in accordance with applicable procedures as established by the Board of Adjustment.
- B. Decisions of the Public Works Director regarding the application of this ordinance may be appealed to the Public Works Board of Variance in accordance with the applicable procedures as established by the Department of Planning and Public Works.

### XVII. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Administration and enforcement of the provisions of this manual shall be in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Chesterfield Section 1003.200 which is adopted herein by reference. Subject to the exceptions noted in this manual, any person, firm, organization, society, association or corporation, or any agent or representative thereof who violates any of the conditions in this section of the City Code is subject to the penalties

shown in Section XVIII. The removal of each tree in violation of this ordinance shall constitute a separate punishable offense. Violations occurring in the right of way shall be subject to the penalties as described in Chapter 26 of the City of Chesterfield Municipal Code.

#### XVIII. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

- A. A violation of this section shall be a municipal violation and, in addition to any fines or other requirements of this manual, punishable by a fine of not less than five (\$5) dollars and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed three (3) months or by both fine and imprisonment. Each occurrence, location, and failure to conform to the requirements of this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense, and each and every day that such violation shall continue shall be an additional violation with each violation being punishable by a separate fine and/or imprisonment.
- B. In addition to the penalties herein above and authorized and established, the City Attorney shall take such other actions at law or in equity, as may be required to halt, terminate, remove or otherwise eliminate any violations of this section.
- C. The City of Chesterfield shall withhold occupancy permits until the fine is paid.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Street Tree	Parking Lot or Island	Deciduous	Evergreen	Ornamental	<i>Mature Height Feet</i>	Growth Rate and (Size Class)
Abies concolor	Fir, White (Concolor)		x		×		45+	Slow/Med (Large)
Acer ginnala	Maple, Amur		x	x		x	20-25	Med (Small)
Acer platanoides	Maple, Norway	x		x			45+	Med (Large)
Acer platanoides 'Columnare'	Maple, Norway, Columnar		x	x			45+	Med (Large)
<i>Acer rubrum</i> Varieties	Maple, Red and Varieties	x	x	x			45+	Fast (Large)
Acer saccharinum	Maple, Silver			x			45+	Fast (Large)
<i>Acer saccharum</i> Varieties	Maple, Sugar and Varieties	x	x	x			45+	Slow/Med (Large)
Acer tataricum	Maple, Tatarian		x	x			15-25	Med (Small)
<i>Acer x freemanii</i> 'Jeffersred'	Maple, Hybrid, Autumn Blaze		x	x			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
<i>Acer x freemanii</i> 'Scarsen'	Maple, Scarlet Sentinel		x	x			45+	Fast (Large)
Aesculus glabra	Buckeye, Ohio		x	x		x	25-35	Slow (Medium)
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horsechestnut		r	x		x	30-45	Med (Medium)
Aesculus pavia	Buckeye, Red		x	x		x	20-30	Slow (Slow)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Street Tree	Parking Lot or Island	Deciduous	Evergreen	Ornamental	<i>Mature Height Feet</i>	Growth Rate and (Size Class)
Alnus glutinosa	Alder, European	x		x			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
Amelanchier arborea	Serviceberry, Downy		x	x		x	25-30	Slow/Med (Medium)
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i> 'Cumulus'	Serviceberry, Cumulus		x	x		x	25-30	Slow/Med (Medium)
Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Robin Hill'	Serviceberry, Robin Hill		x	x		x	25-30	Slow/Med (Medium)
Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam, European	x	x	x			35-40	Slow/Med (Medium)
Carpinus caroliniana	Hornbeam, American	X	x	×		x	20-35	Med (Small)
Carya illinoensis	Pecan			x			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
Carya laciniosa	Hickory, Shellbark			x			45+	Slow/Med (Large)
Carya ovata	Hickory, Shagbark			x			45+	Slow (Large)
Catalpa speciosa	Catalpa, Northern			x			45+	Fast (Large)
Celtis laevigata	Sugarberry	x		X			45+	Fast (Large)
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> Varieties	Hackberry, and Varieties	x		X			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
Cercidiphyllum japonicum	Katsura		x	x		x	45+	Med/Fast (Large)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Street Tree	Parking Lot or Island	Deciduous	Evergreen	Ornamental	<i>Mature Height Feet</i>	Growth Rate and (Size Class)
Cercis canadensis	Redbud, Eastern		x	x		x	25-30	Fast (Medium)
Cladrastis kentukea	Yellowwood	x		x			30-50	Slow/Med (Large)
Cornus florida	Dogwood, Flowering		x	x		x	15-25	Slow/Med (Small)
