



CITY OF GAHANNA

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

City of Gahanna
200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

COMPREHENSIVE LANDSCAPE PLAN

(Comprehensive City Tree Plan for the City)

~~April 10, 2007~~

MAY 6, 2009

GAHANNA'S VISION is ...

...to be an innovative model community that values its rich heritage, pursues high standards, and where citizens respect one another.

GAHANNA'S MISSION is ...

...to ensure an exceptional quality of life by providing comprehensive services, financial stability, and well-planned development which preserves the natural environment, so that city government will continue to be responsive, accessible and accountable to our diverse and growing community of citizens.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S MISSION is ...

- *To protect and conserve the natural environment and to provide Gahanna citizens with opportunity to spend leisure time in a constructive beneficial manner.*
- *To provide a balanced recreation program designed to assist the citizens of Gahanna in developing and learning skills and maintaining their general welfare.*
- *To present stimulating programs to all age groups based on the expressed interest of the citizens of Gahanna.*

EXHIBIT A

INTRODUCTION

Purpose Statement

The City of Gahanna Comprehensive Landscape Plan (Comprehensive City Tree Plan for the City) was created for the following reasons:

- a. To provide City leadership and reference materials to Council, Planning Commission, staff, and the community.
- b. To establish current Street Tree guidelines as it pertains to community landscaping (public and private) for the City Forester.

I. GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES

A. Chapter 154 - Landscape Board

154.01 Creation

There is hereby created a Landscape Board which shall consist of five electors of the Municipality who are not otherwise serving as elected or appointed officials of the City. Three of the five electors shall be appointed by Council; and two of the five electors shall be appointed by the Mayor. Beginning January 2, 1997 one of the five electors will be appointed by Council for three years, one will be appointed by Council for two years, one will be appointed by Council for one year; one will be appointed by the Mayor for three years and one will be appointed by the Mayor for two years. Thereafter, each January 2 (if January 2 is a Sunday, then January 3) and as the terms expire, appointments shall be made for a term of three years by the respective appointing authorities for the position for which the term is ending. (Ord. 4-97. Passed 1-2-97)

154.02 Organization

Council shall establish the date, time and place for the first meeting each year, at which the Landscape Board shall organize. The Mayor shall preside at this meeting until the chairman is elected. The Landscape Board shall choose its own officers, establish its own rules of operation, and maintain a record of its proceedings and actions. A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. Meetings must be held a minimum of six times a year and shall be open to the public. (Ord. 4-97. Passed 1-2-97)

154.03 Duties and Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the Landscape Board to study, investigate, counsel and develop and/or update annually, and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas with such trees and shrubs being designated street trees or park trees. Such plan shall be presented annually to Council and upon their acceptance and approval shall constitute the official Comprehensive City Tree Plan for the City. The Board, when requested by Council, shall consider, investigate, make findings report and recommend upon any special

- *Picea abies* – Norway Spruce
- *Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk' – Ivory Silk Tree
- *Taxodium distichum* – Baldcypress
- *Ulmus* x 'Morton' – Accolade Elm

SHRUBS

- *Hamamelis* – Witchhazel
- *Ilex verticillata* – Winterberry Holly
- *Rhus aromatica* – Fragrant sumac
- *Spirea Japonica* – Spirea Species
- *Taxus* – Yew
- *Thuja* – Arborvitae

