

Charlotte Urban Forestry Commercial/Subdivision - Tree Planting and Preservation Notes

Planting

1. Minimum tree size at planting is 2" caliper and 8' tall for single-stem trees. All multi-stem plants must be tree form, maximum 3 to 5 trunks, and minimum 10' tall. Size of required plants, spread of roots and size of balls shall be in accordance with ANSI Z60.1 (latest edition) as published by the American Nursery & Landscape Association, except where specified/authorized by Urban Forestry.
2. All trees of a particular species/variety shall be uniform in size and configuration. Size of plants, spread of roots, and size of balls shall be in accordance with ANSI Z60.1 (latest edition) except where specified/authorized by the Charlotte Tree Manual or Chief Urban Forester. Perimeter and frontage trees in Tier 1 & Tier 2 or locations with sight distance/pedestrian conflicts shall be 3" in caliper and be free of branches up to 6' from the top of root crown (ball).
3. Form - All new trees shall have **straight trunks with strong central leaders intact to the top of the crown** unless multi-stem trees are specified or species growth habit in the nursery commonly deviates from central leader form. All trees shall be typical of their species and variety, have normal growth habits, have well-developed branches, be vigorous and have fibrous root systems. Trees with major girdling roots will NOT be accepted. Trees with co-dominant branching will NOT be accepted. Trees that have been sheared, topped or cut back to significantly multiply the branching structure will NOT be accepted. Trees shall be free of abrasions, damage, disease, pests and cracks. All pruning cuts greater than ½ inch diameter shall have callus tissue formed prior to planting. No pruning cut on the trunk shall be more than one-half the diameter of the central leader at the height where the cut was made. Root flares shall be located at grade. Trees with more than 2" of soil covering the root ball/flare from will NOT be accepted (CLDS.40.09).
4. All trees planted pursuant to UDO Article 20.13-20.18 shall be planted in amended soils (entire planting area) and approved species per the CLDSM. See Charlotte Tree Manual.
5. Planting areas for **all required trees shall be a minimum of 274 square feet** unless otherwise specified.
6. All Heritage Tree mitigation trees shall be native large mature species except in situations with overhead power line conflicts.
7. A minimum of 75% of all Perimeter, Frontage, Internal, & Green Area trees shall be native species. Sites with more than 20 trees required will have to install multiple (3 or more) species pursuant to the Charlotte Tree Manual. 75% of Perimeter & Internal trees shall be large mature species.
8. Large mature trees shall not be planted within 25' of overhead powerlines.
9. Required trees shall be located at least 10' from buildings and underground utilities.
10. See CLDS 40.01 & 40.09 (on plan) for detailed tree planting requirements, plastic hose parts will NOT be accepted for staking.
11. All strapping, and top 1/3 of wire basket and burlap must be cut away and removed from root ball when planting.
12. For new planting areas, remove all pavement, gravel sub-base and construction debris; remove compacted soil and add 18" new topsoil, or till and amend the top 18" of existing soil to meet topsoil/planting mix standards for trees (within entire minimum area of 274 square feet).
13. Review soil requirements in the Charlotte Tree Manual.

Preservation

14. **Tree protection fencing and signage must be installed** and verified by Urban Forestry staff **PRIOR** to starting **ANY** construction activity.
15. Show required tree protection on all demolition, erosion control, grading and landscape plan sheets.
16. All Green Area must be recorded on a final plat with the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds before Urban Forestry holds can be released.
17. Tree Save Areas shall be free of invasive plant species. If an area proposed for tree save contains invasive plant species at time of proposal, such invasive plant species shall be removed prior to release of Urban Forestry holds.
18. Any activity in tree save must be accomplished without mechanized equipment per UDO 20.15.E. & Charlotte Tree Manual.
19. No structure will be allowed within 10' of tree save areas unless approved by Urban Forestry.
20. All trees on public street right-of-way/property are protected and removal must be permitted by Urban Forestry.
21. Contact Urban Forestry **PRIOR** to any crane set-up, machinery operation or temporary building erection that may impact protected trees, tree save areas, including City trees in public right-of-way. Impacts may include but are not limited to: encroaching in tree drip-lines, excavation, soil compaction, tree trimming, erecting and dismantling of construction cranes.

Utility Issues

22. If utilities are to be installed in/near any required tree(s) or Tree Save Area(s), contact Urban Forestry **PRIOR** to installation.
23. Large maturing trees may not be planted within 25' of overhead power distribution or transmission lines.
24. If trees conflict with any utilities or signs; contact Urban Forestry to resolve **PRIOR** to planting.
25. Adjust planting locations during design phase to avoid existing underground utilities. Plant 10' from all underground utilities.
26. **No light poles, utilities or transformers can be installed in tree islands.**
27. See **Table 20-6: Site Lighting and Tree Separation Requirements in UDO 20.17.B.** for tree and light pole spacing requirements.
28. **Show site lighting on landscape plan.**

General

Urban Forestry Standard Notes - UDO Article 20. Landscape, Screening, & Tree Preservation Sections 20.13- 20.18

29. **Certificate of Occupancy & hold release** - Submit request form [here](#) a minimum of 3 days before the CO/hold release is needed for an inspection of tree protection/planting areas.
30. Visit the [CLT Development Center website](#) for additional information and urban forestry requirements. Click [Trees](#).
31. All required payment-in-lieu and mitigation payments must be submitted prior to plan approval.
32. All spatial tree data plan data must be submitted prior to plan approval, any site changes affecting code required trees will require a new spatial tree data plan.