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10.1 LANDSCAPE PLAN APPROVAL

A. Submittal of a Landscape Plan

1. All proposed site landscaping and zoning buffers, as required by this Development Code, shall be illustrated on landscape plans as described in Article 16 under the requirements for a site plan review application for all non-residential developments and as part of the preliminary site plan application for a planned unit development. The plans may be consolidated as one plan if the information can be clearly shown.
2. The landscape plan must be approved prior to the issuance of a building permit.
3. Landscape plans must be prepared by a landscape architect, architect or civil engineer licensed in Louisiana. The landscape plan must meet the standards set forth in this Article and bear the landscape architects, architects or civil engineer's seal and signature.
4. The Executive Director will evaluate the appropriateness of the landscape plan and may approve or approve with conditions.
5. New construction of single-family (attached or detached), two-family dwellings, or townhomes do not require landscape plans.

B. Landscape Plan Content

The Executive Director, or his or her designee, shall establish and maintain a list of the required criteria necessary for the submittal of a Landscape Plan.

C. Stormwater Management

In accordance with Article 11 of this Code, certain development and redevelopment actions require on-site stormwater management. ~~In addition to a landscape plan, a stormwater management plan may also be required by the Director of Public Works.~~

D. Alternative Landscape Design

1. Alternative landscape design or plant materials may be used where unreasonable or impractical situations would result from application of the landscaping requirements. Such situations may result from topography, geological characteristics, water features, significant vegetation, lot configuration, utility easements, locations of existing structures on the site, or from other unusual site conditions that pose unnecessary constraints to appropriate landscape development or the owner's use of the property.
2. The Executive Director may approve an alternative landscape plan upon determining that such plan meets the intent of the standards of this Article and meets or exceeds a landscape plan in strict compliance.

E. Changes to Approved Landscape Plans

1. Changes to the landscape plan that result in a reduction or addition in the net amount of plant material as specified on the approved landscape plan may be approved by the Executive Director.
2. Changes to a landscaping plan that results in a reduction in the net amount of plant material pertaining to special use permits, Small Planned Units Developments (SPUD), and Planned Unit Developments (PUD) must be approved by the decision making body granting approval. If the net amount of required plant material is not reduced, the modified landscape plan may be approved administratively by the Executive Director.

F. Certificate of Occupancy

No certificate of occupancy will be approved before completion of landscaping with the following exception. If, due to the seasonal nature of plant materials, landscaping has not been completed at the time that a certificate of occupancy could be granted, and the certificate is requested, the Executive Director and/or Zoning Administrator may grant a temporary certificate of occupancy, which will specify up to a maximum 90 day timeframe for completion of the landscaping requirements. The Executive Director and/or Zoning Administrator may grant an additional 30 days due to unforeseen circumstances.

10.2 LANDSCAPE BUFFERS**A. Buffer Strips**

Any multi-family use, commercial use or industrial use, off-street loading areas, or off-street parking areas for five or more automobiles shall be separated from adjoining residential property by a continuous buffer strip as required by this Article.

1. Zoning Buffers, where required.

Landscape buffers must be provided as follows:

- a. On a property zoned for any multi-family use (duplexes, townhouses, apartments or mobile home park), a buffer must be provided along a side or rear lot line that abuts any residential zoning district.
- b. On a property zoned for any office, institutional or commercial use, a buffer must be provided along a side or rear lot line that abuts any residential zoning district; and
- c. On a property zoned for any industrial use, a buffer must be provided along a side or rear lot line that abuts any residential zoning district.

2. Zoning buffers, timing of installation.

Buffers are required to be created at the time of construction of any infrastructure or new development of a building or site.

B. Zoning Buffer Standards**1. General**

- a. Buffer areas shall contain no driveways, access easements, parking areas, patios, storm water detention facilities, or any other structures or accessory uses except for a fence, wall or earthen berm constructed to provide the visual screening required to meet the standards of this Development Code.
- b. Underground utilities including closed storm drains may be permitted to cross perpendicular to a buffer if the screening standards of this Code will be subsequently achieved.
- c. Vehicular access through a buffer may be allowed only as a condition of an Administrative Special Use Permit, Special Use Permit, or Planned Unit Development approval by the appropriate approval body.