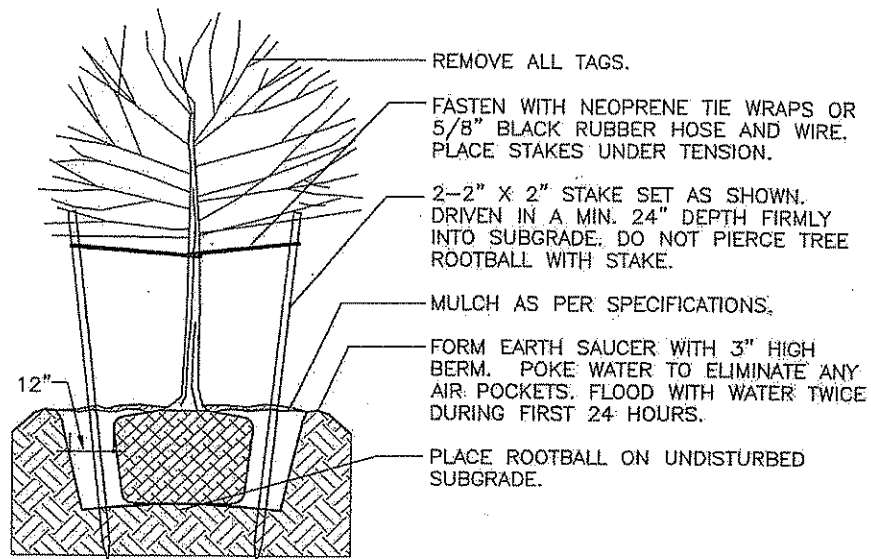
GRASSES

- *Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' – Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass
- *Carex* – Sedge Grass
- *Helictotrichon sempervirens* – Oat Grass
- *Liriope muscari* – Lily Turf
- *Panicum* – Switch Grass
- *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln Dwarf Fountain Grass

PERENNIALS / HERBS

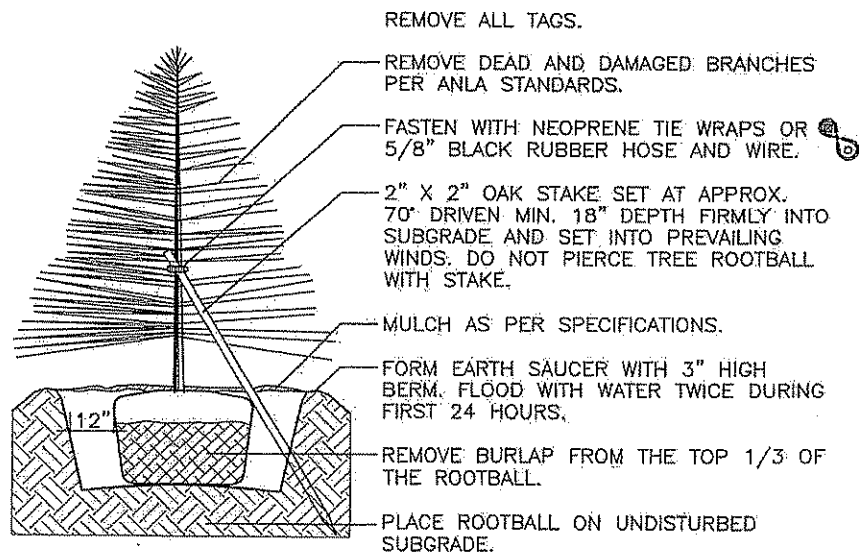
- *Achillea filipendulina* – Yarrow
- *Aconitum cammarum* – Monkshood
- *Baptisia australis* – False Indigo
- *Echinacea* – Coneflower
- *Hemerocallis* Hybrids – Daylilly Hybrids
- *Phlox paniculata* – Tall phlox
- *Lavandula* – Lavender
- *Rudbeckia* – Black-eye Susan
- *Salvia nemorosa* – Meadow Sage
- *Salvia officinalis* – Common Sage
- *Solidago* – Goldenrod

Planting Recommendations



TREE PLANTING DETAIL

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE.



CONIFEROUS TREE PLANTING DETAIL

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE.

II. STREET TREES

A. Program Description

a. **What Are Street Trees?**

Street trees are the trees located on the lawn or right-of-way also known as an easement (usually the area between the street and the sidewalk of your lawn). Right-of-way is the area dedicated to the City (usually when a home is built) and the area where utility lines are typically placed. Because the City must have access to these utilities, the City retains ownership of right-of-way areas, including the trees. Like sidewalks, curbs and driveways, street trees are the maintenance responsibility of the homeowner. However, there is assistance available for your street trees by contacting the City of Gahanna Department of Parks & Recreation.

b. **The Importance of Street Trees**

Trees are a vital asset to any urban environment. Trees add beauty, are a source of oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, provide shade, absorb noise and usually increase property values. Gahanna residents enjoy a colorful variety of street trees and their planting is now required for all new residential and most commercial developments. Gahanna has been designated a Tree City USA for more than ten consecutive years, and believes the street tree program is a contributing factor in this recognition.

