



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)

February 1, 2012

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.*

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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 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 reviewed and presented to Council every three (3) years. Upon Council acceptance and approval the plan shall constitute the official Comprehensive Landscape Plan for the City. The Board, when requested by Council, shall consider, investigate, make findings report and

recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by these Codified Ordinances. (ORD. 0011-2010. PASSED 2-1-10.)

154.04 Public Landscape Trust Fund

Members of the Landscape Board shall act collectively as trustees of the Public Landscape Trust Fund and may not delegate or relinquish responsibility for the fund except as defined herein. (Ord. 4-97. Passed 1-2-97)

CHAPTER 913 IS INCLUDED AS A REFERENCE GUIDE- SEE APPENDIX F

CHAPTER 914 IS INCLUDED AS A REFERENCE GUIDE- SEE APPENDIX G

B. Community & Public Landscape Recommendations

All plant material used and planting techniques will comply to the latest edition of the *American Standards for Nursery Stock*, published by the American Nursery and Landscape Association.

Where the three rivers meet is an identifying feature of the Gahanna Community; and by using some common design elements, we hope to achieve continuity while reinforcing the theme throughout the City of Gahanna.

a. **Hardscape Elements** – Commonly used materials for City projects (some examples follow):

- Limestone or Sandstone Slabs
- Washed River Rock
- Bolders
- Split-rail Fence
- Dry River Beds

b. **Softscape Elements** – Trees, Shrubs, and Herbs as well as other Herbaceous Plants. Plant material that accents the recommended landscape and provide interest through the year are:

TREES

- *Acer rubrum* – Red Maple
- *Acer saccharum* Sugar Maple
- *Amelanchier* – Serviceberry
- *Cercis Canadensis* – Red Bud
- *Cornus florida* – American Dogwood
- *Cornus kousa* – Chinese Dogwood
- *Gleditsia triacanthos inermis* – Seedless and Thornless Honey Locust

- Ginkgo biloba – Ginkgo Tree (male or sterile varieties only)
- Larix deciduas – Larch
- Platanus acerifolia – London Plane Tree
- 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

