

Guidelines for Street Tree Planting

To be used in conjunction with **City of Fredericksburg Street Tree Selection List (rev 4/23/2023)**

- “Right Tree - Right Place” is the overarching goal of City street planting.
- Diversify species – no more than 10% of a species in a neighborhood or City as a whole, minimizing the probability of disease or blight having a major impact on our urban forest.
- Preference for native tree species which provide food and habitat for native insects, butterflies, birds, and mammals and are better adapted to local conditions.
- Locate a tree every 25-30 feet along the street. *(See NOTE 1)*
- Use current Street Tree List to identify appropriate trees to be planted under power lines. *Trees listed for under power lines are for general guidance only. Placement of trees under power lines can vary. Each area must be evaluated based on individual conditions.*
- Place the largest maturing tree possible in the planting area provided for maximum tree benefits.
- Multi-stem trees and shrubs **shall not** be planted in city utility strips. Only single stem Crape Myrtles can be planted **when there is no other alternative**. *(Note: Crape Myrtles have been temporarily suspended from the City of Fredericksburg Street Tree List.)*
- Plant trees that have minimum litter and smaller leaves in the downtown area and in areas that have high pedestrian traffic.
- Sizes indicated on Street Tree List are minimum planting size for that tree species. Tree cannot be planted in utility strips that are narrower than guidelines allow.
- No more than 10% of a species planted in one neighborhood. Areas that are difficult to diversify may be exempted from this requirement by the Department of Public Works.
- **Minimum** clearance distances to be maintained between a tree and the following:
 - Water Meter or Valve Box, Water Service Line, Sewer Service Lateral - 6 Feet
 - Utility Pole - 10 Feet
 - Driveway or Lead Walk - 5 Feet
 - Street Corner - 60 Feet minimum *(From curb of cross street to tree)*
 - Fire Hydrant - 15 Feet
 - Traffic Signs (e.g. Stop Sign, Speed Limit, Crosswalk, etc.) - 40 Feet (minimum) From Front of Sign. *(See NOTE 1)*
 - Buried Utility Line - 3 Feet *(For 2' auger, allows 2' from edge of auger to utility line)*
 - VDOT guidelines for sight distances shall be applied in consideration for plantings near traffic signals, signage, intersections, etc. For traffic safety purposes, clearances may be higher than the minimum offsets indicated above and reviewed on a case by case basis.
- **NOTE 1: Tree locations shall be flagged for review and must be approved prior to installation.**
- Guidelines for trees in the Downtown Business District:
 - Plant narrow canopy trees where building conflicts exist, taking into consideration building entrances.
 - Plant trees at the intersection of parking lines to avoid car door conflicts
 - Tree well size to be constructed as 5 ft. by 6 ft. when possible
 - Artificial mulch to be applied to the tree well after removal of the tree stakes *(est. 6 months after planting)*
 - Plant trees with differing growth rates to prevent all aging out at the same rate.
 - Selectively remove mature trees as they age out and become a hazard.