2.—Width of Buffer

Buffers required along any lot line shall be no less than the minimum required width as shown on Table 4-1, or as may be reduced by the Metropolitan Planning Commission, as applicable.

TABLE 4-1: SITUATIONS WHERE BUFFER IS REQUIRED				
Along a Side or Rear Lot Line next to this Use or Zoning	Provide a Buffer on the Lot of this Use			
	Single-Family Residential	Multi-Family Residential	Commercial	Industrial
R-A in any zoning district	N/A	15'	15'	15'
Single-Family Residential	None	25'	50'	100'
Multi-Family Residential	None	None	25'	50'
Commercial	None	None	None	None
Industrial	None	None	None	None

3.2. Minimum Required Screening

A required zoning buffer must create a barrier that substantially blocks the sight lines, noise transmission, and the transfer of artificial light and reflected light up to a height of no less than 6 feet at the property line (or such greater height as required by conditions of zoning approval on a particular property).

4.3. Natural Buffers

Natural buffers shall be composed of healthy plants which possess growth characteristics of such a nature as to produce a dense, compact visual screen not less than six feet in height. Natural buffers may contain deciduous or perennial vegetation but shall contain existing or planted evergreen shrubs and trees suitable to local growing conditions that will provide an opaque visual screen during all seasons of the year.

5.4. Structural Buffers

A structural buffer shall provide a continuous visual screen throughout its entire length, and may consist of any combination of the following, as approved by the Planning Director: Opaque fencing constructed of cedar, redwood, treated and stained or painted wood, vinyl replicating wood, or other suitable all-weather material; masonry walls of brick or stone concrete block walls treated with a decorative finish; planted or natural vegetation; or earthen berms. Structural buffers shall meet the following criteria:

- a.—Structural buffers shall be vegetated throughout the minimum area required for the buffer around any fences or walls and upon any earthen berms, which may include ground covers, shrubs and trees.
- b.—All earthen berms shall have a maximum side slope of 50% (1 foot of vertical rise to 2 feet of horizontal run). Earthen berms shall not be constructed within the drip line of any existing trees that will remain on the property; new trees that overhang the berm may be planted after the berm is constructed.
- c.—Trees shall be located or planted within any structural buffer at a density of no less than one tree for each 25 feet of buffer length or portion thereof. New deciduous trees shall have a caliper of no less than 2 inches upon planting, and new evergreens shall be at least 6 feet tall when planted.

Fences and freestanding walls shall present a finished and decorative appearance to the abutting property and shall be located no closer to the property line than 2 feet. Shrubs, ground covers, or other vegetation shall be provided between the fence or wall and the property line so as to provide a decorative effect.

6. Maintenance of Buffers

Every buffer required under this ~~Division~~ Article shall be maintained by the owner of the property where the buffer is located, so as to provide an opaque visual screen to a height of 6 feet on a continuous, year-round basis. Dead or dying plants or trees must be replaced immediately with the same or an equivalent species.

7. Reduction for Unnecessary Buffers

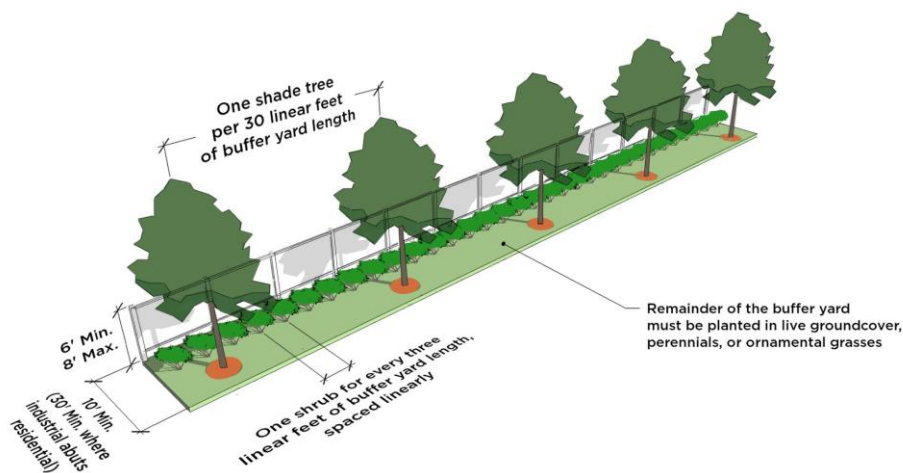
The Metropolitan Planning Commission may reduce a zoning buffer requirement to a temporarily appropriate level of screening only if ~~the Comprehensive Plan anticipates~~ it is anticipated that any future development on the adjoining property ~~is~~ is a land use category such that a zoning buffer would not be required by this Code once the adjoining property is rezoned or developed. Such determination shall be based on the Future Land Use Map in the Master Plan, surrounding land use and zoning patterns, and the propriety of a future zoning change on the adjoining property.