Crataegus crus- galli	Hawthorn, Cockspur		x	x		x	15-20	Med (Small)
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i> 'Superba'	Hawthorn, Crimson Cloud	x	x	x	-	x	15-20	Med (Small)
Crataegus phaenopyrum	Hawthorn, Washington		x	x		x	20-30	Med (Small)
Crataegus virdis	Hawthorn, Green			x		x	25-30	Med (Small)
<i>Crataegus virdis</i> 'Winter King'	Hawthorn, King		x	x		x	25-30	Med (Small)
Eucommia ulmoides	Rubbertree, Hardy	×	×	x			45+	Med (Large)
Fagus grandifolia	Beech, American	×		x			45+	Slow/Med (Large)
Fagus sylvatica	Beech, European		~	x			45+	Slow/Med (Large)
Ginkgo biloba-Male	Ginkgo (male)	x	x	x			45+	Slow/Med (Large)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Street Tree	Parking Lot or Island	Deciduous	Evergreen	Ornamental	<i>Mature Height Feet</i>	Growth Rate and (Size Class)
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> - Thornless, Podless Varieties	Honeylocust- Varieties that are Thornless and Podless	x	X	x			45+	Fast (Large)
Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucky Coffeetree		x	x			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
Halesia carolina	Silverbell		x	x		x	20-30	Slow (Medium)
llex decidua	Holly, Deciduous		×	x		x	45+	Slow (Large)
llex opaca	Holly, American				X	x	45+	Slow (Large)
Juniperus virginiana	Redcedar, Eastern		x		x		30-40	Med (Medium)
Juniperus chinensis	Juniper, Chinese		x		x		20-30	Slow/Med (Small)
Koelreuteria paniculata	Goldenrain Tree	×	x	x		x	25-40	Med/Fast (Medium)
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum			x			45+	Fast (Large)
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tuliptree		*	x			45+	Fast (Large)
Magnolia acuminata	Cucumbertree		x	x			45+	Slow/Med (Large)
Magnolia grandiflora	Magnolia, Southern			x		x	45+	Med (Large)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Street Tree	Parking Lot or Island	Deciduous	Evergreen	Ornamental	<i>Mature Height Feet</i>	Growth Rate and (Size Class)
Magnolia virginiana	Magnolia, Sweetbay		x	x		x	15-25	Med (Small)
Magnolia x soulangiana	Magnolia, Saucer		x	x		x	20-30	Slow/Med (Medium)
Ostrya virginiana	Hophornbeam	x	x	x			30-40	Slow/Med (Medium)
Oxydendron arboreum	Sourwood, (Sorrel Tree)		x	x			20-30	Slow/Med (Medium)
Picea glauca	Spruce, White		×		x		30-40	Med (Medium)
Picea pungens	Spruce, Colorado Blue		×		x		30-40	Med (Medium)
Pinus densiflora	Pine, Japanese Red		x		x		45+	Med (Large)
Pinus flexilis	Pine, Limber		X		x		30-40	Med (Large)
Pinus resinosa	Pine, Red				x		45+	Med (Large)
Pinus strobus	Pine, Eastern White		x		x		45+	Fast (Large)
Pinus thunbergiana	Pine, Japanese Black		x		x		45+	Med (Large)
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore			x			45+	Fast (Large)
Platanus x acerifolia	Planetree, London	x		x			45+	Fast (Large)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Street Tree	Parking Lot or Island	Deciduous	Evergreen	Ornamental	<i>Mature Height Feet</i>	Growth Rate and (Size Class)
Platycladus orientalis	Arborvitae, Oriental		x		x	x	30-40	Slow (Medium)
Prunus cerasifera	Plum, Purple- leaf		x	x		x	15-25	Med (Small)
<i>Prunus sargentii</i> 'Columnaris'	Cherry, Sargent, Columnar		x	×		x	30-40	Med (Medium)
Prunus serrulata	Cherry, Flowering, Japanese		x	×		x	25-35	Med (Medium)
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Chanticleer'	Pear, Callery, Chanticleer			x		x	15-25	Med (Small)
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Redspire'	Pear, Callery, Redspire		x	x		x	35-45	Med (Medium)
Quercus acutissima	Oak, Sawtooth	×		x			45+	Med (Large)
Quercus alba	Oak, White			x			45+	Med (Large)
Quercus bicolor	Oak, Swamp White	×		x			45+	Med (Large)
Quercus coccinea 🦯	Oak, Scarlet	x		x			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
Quercus falcata var.pagodafolia	Oak, Cherrybark			x			45+	Med (Large)
Quercus imbricaria	Oak, Shingle	x		x			45+	Med (Large)
Quercus macrocarpa	Oak, Bur			x			45+	Slow/Med (Large)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Street Tree	Parking Lot or Island	Deciduous	Evergreen	Ornamental	Mature Height Feet	Growth Rate and (Size Class)
Quercus michauxii	Oak, Swamp Chestnut	x		x			45+	Med (Large)
Quercus muehlenbergii	Oak, Chinkapin	x		x			45+	Med (Large)
Quercus robur	Oak, English,	x		x			45+	Med (Large)
Quercus rubra	Oak, Northern Red	x	x	×			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
Quercus stellata	Oak, Post			x			45+	Slow (Large)
Quercus velutina	Oak, Black			x			45+	Med (Large)
Quercus shumardii	Oak, Shumard	x		x			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
Quersus prinus	Oak, Chestnut	×		∲X			45+	Med (Large)
Salix nigra	Willow, Black			x			30-40	Fast (Medium)
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras			x			30-40	Med (Medium)
Sophora japonica	Pagodatree, Japanese			x		x	45+	Med (Large)
Syringa reticulata	Lilac, Japanese Tree		x	x		x	25-30	Med (Small)
Taxodium distichum	Baldcypress			x			45+	Med (Large)