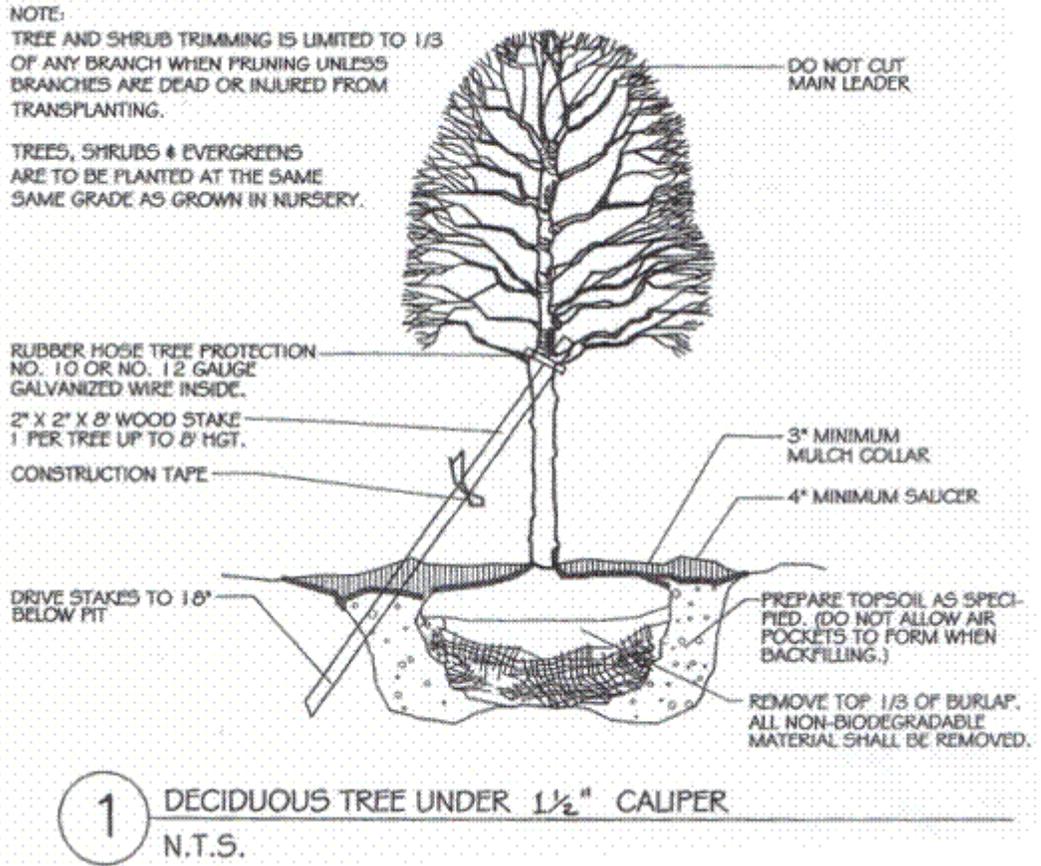
GRASSES

- 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

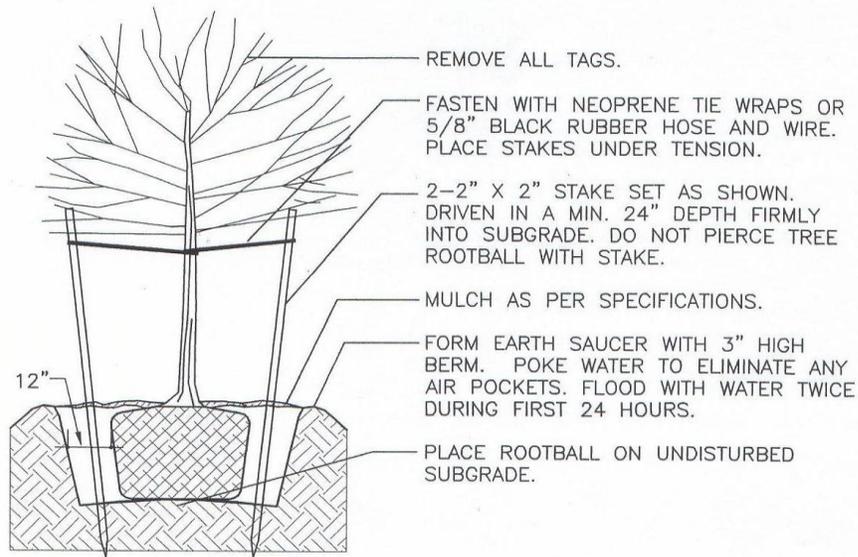
- Achillea filipendulina – Yarrow
- Aconitum cammarum – Monkshood
- Baptisia australis – False Indigo
- Echinacea – Coneflower
- Hemerocallis Hybrids – Daylilly Hybrids
- Phlox paniculata – Tall phlox
- Lavandula – Lavender
- Rudbeckia – Black-eye Susan
- Salvia nemorosa – Meadow Sage
- Salvia officinalis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

Planting Recommendations



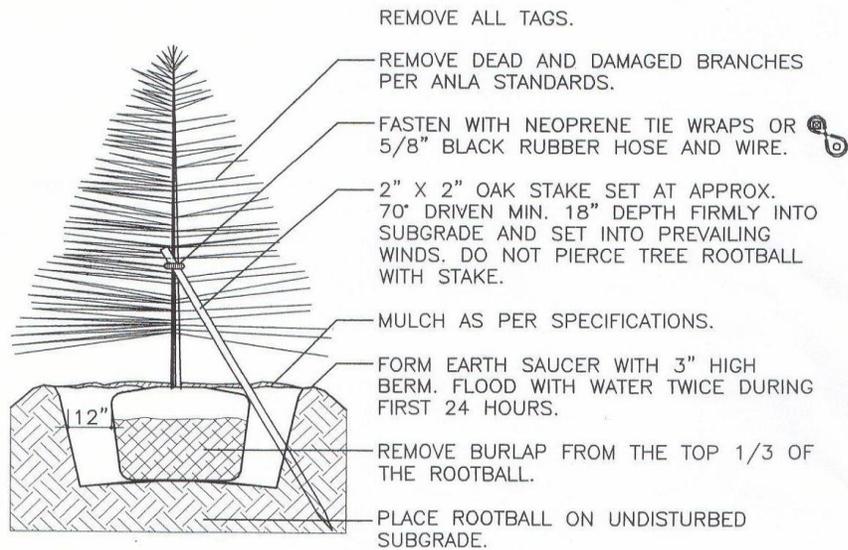
Note: Follows the American standards for Nursery Planting Standards