c. **Guidelines**

Many Gahanna residents ask if they are allowed to help maintain and prune the street trees for their homes. In fact, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to do this. Because residents frequently ask for guidance on how to properly perform this task, we have prepared a Street Tree Care Guide (available for pick-up in the Gahanna Parks and Recreation Department; or available on the City of Gahanna's website: www.gahanna.gov). The City's Parks Department and the City Forester are always available for guidance by calling 614-342-4261; or by sending an email to the City Forester at: parksandrec@gahanna.gov.

d. **Street Tree Maintenance Guidelines**

To help maintain our City trees and their many benefits, Gahanna City Code reads:

- Street tree limbs must be at least eight feet above the sidewalk.
- Street tree limbs must be at least fifteen feet above the street.
- The tree location should be at least twenty feet from street intersections and ten feet from fire hydrants and utility poles. Cul-de-sac street trees will be located at the appropriate discretion of the City Landscape Board.
- A street tree shall be planted one-half the distance between the curb and the sidewalk.
- The maximum spacing for large trees shall be fifty feet for medium trees and thirty-to-forty feet for small trees.

III. TREE CITY USA

The City of Gahanna and its citizens have always taken pride in their commitment to protecting and improving the quality of the Urban Forest. Tree City USA is a National recognition of that commitment sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

A. The Tree City USA®

Provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities where more than 93 million Americans call home.

a. Tree City Benefits

Every community, regardless of size, benefits in different ways from being a Tree City USA. Reports of these benefits have reached The National Arbor Day Foundation through the years and are summarized below in six general categories:

b. Framework for Action

Meeting the four standards for becoming a Tree City USA provides initial direction for an urban or community forestry program. Like the first rungs on a ladder, the standards help get a community started toward annual, systematic management of its tree resources.

c. Education

Education begins with discussion of the standards and getting organized to apply for Tree City USA status. It continues as the desire for Tree City USA recognition leads to contacts with the state forester's staff. In turn, this can set in motion aid from a variety of professionals in the form of technical advice, literature, films, and other assistance.

d. Public Image

A community's public image is a very real phenomenon and important in many ways. Being a Tree City USA helps present the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live or conduct business. The Tree City USA signs at community entrances tell visitors that here is a community that cares about its environment. It is also an indication to prospective businesses that the quality of life may be better here. It has even been known to be a factor in where meetings or conferences have been held.

e. Citizen Pride

Pride is sometimes a less tangible benefit. Gaining and retaining Tree City USA recognition is an award to the tree workers, managers, volunteers, tree board members and others who work on behalf of better care of a community's trees. Non-involved citizens, too, often share a sense of pride that theirs is a Tree City USA. This may translate to better care of trees on private property or a willingness to volunteer in the future.

f. Financial Assistance

Preference is sometimes given to Tree City USA communities over other communities when allocations of grant money are made for trees or forestry programs. The reason is that there are invariably more requests than available funds when grants are available through state or federal agencies. If requests are equally worthy, some officials tend to have more confidence in communities that have demonstrated the foresight of becoming a Tree City USA.

case, working toward Tree City USA recognition can be used to re-examine the community's budget priorities and re-direct funds to properly care for its tree resource before it is too late. Ideally, this standard will be met by focusing funding on an annual work plan developed after an inventory is completed and a report is approved by the city council. Such a plan will address species diversity, planting needs, hazardous trees, insect and disease problems and a pattern of regular care such as pruning and watering.

D. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

This is the least challenging and probably the most enjoyable standard to accomplish. An Arbor Day celebration can be simple and brief or an all-day or all-week observation. It can be a simple tree planting event or an award ceremony that honors leading tree planters. For children, Arbor Day may be their only exposure to the green world or a springboard to discussions about the complex issue of environmental quality. The benefits of Arbor Day go far beyond the shade and beauty of new trees for the next generation. Arbor Day is a golden opportunity for publicity and to educate homeowners about proper tree care. Utility companies can join in to promote planting small trees beneath power lines or being careful when digging. Smokey Bear's fire prevention messages can be worked into the event, as can conservation education about soil erosion or the need to protect wildlife habitat. Still another way to develop Arbor Day is to link it with a tree-related festival. Some that are currently celebrated include dogwood festivals, locust blossom festivals and Macon, Georgia's Cherry Blossom Festival that annually brings more than \$4.25 million into the local economy. In meeting the four standards, help is available! The urban and community forestry coordinator in your state forester's office will be happy to work with communities in taking these first steps toward better community forestry.

