

## ARTICLE 24 - LANDSCAPING PROVISIONS

### Statement of Intent

It is recognized that the planting of trees and vegetation, as well as the conservation of existing trees and vegetation, can serve to significantly improve the quality of the physical environment. It is also recognized that the uncontrolled cutting or destruction of trees and wooded areas can significantly damage the physical environment, causing increased municipal costs, the encouragement of substandard development, and the reduction of property values. It is therefore in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare to enact regulations that would promote the planting and preservation of landscape materials which:

- A. provide screening between incompatible land uses, and
- B. provide for the protection of ground water and air quality, and
- C. promote traffic safety by controlling views, and
- D. provide shade and enhancement of urban areas, and parking lots, and
- E. provide a natural habitat for wildlife

The Town of Colonial Beach Master Tree Plan should be consulted for guidance in determining the type of tree to be planted

#### 24.1 Application of This Article.

- A. Except as otherwise provided, the landscaping requirements of this Article shall apply to:
  - 1. Development, public and private, where site plans are required in accordance with Article 14 of this Ordinance
  - 2. Subdivisions
  - 3. Industrial and commercial development
  - 4. Development of public or private parking lots
- B. Notwithstanding Section 24.1(A), the following shall be exempt from the requirements of this Article.
  - 1. Improvements and/or repairs to existing non-residential structures or buildings which do not result in (i) expansion, (ii) reconstruction, (iii) changes in the type of occupancy as set forth by the Virginia Statewide Building Code (USBC) or (iv) any increase in the impermeable surface area
  - 2. The subdivision of one (1) parcel into two (2) parcels, when made in accordance with Section 5-6 of the Subdivision Ordinance of the Town of Colonial Beach (Minor Subdivisions)

#### 24.2 Native Species

- A. All new plantings shall be native species as specified in the **Table 24.9** attached to this section of the ordinance or as identified in the pamphlet entitled "*Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping for Eastern Virginia's Coastal Plain*", and available from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Chesapeake Bay Program's web site. Copies of this document are also available from the Colonial Beach Department of Planning & Community Development
- B. The requirement to use of native species for new plantings includes replacement of

dead/diseased trees removed under Article 22 of this ordinance

### **24.3 Landscaping Plan.**

- A. All landscaping material required by the provisions of this Article shall meet the following minimum size standards:
  - 1. All shade trees shall be at least ten (10) to twelve (12) feet in height and shall have a caliper, at four and one half ft. (4.5) feet from the ground, of two (2) to three (3) inches when planted
  - 2. Existing and proposed parking spaces, other vehicle areas, access aisles, driveways
  - 3. The location, size and description of all landscaping materials and tree cover, and
  - 4. Verification that the minimum landscaping and screening requirements specified in this Article will be met
- B. If all elements of the landscaping plan are already included on the site plan, the requirement of a separate landscaping plan may be waived
- C. A Zoning Permit shall not be issued until such time as the landscaping plan is approved, a Certificate of Occupancy shall not be issued until the landscaping is installed or bonded

### **24.4 General Requirements and Minimum Standards.**

- A. All landscaping material required by the provisions of this Article shall meet the following minimum size standards:
  - 1. All shade trees shall be at least ten (10) to twelve (12) feet in height and shall have a caliper, at four and one-half ft. (4.5) feet from the ground, of two (2) to three (3) inches when planted
  - 2. All flowering or ornamental trees must be at least six (6) feet in height and shall have a caliper, at four and one-half ft. (4.5) from the ground, and two (2) inch caliper at breast height when planted
  - 3. All shrubs must be at least one (1) gallon container size when planted
- B. All plantings must be in a mulched planting bed
- C. Existing tree cover shall be retained to the greatest extent possible and taken fully into account in the design or the improvements and grading of any property
- D. Existing trees preserved on the site may be used to satisfy the requirements for landscaping as long as the following conditions are met:
  - 1. Existing trees must be at least three (3) inch caliper at breast height
  - 2. Be in healthy condition
  - 3. Be protected from all construction activity
- E. Landscaping shall not obstruct the view of motorists using any street, private driveway, parking aisles, or the approach to any street intersection so as to constitute a traffic hazard or a condition dangerous to the public safety. Whenever the enforcement of the provisions of this Article would result in a traffic hazard, the Zoning Administrator may waive such requirements
- F. Certificates of occupancy may be withheld pending completion of the landscaping in accordance with the approved landscaping plan. However, a certificate of occupancy may be issued prior to the completion of the landscaping if a certified check, irrevocable letter of credit or other surety securing completion of such landscaping is obtained prior to the issuance of such certificate

