

## RESOLUTION

### STREETSCAPE GUIDELINES POLICY

WHEREAS, the Streetscape Guidelines Policy was originally created to preserve or establish street trees in new residential areas of James City County during the special use permit and rezoning process; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Comprehensive Plan identified the need to revise the Streetscape Guidelines Policy to allow flexibility with the choice of plant material and to limit the distance street trees are installed from the edge of curb; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee recommended endorsement of the Streetscape Guidelines Policy revision to the Planning Commission on February 7, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the James City County Planning Commission, after a public hearing, endorsed the revisions to the Streetscape Guidelines Policy on October 5, 2011, by a vote of 6-1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, does hereby endorse the following:

### **STREETSCAPE GUIDELINES POLICY**

#### **Goal Purpose**

*The purpose of this policy is twofold:*

- to preserve and/or establish tree canopies along residential streets, subdivision entrances, and common areas *within a subdivision, and*
- ~~Plant~~ *to encourage* planting of new trees appropriate to the climate and soils of James City County, while enhancing existing healthy, durable, and mature trees in these areas.

Tree preservation/planting shall be accomplished ~~such that within 20 years growing time, the minimum tree canopy over residential streets shall be 20% so when the trees reach maturity a substantial tree canopy is established over the street.~~ The environmental and aesthetic benefits from tree planting enhance the quality, character, and health of the community.

#### **Guidelines for Street Trees**

In all residential subdivisions, deciduous shade trees, ~~and/or~~ *shrubs when utility constraints are a concern*, shall be planted along all rights-of-way within and abutting the subdivision. Street tree plans shall be prepared by a Virginia Landscape Architect, a certified Virginia Nurseryman, or a member of the Virginia Society of Landscape

*Designers*, and shall be reviewed and approved by the ~~Director of Planning~~ *Director or designee*. The street tree plans shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Trees and/or shrubs shall be located within a minimum five-foot landscape preservation easement contiguous to ~~such~~ *or within the* right-of-way, with *Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) approval*. Every effort should be made to avoid conflict between the landscape preservation easement and the utilities during the design phase of the subdivision. If a conflict cannot be avoided, the landscape preservation easement shall be placed as close to the ~~right-of-way curb~~ as the design allows. *All landscape preservation easements shall be located within the first 30% of the distance from the edge of the curb (starting point) to the proposed edge of the building envelope (ending point).*
2. The *landscape preservation* easement shall contain, at a minimum, one tree per an average 40 linear feet of street on each side of the street or one shrub per an average 20 linear feet of street on each side of the street. The mix of trees and shrubs shall be approved by the ~~Director of Planning~~ *Director or designee*.
3. Trees and/or shrubs shall be spaced no greater than 75 feet apart along 60% *linear* of the street frontage.
4. All trees that are planted shall be native species or street trees commonly planted in the James City County area that are adapted to the soils and climate. At the time of planting, trees shall have a minimum caliper of 1½ inches. Shrubs are to be a minimum of 22 inches in height at the time of planting. Please refer to Table 1 for street tree suggestions. Although plant material is not restricted to the list provided, any trees or shrubs that are invasive or require extensive maintenance for disease or pest control will not be approved.
5. Existing trees which are within ~~20 feet of the edge of right of way~~ *the proposed landscape preservation easement*, and which are protected and preserved in accordance with the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, may be used to satisfy this planting requirement if approved by the ~~Director of Planning~~ *Director or designee*. Canopies that are a mixture of existing and planted trees or shrubs shall have similar or complementary branch characteristics.
6. Plantings are to occur between November 1 and March 31 while the plant material is dormant to reduce the stress of transplanting. ~~Prior to final site plan approval the plantings and installation are to be bonded. In order to receive final site plan approval during the seasons when planting is not recommended, the applicant must post surety in an amount and form acceptable to the county attorney.~~

Upon completion of installation, *the Planning Director or his designee shall inspect the plantings as verification, or a Virginia Landscape Architect designer shall verify in writing a signed letter to the Planning Director or designee that the specified trees or shrubs were installed in the locations shown on the plans. A signed letter from the Landscape Architect shall be submitted to the Planning Division at the time of verification.*