B. Invasive Species List

Invasive plants are defined by their ability to invade and disrupt an ecosystem. While most species stay within a set range and have predators or other limitations on their growth, invasive species tend to overrun ecosystems into which they are introduced. Collectively they are one of the great threats to biodiversity and ecosystem stability.

Identification of invasive plants is very important. Be sure of species before removal or planting.

- a. Invasive species includes but is not limited to the following list of exotic trees, shrubs, vines, and woody species which can and have escaped cultivation and reproduce rapidly such that they destroy ecological structure and function of natural areas by permanently displacing native vegetation in natural areas on City and private property.
- b. The list of compiled invasive plants as described in above definition are listed below:

Targeted Species

Common Name	Scientific Name
Autumn-Olive	Elaeagnus umbellata
Buckthorn, glossy	Rhamnus frangula
Buckthorn, European or common	Rhamnus cathartica
Common reed grass*	Phragmites australis
Garlic mustard	Alliaria petiolata
Honeysuckle, amur	Lonicera maackii
Honeysuckle, Japanese	Lonicera japonica
Honeysuckle, Morrow	Lonicera morrowii
Honeysuckle, Tatarian	Lonicera tatarica
Japanese Knotweed	Polygonum cuspidatum
Multiflora rose	Rosa multiflora
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria
Reed canary grass*	Phalaris arundinacea

*These species may have native and non-native strains in Ohio.

Watch List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Black swallow wort	Vincetoxicum nigrum
Chinese silvergrass	Miscanthus sinensis
Dog rose	Rosa canina
Giant knotwood	Polygonum sachalinense
Honeysuckle showy pink	Lonicera Xbella
Kudzu	Pueraria lobata
Leafy spurge	Euphorbia esula
Mile-a-minute vine	Polygonum perfoliatum
Napalgrass	Microstegium vimineum
Nodding thistle	Carduus nutans
Porcelain-berry	Ampleopsis brevipedunculata
Privet, border	Ligustrum obtusifolium
Spotted knapweed	Centaurea maculosa
Star-of-Bethlehem	Onithagalum umbellatum

C. Prohibited Street Tree List

The following list of prohibited trees are considered to be "injurious plants" and are prone to disease, seek water (trouble for water and sewer lines), are soft wood trees and need room for roots to grow and a curb lawn does not provide enough room. Some of the trees have thorns and some won't tolerate snow, salt and sand that could affect it during the winter:

Box Elder	Honey Locus (except thornless AND PODLESS species)
Dogwood	Silver Maple
Buckeye	Redbud
Mulberry	Catalpa
Black Locust	Willow species
Siberian Elm	Ginko (female)
Fruit Trees	Tree-of-heaven
Evergreens	Cottonwood
Poplar species	Crab species (limited)
Hawthorns (except thornless species)	ASH

E. Residential Street Tree Matching Grant Program



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200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
(614) 342-4250; Fax: (614) 342-4100
www.gahanna.gov

RESIDENTIAL STREET TREE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES

Sponsored by the City of Gahanna
Administered by the Gahanna Landscape Board

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8. **Residential Funds** - If you are selected for a grant, you will have three (3) weeks to bring your checks or money orders for the residents' share of the trees to the Landscape Board where detailed instructions will be provided at that time.
9. **Matching Funds** - The Landscape Board will match your funds with an equal amount and contract with a professional nursery to plant the trees.

Please complete the following information:

Street or Neighborhood Name: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Title: _____
(if the contact holds a position in a neighborhood association)