### **24.5 Required Landscaping - Street Frontage**

Street trees shall be required along any existing and proposed street right of way for any development in accordance with Section 24.1(A) of this Article and not exempted in Section 24.1(B) of this Article

- A. Along any street right of way on which the utility pole for power, street lights and/or telephone service is or will be located, at least one (1) flowering or ornamental tree shall be planted for every 25-feet of street frontage, or portion thereof, at approximately 20-feet on center
- B. Along any street right of way on which the utility pole for power, street lights and/or telephone service are not and will not be located, one (1) shade tree shall be planted for every 50-feet, or portion thereof, of road frontage or one (1) flowering or ornamental tree shall be planted for every 25-feet of street frontage, or portion thereof, at approximately 20-feet on center

#### **24.6 Required Landscaping - Parking Lots**

The following shall be required for parking lots consisting of five (5) or more spaces:

- A. When a parking lot fronts on an existing or proposed street, trees shall be planted in accordance with Section 24.4. An additional row of low shrubs shall be required between the street and the parking lot consisting of at least one (1) low shrub for every five (5) feet of street frontage or portion thereof
- B. Interior landscaping for parking lots shall consist of:
  - 1. For parking lots consisting of less than twelve (12) parking spaces, one (1) low shrub shall be planted for every five (5) spaces or portion thereof
  - 2. For parking lots consisting of twelve (12) or more spaces, one (1) shade tree shall be planted for every twelve (12) parking spaces or portion thereof.

#### **24.7 Required Landscaping - Transitional Screening.**

- A. In order to reduce the negative impact of adjoining incompatible uses, transitional screening shall be required for the following:
  - 1. Any development within a Light Industrial, M-1 Zoning District shall be screened along all property lines which border any zoning district other than Light Industrial, M-1
  - 2. Commercial uses excluding home occupations shall be screened along all property lines which border the following:
    - a. Residential Limited, R-1 Zoning District
    - b. Residential General, R-2 Zoning District
    - c. All residential uses within an Agricultural, A-1 Zoning District
  - 3. Multifamily dwellings and mobile home parks shall be screened along all property lines which border residential uses

For the purpose of this Section any undeveloped lot or parcel within any zoning district which allows residential uses by right shall be treated as if a residential use exists on that lot or parcel.

- B. The transitional screening required by this Section shall be:
  - 1. At least six (6) feet in height when planted
  - 2. Consist of one row of trees planted not more than ten (10) feet on center or two staggered rows of trees planted not more than fifteen (15) feet on center
- C. Alternate methods of screening such as walls or earth berms may be used in lieu of vegetative screening with approval of the Zoning Administrator
- D. The transitional screening required by this Section shall be consistent with Sections 24.3 through 24.6 of this article

## 24.8 Maintenance.

The property owner and developer shall be responsible for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of all landscaping material required by the provisions of this Article. The maintenance provisions include the following:

- A. All required plant material shall be maintained in good health and shall conform to the Association of Nurserymen Standards for Nursery Stock
- B. Any dead, unhealthy, or missing plants must be replaced within six (6) months with vegetation which conforms to the planting standards of this Article
- C. All plant material shall be kept free of refuse and debris
- D. All plant material shall be maintained in a manner such that it does not become a traffic hazard

**Table 24.9 Native Species for Landscaping in Colonial Beach, Virginia**

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes	Light	Height (ft.)
<b>Trees for Shade</b>				
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> ; <i>A. canadensis</i>	Serviceberry, AKA shadbush	Early blossom and important early summer fruit source for birds	PSH	35
<i>Carya ovata</i> ; <i>C. glabra</i>	Hickory	Tap root allows gardening beneath; yellow gold fall color	PSH to SU	70-90
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud	Pink spring bloom is early nectar source; summer foliage; fall seed pods	PSH	20-35
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe tree	Berries on female; both showy in flower	PSH to SU	12-35
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Fowering dogwood	Four season interest; red seeds colorful and important food for migrating birds	PSH	15+
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	Interesting bark; fruit colorful and edible by humans [after heavy frost] and wildlife	PSH to SU	25-50
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	Evergreen; buy in fall when females have berries; assure male pollinator nearby or plant also	SH to SU	15-50
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	Bark interest; fall color; cones & seeds	PSH to SU	60+
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay magnolia	Semi-evergreen; white flowers; seeds & pod	SH to SU	10-30
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum	Early red fall color; blue drupes-attract and feed birds	PSH to SU	30-75