**Guidelines for Entrances and Common Areas**

Entrances shall be landscaped with native and/or climate and soil appropriate trees, shrubs, grasses, and ground covers except where the existing mature trees have been preserved or protected in such areas. Plant material to be used in these areas shall be specified from Table 2 or, if not on the list, meet the above criteria. Unless the Director of Planning or his designee determines that such landscape treatment is unnecessary, impractical, or in conflict with drainage, utilities, sight distance, or other required features of the subdivision, the cleared portions of the entrances and associated common areas in a residential subdivision shall be landscaped with a minimum of one tree and three shrubs per 400 square feet exclusive of roadways, sidewalks, recreation facilities or other impervious areas.

In wooded areas, entrance features including walls, fences and signs shall be minimized to reduce the amount of clearing to accommodate entrance roads. In no case shall clearing for entrance roads and abutting utility easements exceed 60 feet in width.

**Table 1. Suggested Street Trees**

- Acer campestre*, Hedge Maple\*
- Acer rubrum*, Red Maple
- Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, Green Ash (seedless cultivars)
- Ginkgo biloba*, Maidenhair Tree (male cultivars)\*
- Nyssa sylvatica*, Black Tupelo\*
- Ostrya virginiana*, American Hophornbeam\*
- Plantanus X acerifolia* London Planetree
- Quercus palustris* Pin Oak
- Quercus phellos*, Willow Oak
- Quercus shumardii*, Shumard Oak
- Ulmus parvifolia*, Lacebark Elm\*
- Zelkova serrata*, Japanese Zelkova\*

\* Trees recommended for thin planting strips or adjacent to sidewalks.

This list is suggested. Trees used are not required to be from this list.

**Table 2. Suggested Plant Material for Entrances and Common Areas**

**Trees**

- Betula nigra*, River Birch
- Carya ovata*, Shagbark Hickory
- Cercis Canadensis*, Eastern Redbud
- Cornus kousa*, Kousa Dogwood
- Juniverus virginiana*, Eastern Redcedar
- Pinus taeda*, Loblolly Pine

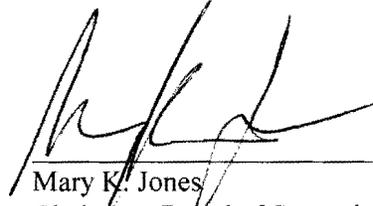
**Shrubs**

- Hamamelis virginiana*, Witch Hazel
- Ilex opaca*, Inkberry
- Ilex vomitoria*, Yaupon Holly
- Myrica cerifera*, Wax Myrtle
- Viburnum dentatum*, Arrowwood Viburnum

**Groundcovers and other Herbaceous Plants**

- ~~*Calamagrostis acutiflora*, Feather Reed Grass~~
- ~~*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*, Plumbago~~
- ~~*Coreopsis verticillata*, Threadleaf Coreopsis~~
- ~~*Deschampsia caespitosa*, Tufted Hair Grass~~
- ~~*Festuca cinerea*, Blue Fescue~~
- ~~*Helictotrichon sempervirens*, Blue Oat Grass~~
- ~~*Hemerocallis*, Daylily~~
- ~~*Hypericum calycinum*, St. Johnswort~~
- ~~*Liriope muscari*, Blue Lily turf~~
- ~~*Miscanthus sinensis*, Japanese Silver Grass~~
- ~~*Panicum virgatum*, Switch Grass~~
- ~~*Potentilla fruticosa*, Bush Cinquefoil~~

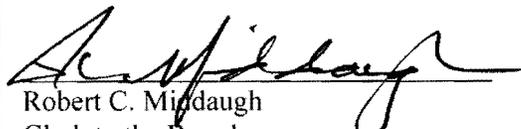
This list is suggested. Plants used are not required to be from this list.




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Mary K. Jones  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Robert C. Middaugh  
Clerk to the Board

SUPERVISOR	VOTE
KENNEDY	AYE
GOODSON	AYE
MCGLENNON	AYE
ICENHOUR	AYE
JONES	AYE

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 22nd day of November, 2011.