Home Address: _____

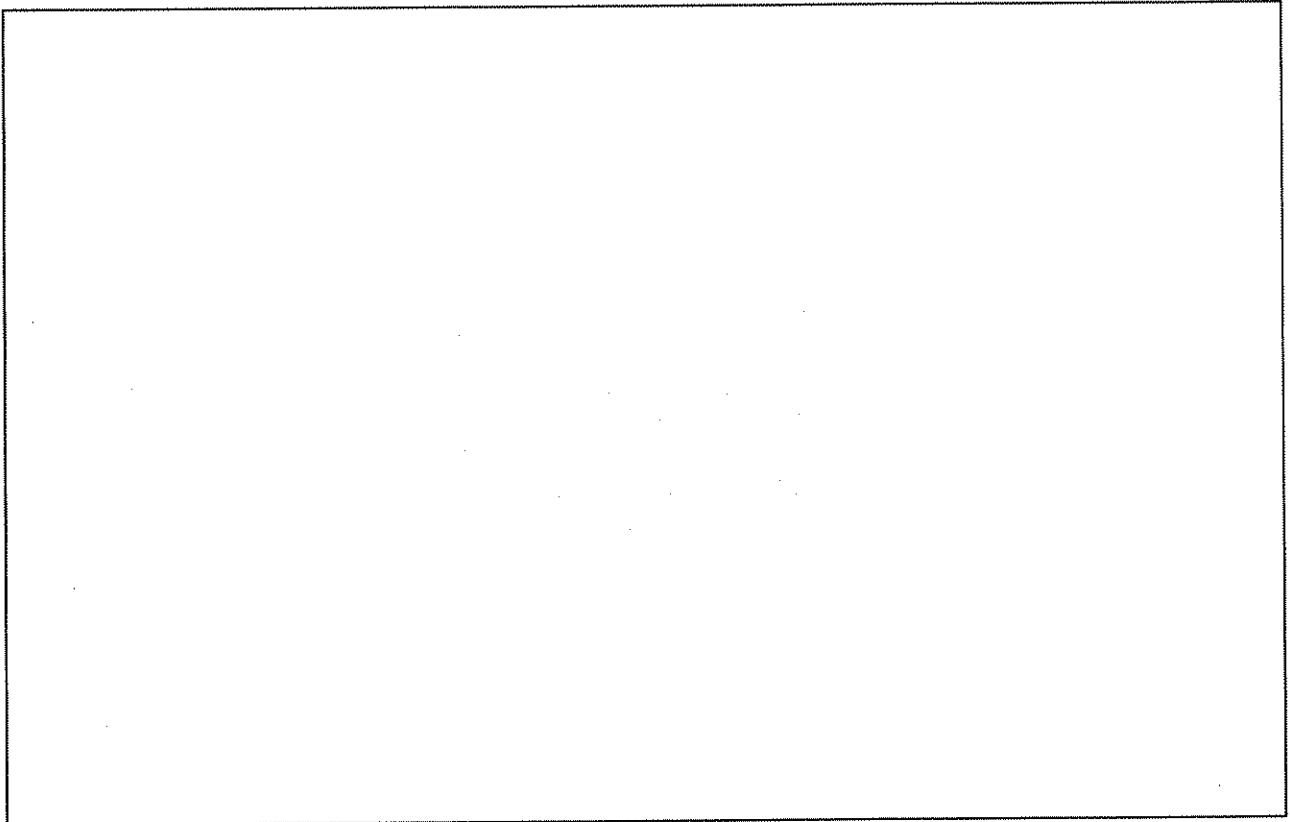
Phone Number: () _____

Times Available: _____

If you need assistance in identifying the correct tree; or if you have spacing issues, please call the City Forester at 614-342-4261.

Please describe below if there are any special considerations that you feel should be taken into account in evaluating your request. This could be a special need of your neighborhood for trees to address problems due to traffic, noise, pollution, or lack of shade. It could be a special need for the visual barrier formed by trees or the need to improve property values in an older neighborhood.

Special considerations should be described here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to describe special considerations. The box is currently blank.

Some of the trees have thorns and some won't tolerate snow, salt and sand that could affect it during the winter:

Box Elder	Silver Maple
Dogwood	Redbud
Buckeye	Catalpa
Mulberry	Willow species
Black Locust	Ginko (female)
Siberian Elm	Tree-of-heaven
Fruit Trees	Cottonwood
Evergreens	Crab species (limited)
Poplar species	
Hawthorns (except thornless species)	
Honey Locust (except thornless species)	