10.3 ~~FRONTAGE LANDSCAPE STRIPS~~ LANDSCAPE BUFFER REQUIREMENTS

Landscape buffer yards are located within rear and interior side yards, including the required rear or interior side setbacks, and must be reserved for the planting of material and installation of screening as required by this section. No parking spaces or accessory structures are permitted within the required buffer yard.

1. As of the effective date of this Code, non-residential districts and uses require buffer along interior side and rear yards in the following cases:
 - a. Where a non-residential use is located within a residential district, excluding parks.
 - b. Where a non-residential district abuts a residential district. This does not apply to any public parks.
 - c. Where I-1 or I-2 District abuts a commercial district.
2. The minimum size and improvement of buffer yards is as follows (Figure 10-2). When the calculation of minimum buffer yard requirements results in a fraction, the fraction is rounded up to the nearest whole number.
 - a. A buffer yard must be a minimum of ten feet in width. A buffer yard must be a minimum 30 feet in width where any industrial district abuts a residential district.
 - b. One shade tree or three ornamental trees must be planted for every 30 linear feet of buffer yard length. As part of the landscape plan approval, trees may be spaced at various intervals based on specific site requirements, but the total number of trees planted must be no less than one per 30 linear feet of buffer yard length.
 - c. A solid fence or masonry wall a minimum of six feet and a maximum of eight feet in height must be erected along 100% of the yard length.
3. One shrub, measuring a minimum of 18 inches in height at planting and reaching a minimum of three feet in height at maturity, must be planted for every three linear feet of buffer yard length, spaced linearly.
4. The remainder of the buffer yard must be planted in live groundcover, perennials, or grass.

FIGURE 10-2: BUFFER YARD



B. Landscape Along Street Rights-of-Way

1. Applicability

- a. All parking lots, whether accessory or principal, require landscaping along that portion of the parking lot that abuts a street right-of-way. Street right-of-way does not include alleys.
- b. Non-residential structures that are set back from any lot line that abuts a street right-of-way by 20 feet or more are also required to provide landscape in accordance with this section in such area. This excludes all or a portion of such area when it is used for outdoor seating. This does not apply to the OS or NA Districts or to any public park use.

2. Planting Area Size

- a. The landscape planting area in the I-1 and I-2 zoning districts must be a minimum of 15 feet in width. In all other districts, the landscape planting area must be a minimum of seven feet in width.
- b. The Executive Director or Metropolitan Planning Commission may reduce the width of the required landscape edge during site plan review when the reduction is required for public improvements.
- c. The Executive Director shall have administrative authority to waive these planting requirements due to adjacent zoning or uses, in regards to I-1 and I-2 zoning districts.

3. General Planting Requirements

All landscape areas along street rights-of-way are required to meet these general requirements:

- a. One shade tree or three ornamental trees must be planted per 500 square feet of planting area. The number of required trees is calculated solely on the area of the planting area.
- b. Landscape areas outside of required plantings must be planted with live groundcover, perennials, or grass. Any permeable surface not occupied by trees, shrubs, planting beds, signs, or other permitted fixtures must be planted with grass or other living groundcover. The landscape design may also include the use of stone, mulch beds, or other pervious landscaping materials.