# Appendix A City of Chesterfield Tree List

Scientific Name	Common Name	Street Tree	Parking Lot or Island	Deciduous	Evergreen	Ornamental	Mature Height Feet	Growth Rate and (Size Class)
Tilia americana	Basswood, American (Linden)	x		x			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
<i>Tilia cordata</i> Varieties	Linden, Littleleaf and Varieties	x	x	×			45+	Slow/Med (Large)
Tsuga canadensis	Hemlock, Canadian		×		x		45+	Slow/Med (Large)
Ulmus americana Varieties	Elm, American and Varieties	x		×	4		60-80	Med/Fast (Large)
Ulmus parvifolia	Elm, Chinese (Lacebark)	x		x			45+	Med/Fast (Large)
Zelkova serrata Varieties	Zelkova and Varieties	x		x			45+	Fast (Large)

December 22, 2008

Aimee Nassif Planning and Development Services Director City of Chesterfield 690 Chesterfield Parkway W Chesterfield, MO 63017

Dear Ms. Nassif:

BUILDERS

OLD OLIVE

ST. LOUIS,

MISSOURI

314 994 7700

On behalf of the Home Builders Association of St. Louis and Eastern Missouri (HBA), we would like to thank the Chesterfield Department of Planning and Public Works for the opportunity to provide comments to the City's Tree Preservation and Landscape Requirements Ordinance. Please find our comments attached.

We appreciate your attention to this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 314-994-7700 ext. 137 or by email at <u>DavisN@hbastl.com</u>, or Lyzel Krebs at ext. 115 or by email at <u>KrebsL@hbastl.com</u>.

Sincerely,

Maomi Davis

Naomi Davis Government Affairs Specialist

Cc: HBA Chesterfield Development Subcommittee Mr. Patrick S. Sullivan, HBA Executive Officer Mrs. Lyzel Krebs, HBA Staff Vice President of Government Affairs



# HBA Comments on Chesterfield Tree Ordinance December 22, 2008

**Pg. 5, IV Definitions, #26 - Tree Mass:** Concerning the standard of 3 trees in constituting a tree mass, what determines a tree in terms of size? In the case of 3 young trees with overlapping canopies, is the cluster defined as the equal mass of 3 fully grown trees?

• The HBA recommends this requirement be clarified.

**Pg. 7**, **IV – Overview of Submittal Process**: Tree Preservation Plan is a requirement when a "Site Development Concept Plan" is submitted.

A Preliminary Plan is usually required for most all zonings, but a Tree Preservation Plan should only be done based upon final survey and actual grading. Tree Preservation Plans are not done earlier because the preliminary plan may not be approved. Calculations showing amount of existing trees, trees proposed to be retained, and trees required to be retained are OK, but a full blown Tree Preservation Plan (showing tree protection methods, areas of root pruning, etc.) should not be required at this point in the planning process.

• The HBA recommends this requirement be modified.

**Pg. 8, VI – Protection of Public or Private Trees, C:** Tree removal in common areas requires city approval, which could potentially be a burden for Home Owners Associations. The City may further want to modify the language in this section to address diseased or dead trees.

• The HBA recommends this requirement be modified.

**p.14**, **XI** – **Plant Selections**, **E** – The requirement to utilize a variety of tree species in projects installing over 50 trees may be an additional expense not currently advisable to employ on the building industry.

• Should this pose an additional expense, the HBA recommends the language be modified.

## Pg. 15, Sect. XII: Landscape Plan Requirements

- (4): Trees shall be selected from recommended tree list.
- (5): All trees must be 2.5" in caliper.

Any requirement for tree types and sizes should only be applicable to "required trees," not optional or additional trees that the developer installs above and beyond those required. By requiring a specific size or type, you are discouraging the planting of landscaping in excess of the minimum requirement. Also, the 2.5"

HBA Comments on Chesterfield Tree Ordinance December 22, 2008

caliper doesn't permit using clump redbuds or river birch, which can be very desirable in the right situation.

• The HBA recommends that this requirement be re-examined.

**Pg. 19, D4: Street Trees, Shrubs and Plantings** - Reference is made to "sight distance triangle." How does the sight distance triangle come into play within a parking lot situation? The City needs to provide a diagram showing this. Most likely, trees in single or double islands at the ends of rows of parking will affect visibility to some degree.

• The HBA recommends that this requirement be clarified.