4. "Interior landscaping" means the use of landscape materials within the innermost boundaries of the landscape buffer zone and perimeter landscaping.
5. "Landscape buffer zone" means that area adjacent to any vehicular use area or along common boundaries in which the perimeter landscape requirements are to be met.
6. "Large tree" means any tree species which normally attains a full grown height in excess of fifty feet.
7. "Medium tree" means any tree species which normally attains a full grown height of between twenty-five feet and fifty feet.
8. "O.F.T." means or fraction thereof.
9. "Opacity" means an imaginary vertical plane extending from the established grade to a required height of which a required percentage of the vertical plane shall be visually screened from adjacent property use.
10. "Park trees" means those trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation in public parks which have individual names, and all areas owned by the City or to which the public has free access to as a park.
11. "Parking area or structure" means an off-street area or structure, for required parking or loading spaces, including driveways, accessways, aisles, parking or loading spaces, including driveways, accessways, aisles, parking and maneuvering space, but excluding required front yard or public right-of-way.
12. "Parking lot or structure" means an off-street area or structure, other than the parking or loading spaces or areas required or permitted under the Zoning Ordinance, for the parking of automobiles, and available to the public customarily for a fee.
13. "Perimeter landscaping" means the use of landscape materials within the landscape buffer zone to achieve the required opacity.
14. "Person" means any person, corporation, partnership, company, contracting firm or other entity.
15. "Pruning" means to cut branches, stems, etc. from a plant to improve shape and growth.
16. "Small tree" means any tree species which normally attains a full grown height under twenty-five feet.
17. "Street trees" means those trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation on land lying between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues or ways within the City.
18. "Topping" means the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.
19. "Treelawn" means that part of a street not covered by sidewalk or other paving, lying between the property line and that portion of the street right-of-way that is paved and usually used for vehicular traffic.

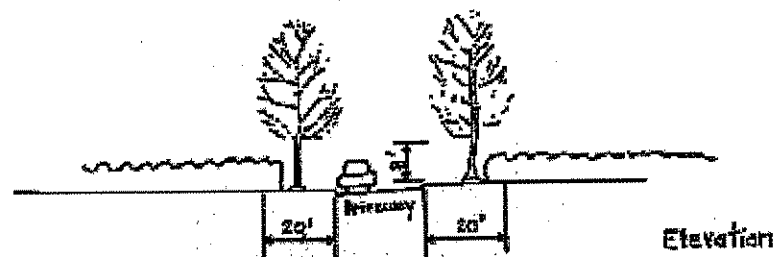
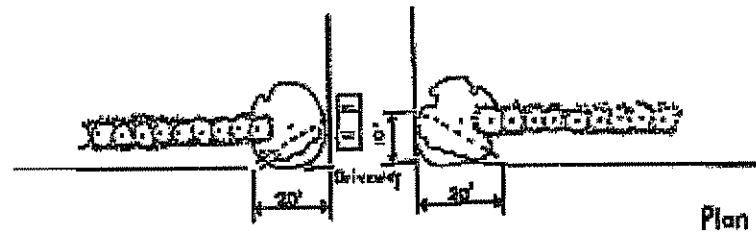
The proposed landscape materials should complement the form of the existing trees and plantings, as well as the development's general design and architecture. The type of shade or sun should be considered in selecting plant materials.

- a. Walls and Fences. Walls and fences should comply with Chapter 1171 of the Codified Ordinances of Gahanna. For any proposed new building, residential or otherwise, where stone fencing exists, such stone fencing shall be retained and improved as part of the approved landscaping. (ORD-0025-2007. Passed 2/20/07)
- b. Earth Mounds. Earth mounds shall be physical barriers which block or screen the view similar to a hedge, fence or wall. Mounds shall be constructed with proper and adequate plant material to prevent erosion. When earth mounds are combined with walls or fences, the combined height shall not exceed six feet. A difference in elevation between areas requiring screening does not constitute an existing earth mound, and shall not be considered as fulfilling any screening requirement.
- c. Plants. All plant materials shall be living plants (artificial plants are prohibited) and shall meet the following requirements:
 1. Quality. Plant materials used in conformance with provisions of this chapter shall conform to the standards of the American Association of Nurserymen and shall have passed any inspections required under state regulations.
 2. Deciduous trees. Deciduous trees, those which normally shed their leaves in the fall, shall be species having an average mature crown spread of greater than fifteen feet in Central Ohio and having trunk(s) which can be maintained with over five feet of clear wood in areas which have visibility requirements, except at vehicular use area intersections where eight foot clear wood mature spread of crown less than fifteen feet may be substituted by groupings of the same so as to create the equivalent of a fifteen foot crown spread. A minimum of ten feet overall height or a minimum caliper (trunk diameter, measured six inches above ground for trees up to four inches caliper) of at least one and one-fourth (1 1/4) inches immediately after planting shall be required. Trees of species whose roots are known to cause damage to public roadways or other public works shall not be planted closer than fifteen feet to such public works, unless the tree root system is completely contained within a barrier for which the minimum interior containing dimensions shall be five feet square and five feet deep and for which the construction requirements shall be four inches thick, reinforced concrete.
 3. Evergreen trees. Evergreen trees shall be a minimum of six feet high with a minimum caliper of one and one-fourth (1 1/4) inches immediately after planting.
 4. Shrubs and hedges. Shrubs and hedges shall be at least eighteen inches in average height when planted, and shall conform to the opacity and other requirements within four years after planting.
 5. Vines. Vines shall be at least twelve inches or fifteen inches high at planting, and are generally used in conjunction with fences.
 6. Grass or ground cover. Grass (of the fescus (Gramineae) or Bluegrass (Poaceae) family) shall be planted in species normally grown as permanent lawns in Central Ohio, and may be sodded, or seeded; except in swales or other areas subject to erosion, where solid sod, erosion reducing net, or suitable mulch shall be used, nurse-grass seed shall be sown for immediate protection until complete coverage otherwise is achieved. Grass sod shall be clean and free of weeds and noxious pests or diseases. Ground cover shall be planted in such a manner as to present a finished appearance and seventy-five percent