- c. No site developed prior to the effective date of this Code is required to conform to the requirements of this section unless the site is being redeveloped. Redevelopment is considered to occur when a building is increased by 25% or more of the existing gross floor area and/or the addition of twenty or more parking spaces to an existing parking lot.

C. Interior Parking Lot Landscaping

Parking lots that abut street right-of-way, excluding alleys, of twelve or more spaces must provide interior landscaping per this Section. Parking lots that do not abut street right-of-way and are not visible from the street right-of-way of 20 or more spaces must provide interior landscaping per this Section. Building sites that are less than ½ acre in size are exempt from the interior parking lot landscaping requirements. When the calculation of interior parking lot landscape requirements results in a fraction, said fraction is rounded up to the nearest whole number.

1. The minimum total landscape area of a parking lot, including parking lot islands, must be 10% of the total parking lot area. Parking lot landscaping along a street lot line, as required above, is excluded from the calculation of total parking lot area.
2. One parking lot island is required between every twelve parking spaces and all rows of parking spaces must terminate in a landscape area. As part of the landscape plan review and approval, parking lot island locations may vary from this requirement based on specific site requirements or design scheme, but the total number of islands must be no less than the amount required of one island for every twelve spaces. Parking lot islands must be the same dimension as the parking stall. Double rows of parking must provide parking lot islands that are the same dimension as the double row. One shade tree is required for each parking lot island or other landscape area. Ornamental trees may be substituted for shade trees at a ratio of 2:1 with approval of the Executive Director.
3. The use of stormwater management elements such as rain gardens and bioswales is encouraged in landscape areas. When a parking lot island is designed for stormwater management, the tree requirement may be exempted as part of landscape plan approval when such trees are not typically part of such design.
5. Where an existing parking area is altered or expanded to increase the number of spaces to more than 20 spaces, interior landscaping must be provided only on the new portion of the lot in accordance with the above standards.

FIGURE 10-4: PARKING LOT INTERIOR LANDSCAPE



When required under this Development Code or as a condition of zoning approval, frontage landscape strips shall meet or exceed the standards of this Article.

A. Frontage Landscape Strips, Where Required

1. Single family subdivisions and lots are exempt from the requirements of this Section.
2. All multi-family projects to be developed in the R-2, and all property to be developed in the MHP, commercial and industrial zoning districts, shall provide and maintain a continuous 10-foot wide frontage landscape strip adjacent to all street rights-of-way. This landscaping area shall be landscaped in accordance with the requirements of this Section. The location and detail of all required landscaping shall be depicted on the site landscaping plan required under this Article.

B. Location of Structures in Frontage Landscape Strip

If a frontage landscape strip is required, it shall contain no structures, parking areas, patios, storm water detention facilities or any other accessory uses except for the following:

1. Retaining walls or earthen berms constructed as part of an overall landscape design.
2. Pedestrian-oriented facilities such as sidewalks.
3. Underground utilities and fire hydrants.
4. Driveways required to access the property.
5. Signs otherwise permitted by this Code.

C. Landscaping Required in Frontage Landscape Strips

1. All portions of a required frontage landscape strip shall be planted in trees, shrubs, grass or ground cover, except for those ground areas that are covered by permitted structures.
2. Shrubs are to be provided within the frontage landscape strip at the rate of 10 shrubs for every 35 linear feet of street frontage, or portion thereof (excluding driveways). Shrubs must be at least 18 inches tall at the time of planting and be of a species that will normally exceed 2 feet in height at maturity.
3. Trees shall be provided within the frontage landscape strip at the rate of one tree for every 35 linear feet of street frontage, or portion thereof (excluding driveways). Such trees must be of a type that is suitable to local growing conditions.
4. Upon planting, new deciduous trees shall have a caliper of no less than 2 inches and new evergreen trees shall be at least 6 feet tall.
5. New trees and shrubs may be clustered for decorative effect following professional landscaping standards for spacing, location and design.
6. Trees and shrubs in the frontage landscape strip are not to extend into the street right-of-way, nor interfere with the sight visibility requirements of this Code.
7. Trees provided in a frontage landscape strip shall be credited toward the tree conservation requirements of this Article.

