



PLANNING DIVISION INFORMATION BULLETIN

A guide to the City of Alexandria Landscape Requirements

Hundreds of communities across the South have adopted Landscape Ordinances, or “Green Laws” which enhance both the natural and built environment and improve the overall quality of life. In addition to the obvious aesthetic benefits, landscape regulations help maintain air and water quality, control erosion and drainage, preserve the natural landscape character of the City, and enhance property values.

This Bulletin is intended to provide a *general* overview of the landscape requirements and policies.

Specific and additional regulations are included in Article V, Section 2: of the “Land Development Code” for the City of Alexandria.

Applicability:

The landscape ordinance applies to all new developments with parking areas except for Cemeteries, Community Homes, Duplexes, Golf Courses, Group Housing, and Single Family Residential.

Administration:

All building permit applications for sites that are subject to the requirements of this ordinance must include a landscape plan.

The plans will be reviewed for compliance with the ordinance and must be approved before a building permit can be issued.

Developments with unusual site restrictions, servitudes, odd shapes, or other similar conditions as well as infill or rehab sites may apply for a reduction in the amount of required landscape.

The required landscaping must be installed and approved by the City before a “Certificate of Occupancy” can be issued.

Planting Standards

Landscaping installed to meet the requirements of this ordinance must meet minimum industry standards.

Street Yard Planting Requirements

A ten (10) foot wide perimeter landscape strip is required on the lot along all right-of-way lines.

Twenty (20) percent of this perimeter strip is to be landscaped with shrubs.

Trees are to be provided adjacent to the road at a rate of one (1) Class “A” Tree or two (2) Class “B” Trees for each fifty (50) feet of linear road frontage.

Buffer Requirements

A five (5) to ten (10) foot wide landscape strip is required along side and rear property lines. Planting and buffer structure requirements vary depending upon the types of proposed and adjacent land uses.

Interior Planting Requirements

Eight (8) percent of the interior parking area is to be landscaped with shrubs and groundcover.

Trees must be planted throughout the interior parking area in such a manner that no parking slot is further than seventy five (75) feet from a Class “A” Tree.

Dumpster Screening

All refuse storage areas shall be completely screened from the street and from adjacent properties.

Tree Preservation

Owners are encouraged to preserve as many existing trees as possible in the implementation of the landscape plan. These existing trees can be credited towards the required plantings if properly preserved.

Maintenance Requirements

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of landscaping installed to meet the ordinance requirements.