<i>Quercus coccinea</i> ; <i>Q. rubra</i>	Scarlett oak; red oak	Tap root allows gardening beneath; buy in fall to check leaf color	PSH to SU	70-90
<i>Quercus phellos</i> ; <i>Q. palustris</i>	Willow oak; pin oak	Fibrous roots; need consistent moisture	SH to SU	70-90
<b>Shrubs for Shade</b>				
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	devil's walking stick	Outer fringe use due to thorns = anti-deer!; flower & fruits for birds and butterflies	PSH to SU	15-20
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	beautyberry	Purple berries on stem in fall	PSH to SU	3-4
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	Needs consistent moisture; butterfly nectar; fruits for waterfowl	PSH-SH	6-12
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summer sweet	Summer bloom with fragrance and butterflies	PSH to SU	6-12
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> ; <i>C. amomum</i> ; <i>C. racemosa</i> ; <i>C. sericea</i>	Pagoda, silky, gray, red osier or red twig dogwoods	Flowers and early fall fruits/foilage; colorful stems; choose species for best size and moisture for your site	SH to PSH to SU	6-30
<i>Ilex glabra</i> 'Nigra'	Inkberry	Evergreen; buy in fall when females have berries; assure male pollinator nearby or plant	PSH to SU	6
<i>Ilex glabra</i> 'Nigra'	Inkberry	Evergreen; buy in fall when females have berries; assure male pollinator nearby or plant also	PSH to SU	6
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> : 'Winter Red' and 'Jim Dandy'	Winterberry -female and male cultivars	Berrying females in sunniest position, male nearby OK in part shade; <u>1 male to 5 females</u>	PSH to SU	3-10
<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Light</b>	<b>Height (ft.)</b>
<i>Itea virginica</i> 'Henry's Garnet'	Virginia sweetspire	Spring bloom; fall foliage; best with moisture; will spread	PSH to SU	3-5
<i>Morella [Myrica] cerifera</i>	Southern wax myrtle	Evergreen; need females and male for berries in fall/winter	PSH to SU	5-15
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry	Flowers and late summer fruits	PSH to SU	6
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Blackhaw viburnum	Flower and fruits	SH-SU	6-20

Perennials for Shade				
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Red columbine	A Hummingbird “must have”; unusual spring bloom then lovely foliage	PSH-SH	1-2
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> ; <i>A. speciosa</i>	Butterfly weed; milkweed	Monarch butterfly larval host; many butterfly species use for nectar	PSH-SU	1-3
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	Green and gold	Do not let dry out; semi-evergreen w/yellow spring bloom, sometimes reblooms	SH to SU	.5
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Mistflower	Blue bloom; moist to avg.	PSH-SH	1-3
<i>Coreopsis auriculata</i> ; <i>C. lanceolata</i> ; <i>C. verticillata</i> ‘Zagreb’	Mouse-ear, lance-leaf or threadleaf coreopsis	Yellow blooms spring to fall if all three in garden	PSH-SU	1-2
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Coneflower	Stick to species or ‘Magnus’; purple pink bloom with seeds attractive to goldfinches	PSH-SU	3
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	Alumroot	Evergreen foliage; hummingbird use	PSH-SH	2-3
<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>	Seashore mallow	Do not let dry out entirely; medium size white or pink bloom	PSH-SU	4
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia bluebells	Ephemeral beauty; fairly easy to establish and spreads	PSH	1-2
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild bergamot	Better than <i>M. didyma</i> for the coastal plain; pinkish; hummingbird	PSH-SU	3
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	White penstemon	White bloom; colorful stem and winter rosette	PSH-SU	2-3
<i>Phlox divaricata</i> ; <i>P. paniculata</i>	Wild blue phlox; garden phlox	May need protection from rabbits and voles; butterfly nectar	PSH;SU	.5-3
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient plant	White or pink varieties; hummingbird use	PSH-SU	3
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> , <i>R. hirta</i> ; <i>R. triloba</i>	Blackeyed susan; brown-eyed susan	<i>R. hirta</i> self-seeds, thin out extras for best appearance; long bloom time results	PSH-SU	1-4
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyre-leaf sage	Early nectar source, evergreen or colored foliage	PSH-SU	.5