10.4 PARKING LOT PLANTINGS

Any parking lot designed or intended to accommodate 5 cars or more for any purpose, or to accommodate the parking of any number of light trucks or vans, which is located adjacent to any residential zoning district or located adjacent to a public street, must provide a buffer adjoining such zoning district and visual screening from such street in accordance with the requirements of this Article. Landscaped planting areas are also required throughout the parking lot under the requirements of this Article.

A.—Landscape Planting and Maintenance Plan Required

~~A Landscape Planting and Maintenance Plan including provisions for watering, maintenance and replacements is to be submitted to the Executive Director and approved prior to the issuance of a building permit. Installation of plant materials shall have been completed prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.~~

B.—Parking Lot Buffers

~~Any parking lot designed or intended to accommodate 5 cars or more for any purpose, or to accommodate the parking of any number of light trucks or vans, which is located adjacent to any residential zoning district must provide a buffer as follows:~~

- ~~1. The buffer shall meet the minimum width for a zoning buffer as required under Section 10.2.B.2, unless waived or reduced under Section 10.2.B.7.~~
- ~~2. Parking lot buffers required adjacent to a residential use or zoning district shall meet the buffer standards of Section 10.2.B.2, and be maintained in accordance with Section 10.2.B.6.~~

C.—Parking Lot Screening from Street

~~For landscape strips adjacent to public streets or rights of way, plant materials shall consist of at least one shade tree (as defined in this Development Code) for each 25 linear feet of landscape strip and visual screening as provided below. For purposes of this section, such tree may be any shade tree native to this region which, when planted, has a minimum caliper of 2 inches.~~

1.—Visual Screening Required

- ~~a. Any parking lot designed or intended to accommodate 5 cars or more for any purpose, or to accommodate the parking of any number of light trucks or vans, which is visible from a street right-of-way, must provide a landscaped visual screen of the parking lot that meets the requirements of this Section. Truck loading areas shall be screened in accordance with the requirements of Section 10.6.~~
- ~~b. Decorative visual screening shall be provided to a height of 3 feet above the elevation of the parking area (measured at the edge or top of curb nearest the adjacent street) or 3 feet above the adjacent street (measured at the right-of-way line), whichever is highest.~~
- ~~c. The parking lot screening may be included within any frontage landscape strip required by this Development Code, but in no case shall be less than 10 feet wide.~~

2.—Screening Alternatives

~~The decorative visual screening may be provided in any of (or any combination of) the following ways that achieves a total height of 3 feet:~~

- ~~a. **Planted only.** A hedge consisting of at least a single row of shrubs planted 3 feet on center that will spread into a continuous visual screen within 2 growing seasons. Shrubs must be at least 18 inches tall at the time of planting, be of a species that will normally exceed 3 feet in height at maturity, and be suitable for the parking lot application. The hedge must be set back at least 4 feet from the street right-of-way line.~~
- ~~b. **Earthen berm.** An earthen berm shall not exceed a slope of 50% (1 foot of vertical rise for every 2 feet of horizontal run) and shall have a crown of at least 2 feet. The berm shall be planted in ground covers and other plant materials to achieve a decorative effect to a total height (berm plus plantings) of 3 feet.~~
- ~~c. **Wall.** A wall of brick, stone or finished and textured concrete, landscaped with plant material to achieve a decorative effect to the reasonable satisfaction of the Executive Director. The wall must be set back at least 4 feet from the street right-of-way line.~~

- ~~d.—Decorative fence.~~ A fence constructed of imitation wood vinyl pickets, or of wrought iron with masonry columns, landscaped with plant material to achieve a decorative effect to the reasonable satisfaction of the Planning Director. “Open design” decorative fencing of wood or imitation wood vinyl, such as split rail or slat fencing, are allowed with supplemental plantings to achieve the required screening effect. Fences must be set back at least 4 feet from the street right-of-way line.
- ~~e.—Combination.~~ Any combination of hedge, berm, wall or fence that effectively provides a visual screen of the parking lot or loading area to a height of 3 feet and achieves a decorative effect through appropriate use of landscaping and plant material.

