

A Greener, Healthier and Environmental Just Durham: Planning is Key

TreesDurham: Recommended Planning Changes and Initiatives

Goals: Raise our planning, preservation and management standards equal to or better than our neighbors, with the goal of creating a socially just, healthy and sustainable tree canopy and environment.

- 1. Require street trees be planted next to the street:** The code currently prohibits street trees from being planted next to the street (in the ROW) except with written permission.
 - a. Recommended Language: Street trees shall be located next to the street, in the right-of-way unless:
 - i. The City Public Works Director in consultation with the City Transportation director, the City Urban Forestry Division or the NCDOT provides a written exemption.
 - ii. The trees directly conflict with public utilities, in which case they must be planted within 30 feet of the ROW or in a street yard
- 2. Require minimum percentage of tree preservation onsite for all new developments 2 acres or more (Raleigh requires 10%):** We recommend 15% preservation, but are open to research and discussion.
- 3. Provide dedicated arborist staff for plan review and construction oversite within planning department:** Hire and assign arborist(s) specifically to review plans, enforce tree protection zones during construction, inspect landscape installation for CO and inspect required landscaping across city.
- 4. Require tree survey verification by arborist:** Currently there is only picture verification, which is unusual for ensuring existing conditions accuracy
- 5. Update Landscape Manual:** Update the landscape manual to meet current scientifically based tree standards, including species and soil volumes, and to account for street trees and private trees

| City | Where is tree preservation required? | What is the minimum preservation required? | Are ROW street trees required? |
|---------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Chapel Hill | Everywhere within Chapel Hill | 20% | Yes |
| Raleigh | Sites over 2 acres | 10% | Yes |
| Morrisville | Sites under 30 acres | 10% of existing cover | |
| Winston Salem | Everywhere within Winston Salem | 10% | |
| Cary | Everywhere within Cary | champion trees and existing vegetation in buffers | Yes |
| Durham | Only in rural and suburban tiers, and only within buffers and only when site requires opacity of .6 is required and only when buffer contains vegetation 15' or higher | 0% | No |