Planting Recommendations



TREE PLANTING DETAIL

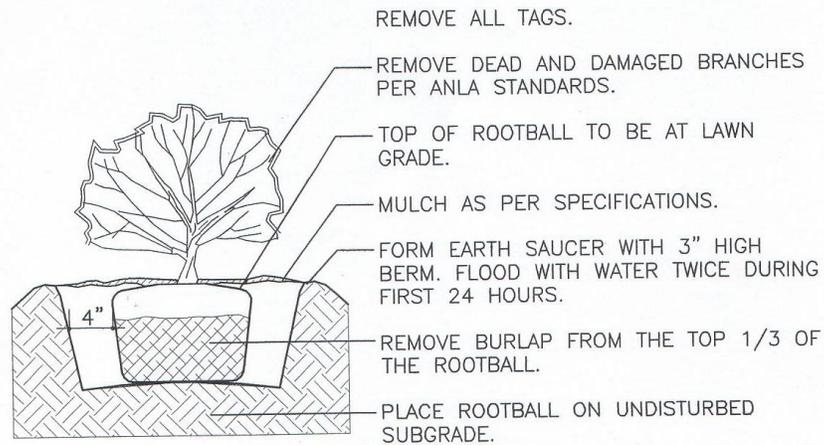
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CONIFEROUS TREE PLANTING DETAIL

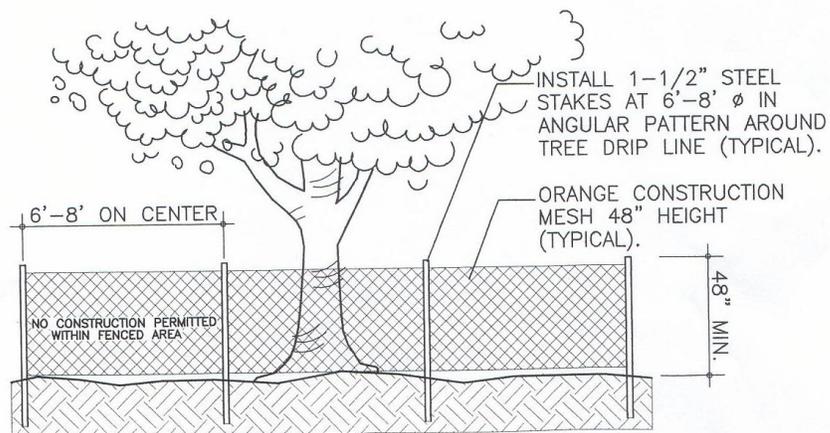
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Planting Recommendations



SHRUB PLANTING DETAIL

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE



TREE PROTECTION 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 614-342-4260; 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 shall be at least eight feet above the sidewalk.
- Street tree limbs shall be at least fifteen feet above the street.
- The tree location shall 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 center to center spacing for large trees shall be fifty feet, for medium trees shall be forty feet and for small trees shall be thirty feet, with a tolerance of +/-5'.

Street tree maintenance needs can be reported to the City of Gahanna Department of Parks & Recreation at 342.4250. For more detailed information, copies of Gahanna's Landscape Ordinance are available at the City of Gahanna Parks & Recreation Department, 200 S. Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230.

B. Tree Grant Program

PROGRAM TEMPORARILY ON HOLD DUE TO FUNDING

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.

g. Publicity

Presentation of the Tree City USA award and the celebration of Arbor Day offer excellent publicity opportunities. This results not only in satisfaction for the individuals involved and their families, but also provides one more way to reach large numbers of people with information about tree care.

B. The Four Standards of a Tree City USA

To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by The National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program.

It is important to note that they were also designed so that no community would be excluded because of size.

A. A Tree Board or Department

Someone must be legally responsible for the care and management of the community's trees. This may be a professional forester or arborist, an entire forestry department, or a volunteer tree board. Often, both a professional staff and advisory tree board are present, which is a good goal for most communities. A tree board, or commission, is a group of concerned volunteer citizens charged by ordinance with developing and administering a comprehensive tree management program. Balanced, broad-based community involvement is encouraged. Boards function best if not composed entirely of tree-related professionals such as forestry professors, nursery operators, arborists, etc. Fresh ideas and different perspectives are added by citizens with an interest in trees that is entirely a vocational. Limited, staggered terms of service will prevent stagnation or burnout, while at the same time assuring continuity.