~~D.—Parking Lot Internal Planting Areas.~~

~~The following requirements apply to any parking lot designed or intended to accommodate 5 cars or more for residents, employees, customers or visitors. Parking lots designed and intended for the storage of vehicles owned by the business on-site overnight (such as a company fleet), or maintains a stock of vehicles as part of its business activities (such as a car sales lot, a salvage and wrecking yard, car rental agency, etc.), are not subject to the requirements of this subsection.~~

~~1.—Trees Required~~

~~At least one shade tree (as defined in this Code), occupying a planting space of at least 150 square feet each, shall be furnished for each 10 parking spaces in the parking lot.~~

- ~~a.—Trees must be placed in or around the parking lot such that every parking space is within 50 feet of a shade tree. The 50-foot distance is measured from the center of the tree to any point within the parking space.~~
- ~~b.—New trees shall have a caliper of no less than 2 inches and a height of no less than 8 feet upon planting, and shall be maintained in good condition. Trees that must be removed as a result of disease, damage or death, must be replaced.~~
- ~~c.—Trees provided as parking lot plantings shall be credited toward the tree conservation requirements of this Article.~~

~~2.—Standards for Parking Lot Planting Areas~~

- ~~a.—Landscape islands, strips or other planting areas shall be located within the parking lot and shall constitute at least 8% of the entire area devoted to parking spaces, aisles and connecting driveways.~~
- ~~b.—Landscape islands, strips or other planting areas shall be landscaped with any combination of such plant materials as trees, shrubs, grass or ground cover, except for those areas that are mulched. Such planting areas shall be well drained and contain suitable soil and natural irrigation characteristics for the planting materials they contain.~~
- ~~c.—As a minimum, a landscaping island shall be located at the end of every parking bay between the last parking space and an adjacent travel aisle or driveway. The island shall extend the length of the parking bay and shall be no less than 8 feet wide for at least one-half the length of the adjacent parking space.~~
- ~~d.—Landscape islands between side-by-side parking spaces shall be no less than 8 feet in width and extend for at least one-half the length of the adjacent parking space. Landscaping strips between head-to-head parking spaces shall be no less than 8 feet in width without wheel stops, or 5 feet in width when provided with wheel stops in the parking spaces such that no vehicular overhang is permitted.~~

~~10.5—SCREENING OF TRUCK LOADING AREAS~~

~~The following applies to any designated truck loading and unloading area:~~

~~A.—Truck Loading Area Buffers~~

~~Any area designated for truck loading or unloading on a property that is located adjacent to a residence or residential zoning district must provide a buffer as follows:~~

- ~~1. The buffer shall meet the minimum width for a zoning buffer as required under Section 10.2.B.2, unless waived or reduced under Section 10.2.B.7.~~
- ~~2. Parking lot buffers required adjacent to a residential use or zoning district shall meet the buffer standards of Section 10.2.B.2, and be maintained in accordance with Section 10.2.B.6.~~

~~B. Truck Loading Area Screening~~

~~For any designated truck loading or unloading area visible from or adjacent to a street, the following applies:~~

- ~~1. If the property across the street from the truck loading or unloading area is zoned as any R-numbered residential district or PUD, a visual screen shall be provided between the loading area and the street meeting the standards and all other requirements for a zoning buffer under Section 10.2.B.2, and be maintained in accordance with Section 10.2.B.6, unless the buffer is waived or reduced under Section 10.2.B.7.~~
- ~~2. If the property across the street from the truck loading or unloading area is not zoned as any R-numbered residential district or PUD-planned development, screening shall be provided meeting the same requirements as for a parking lot under Section 10.4.A and Section 10.4.C.~~

10.65 OBSTRUCTIONS TO SIGHT DISTANCE

All landscaping and other screening devices placed along street rights-of-way and driveways must be designed and installed in a manner consistent with the requirements of this ~~Development~~ Code regarding visibility clearance.

10.76 SCREENING OF TRASH STORAGE CONTAINERS / DUMPSTERS

All exterior commercial trash storage containers shall be screened so that they are not visible from off the property, and a permanent masonry or frame enclosure shall be provided for each such bin. A detailed drawing of enclosure and screening methods to be used in connection with trash bins on the property shall be included with the site landscaping plan.

