

## 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 oversight 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, <b>and</b> only within buffers <b>and</b> only when site requires opacity of .6 is required <b>and</b> only when buffer contains vegetation 15' or higher	0%	No