- c. The Landscape Commission shall have the responsibility for the development of the street tree plans for the City, and the creation of tree planting standards. The developer of subdivisions can propose his/her own plan for approval by the Landscape Commission. If the developer proposes a street tree plan, ten sets of plans shall be submitted to the Zoning Officer at the time of the final plat, who shall forward them to the Landscape Commission for approval. The street tree plan, if submitted in this manner, shall be approved prior to the construction of the subdivision. The Landscape Commission shall notify the City Engineer of approval of any street tree plan.
- d. The following information shall be present on any street tree plan:
 - 1. Street and lot layout of the subdivision.
 - 2. Tree location showing minimum and maximum spacing.
 - 3. Type of tree(s) proposed for the subdivision by street.
 - 4. Landscape plan for entry features or cul-de-sac circles if in public right-of-way.
 - 5. Proposed utility locations.
 - 6. Width of tree lawn.
 - 7. Any other information deemed necessary by the Landscape Commission.
- e. The following minimum requirements shall be followed for any proposed street tree plan, unless the Landscape Commission finds that the minimum requirements cannot be met:
 - 1. The minimum spacing between this and other trees is forty-five feet (large trees), thirty-five feet (medium trees) and twenty-five feet (small trees).
 - 2. A street tree shall be planted one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the distance between the curb and the sidewalk.
 - 3. The tree location is to be at least twenty feet from driveways and street intersections and ten feet from fire hydrants and utility poles. Cul-de-sac street trees will be located at the individual appropriate discretion of the City Landscape Commission.
 - 4. A small tree is to be used when planting under or within ten lateral feet of overhead utility wires. A small or medium tree is to be used when planting within ten or twenty lateral feet of overhead utility wires.
 - 5. The trees should be of one and the same genus and species, planted continuously down each street. Trees on abutting streets shall be of different genus and species.
 - 6. The minimum trunk caliper measured at six inches above the ground for all street trees shall be no less than one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) inches.
 - 7. The maximum spacing for large trees shall be fifty feet, for medium trees, forty feet, and thirty feet for small trees.
- f. Height of Limbs Over Sidewalks and Streets. Tree limbs extending over a sidewalk shall be trimmed to such an extent that no portion of the same shall be less than eight feet above the sidewalks. Tree limbs extending over streets shall be trimmed to a minimum of fifteen feet so as not to interfere with the normal flow of traffic.
- g. Utilities. The Landscape Commission shall determine those species of trees, shrubs and plantings which may be planed and maintained under or within ten feet laterally of any overhead utility wire, or above or within five feet laterally of any underground water line, sewer line, distribution line or other public utility service on public property or utility or drainage easements within the City.

No tree, shrub or other planting shall be located so as to prevent or hinder proper access to water and gas shut-off valves, fire hydrants, sanitary and storm sewer manholes, communication system terminals, electric service

Planting Requirements – Driveway Intersection



Cul-de-sac driveway measurements are individually approved by the City Landscape Commission.

Planting Requirements – Street Intersection