10.8 SCREENING OF AIR CONDITIONING UNITS

In any commercial or industrial zoning district, ground based and roof mounted heating and air conditioning units shall be screened from view from any street or adjoining residential property unless waived by the Executive Director.

~~10.9 SCREENING OF STORMWATER DETENTION POND~~

~~Unless provided as a site amenity (such as a lake, lagoon or pond) designed provided with public access improvements such as walk ways, patios or benches, a visual screen shall separate and screen all stormwater detention or retention facilities from view from any adjacent street and any adjoining or contiguous property, except for penetrations for required access. The visual screen shall comply with the following standards:~~

~~A. Minimum Required Screening~~

~~Minimum required screening shall achieve an opaque visual screen to a height of 4 feet using the materials listed below.~~

~~B. Materials~~

The visual screen may be formed through the retention of existing vegetation, the planting of new vegetation, the creation of a planted hedge, the construction of a fence or wall or earthen berm, or any combination of these approaches.

1. ~~Fencing or Masonry Walls~~

~~Fences and masonry walls shall present a finished and decorative appearance. Shrubs, ground covers, or other vegetation shall be provided in front of the fence or wall so as to provide a decorative effect, following professional landscaping standards for spacing, location and design. Wooden and woven wire fences shall not be used; vinyl materials that simulate wooden fences in appearance may be used.~~

2. ~~Planted Materials or Natural Vegetation~~

~~Any combination of existing and newly planted vegetation may be used that can reasonably be expected to create an opaque evergreen visual screen 4 feet high within two growing seasons.~~

3. ~~Earthen Berms~~

~~When using an earthen berm, the maximum side slope shall not exceed 50% (1 foot of vertical rise to 2 feet of horizontal run) with a minimum crown width of two feet. The berm shall be planted with ground cover, shrubs, trees or other landscaping materials to achieve a total screening height of 4 feet.~~

10.409 LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION AND DESIGN STANDARDS

A. Acceptable Plant Materials

The following are the minimum plant sizes and conditions to be used in satisfying the requirements of this Article. Acceptable plant materials for landscaping, screening and zoning buffers must be prepared by a landscape architect, architect or civil engineer licensed in Louisiana.

1. All plant materials must be of good quality for minimum acceptable form, quality, and size for species selected.
2. The *American Standard for Nursery Stock*, published by the American Association for Nurserymen, may be referred to for the determination of plant standards. All plant materials must be free of disease and installed so that soil of sufficient volume, composition, and nutrient balance are available to sustain healthy growth. Installation of plant materials during the appropriate growing season is encouraged.
3. Where overhead utilities are present, the following provisions apply to the selection and installation of plant materials:
 - ~~a.~~ Only trees 25 feet in height or less at maturity are permitted within 20 feet of any overhead utilities. ~~This includes the majority of the tree species classified as "small trees" in Section 10.12. Shrubs, grasses, vines, and other plant materials less than 25 feet in height are also permitted.~~
 - ~~b-a.~~
 - ~~c-b.~~ Any tree species taller than 25 feet at maturity, ~~as classified in Section 10.12,~~ must be planted at a setback from utility lines that is equal to or greater than the tree's height at maturity.

FIGURE 10-1: OVERHEAD UTILITY PLANTING ZONES



D. Minimum Planting Sizes

1. Shade trees, including broad-leaf evergreens, must have a minimum trunk size of three inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) at planting.
2. Conifer evergreen trees must have a minimum height of six feet at planting.
3. Single stem ornamental trees must have a minimum trunk size of two inches in tree caliper at planting. Multiple stem ornamental trees must have a minimum height of eight feet at planting.
4. Large shrubs must have minimum height of three feet at installation. Small shrubs must have a minimum height of 18 inches at installation. Large shrubs are those shrubs that reach five or more feet in height at maturity. Small shrubs are those shrubs that may grow up to five feet in height if left unmaintained, but are generally maintained at heights of 18 to 36 inches.

E. Existing Plant Materials

All plant materials existing on-site, including trees, may be counted toward any planting requirements of this Code so long as the location and type of plant material meets the intent of the specific planting requirements.

F. Tree Protection During Development

During development, all precautions must be undertaken to prevent construction damage to existing trees.

G. Underground Utilities and Utility Areas

Underground utilities, drain lines, and similar facilities which are located below landscape areas within parking lots must be installed as near to the edge of the planting area as possible, within the outer one-third of the available width of the planter, to minimize interference with tree installation.

10.140 LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Landscape material depicted on approved landscape plans is considered a required site element in the same manner as structures, parking, lighting, and other improvements. As such, the property owner is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of all landscape material, fences, walls, steps, retaining walls, and similar landscape elements.

- A. All plant material must be maintained in a healthy and growing condition. Plants that are diseased, unsurvivably damaged or are dead shall be removed and replaced with a plant of the same species, variety or cultivar, as acceptable to the Executive Director.
- B. Other landscape materials shall be maintained in proper repair and shall be kept clear of refuse and debris.
- G. For new construction, an automatic irrigation system is encouraged for all landscaping. The design must include appropriate shut-off devices, manual over-rides, and rain sensors.
- H. If the total required landscape area for a development site is less than 1,500 sf, a hose bib and water spigot within 50 feet of all required landscaping may be used for irrigation. If the landscaping is not maintained in a livable condition, the Zoning Administrator may require an automatic irrigation system be installed.
- I. Nothing in this Article prohibits tree pruning, tree trimming or tree cutting to promote the health of a tree or for public safety purposes.

10.421 TREE PLANTING, MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL ON STREET RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OTHER PUBLIC GROUNDS

All electric transmission and distribution lines, wires, poles, lighting, along with any and all related facilities, in any way necessary for service by an electric public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, shall be exempt from all of the limitations and requirements of this Code, ~~except for requirements included in this section.~~ Tree planting, maintenance and removal on street rights-of-way and other public grounds ~~must meet the following standards:~~ falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works.

~~A. Tree Planting~~

~~Trees may be planted within street rights-of-way or on other public grounds only after notification to the Caddo Parish Public Works Department, and provided the selection and location of said trees are in accordance with the requirements of this Article.~~

~~B. Tree Removal~~

~~Trees shall not be removed from a street right-of-way or other public grounds unless approval is received from Caddo Parish Public Works Department.~~

~~C. Damage to Trees~~

~~It shall be a violation of this section to damage, destroy or mutilate any tree in a public right-of-way or on other public grounds, or attach or place any rope or wire (other than one to support a young or broken tree or limb).~~

D. ~~Top or Cutback to Stubs~~

~~It shall be unlawful for any person to top or cutback to stubs the crown of any tree in street rights-of-way or on other public grounds.~~

E. ~~Reserved Rights~~

~~Caddo Parish reserves the right to plant, preserve, prune, maintain or remove any tree within the street rights-of-way, alleys, squares, and all public grounds when such interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a street light, or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign, or as may be necessary to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.~~

F. ~~Line of Sight~~

~~Trees shall not be planted to conceal a fire hydrant from the street or impede the line of sight on any street.~~

G. ~~Storm Damage~~

~~Trees severely damaged by storms, or other accidental causes, where required pruning practices are impractical are exempt from this Article.~~

H. ~~Public Utilities~~

~~Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit public utilities from pruning or removing trees that encroach upon electric, telephone, or cable television transmission lines, or gas, sewer or water pipes.~~

I. ~~Pruning Plans~~

~~The utility provider, whether it be electric, telephone, cable television, or gas shall present yearly pruning plans for trees located within designated utility easements that cross public property. The applicable department, at their discretion, may follow up with said utility provider to address any issues identified in the submitted plans.~~

J. ~~Electric Utility Provider~~

~~The electric utility provider will provide a copy of its annual vegetation management plan submitted to the Louisiana Public Service Commission that addresses planned trimming of select electrical circuits. The applicable department, at their discretion, may follow up with the electric utility provider to provide input regarding the plan. There will be no requirement to notify applicable departments of reactive vegetation management conducted outside of the annual vegetation management plan that is necessary to provide reliable electric service to the provider's customers.~~

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