B. A Tree Care Ordinance

The tree ordinance must designate the establishment of a tree board or forestry department and give this body the responsibility for writing and implementing an annual community forestry work plan. Beyond that, the ordinance should be flexible enough to fit the needs and circumstances of the particular community. A tree ordinance provides an opportunity to set good policy and back it with the force of law when necessary. Ideally, it will provide clear guidance for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other public places. For tips and a checklist of important items to consider in writing or improving a tree ordinance, see Bulletin No. 9.

C. A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of At Least \$2 Per Capita

Evidence is required that the community has established a community forestry program that is supported by an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita. At first, this may seem like an impossible barrier to some communities. However, a little investigation usually reveals that more than this amount is already being spent by the municipality on its trees. If not, this may signal serious neglect that will cost far more in the long run. In such a 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.

IV. Appendix

A. Definitions

- a. "Accessory use or building" means a use or a structure subordinate to the principal use or building on a lot and serving a purpose customarily incidental thereto.
- b. "Board" means the City Landscape Board.
- c. "Injurious plants" includes, but is not limited to the following list of trees that 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.
- d. "Interior landscaping" means the use of landscape materials within the innermost boundaries of the landscape buffer zone and perimeter landscaping.
- e. "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.
- f. "Large tree" means any tree species which normally attains a full grown height in excess of fifty feet.
- g. "Medium tree" means any tree species which normally attains a full grown height of between twenty-five feet and fifty feet.
- h. "Small Trees" means any tree species which normally attains a full grown height under twenty-five feet.
- i. "O.F.T." means or fraction thereof.
- j. "Opacity" means the degree to which a wall, fence or landscaping is impenetrable to light or vision.
- k. "Public Trees" shall include all shade and ornamental trees and/or shrubs now or hereafter growing on any public property.
- l. "Parking area, lot 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.
- m. "Perimeter landscaping" means the use of landscape materials within the landscape buffer zone to achieve the required opacity.
- n. "Person" means any person, corporation, partnership, company, contracting firm or other entity.
- o. "Pruning" means to cut branches, stems, etc. from a plant to improve shape and growth.
- p. "Street trees" means those trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation on land lying within street easements or right-of-way, or between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues or ways within the City.
- q. "Topping" means the severe cutting back of limbs within a tree's crown to a stub, or to a bud or a lateral branch not large enough to assume the terminal role and produce healthy growth so as to remove the normal canopy, disfigure the tree, and promote weak rapid growth.
- r. "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.
- s. "Vehicular use area" means any area used by vehicles. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92)

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 umbellate
Buckthorn, glossy	Rhamnus frangula
Buckthorn, European or common	Rhamnus cathartica
Common reed grass*	Phragmites austrails
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.

Well-Established Invasives

Common Name	Scientific Name
Air-potato	<i>Dioscorea batatas</i>
Asian bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Bouncing bet	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Cattail hybrid	<i>Typha Xglauca</i>
Cattail narrow-leaved	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>
Celandine lesser	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Crown-vetch	<i>Coronilla varia</i>
Curly pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>
Dames rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
European cranberry-bush	<i>Viburnum opulus var</i>
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Flowering-rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Meadow fescue	<i>Festuca pratensis</i>
Moneywort	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>
Lesser naiad	<i>Najas minor</i>
Periwinkle or myrtle	<i>Vinca minor</i>
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Privet common	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Quack grass	<i>Agropyron repens</i>
Queen Annes lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Russian-olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Smooth brome	<i>Bromus inermis</i>
Sweet-clover white	<i>Melilotus alba</i>
Sweet-clover yellow	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>
Teasel cut-leaved	<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Water cress	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>
Willow herb hairy	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Willow herb small-flowered hairy	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>
Winged euonymus	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>
Wintercreeper	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>
Yellow flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>

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

D. Recommended Street Tree List

- a. Small Trees - Trees recommended for planting in curb strips between 3 feet–6 feet and are under 30 feet in mature height:
 - *Acer ginnala* – Amur Maple
 - *Acer griseum* – Paperbark Maple
 - *Acer Tataricum* – Tartarian Maple
 - *Amelanchier* – Serviceberry
 - *Cornus mas* – Cornelian Dogwood
 - *Carpinus betulus* ‘Frans Fontaine’ – Frans Fontaine European Hornbeam
 - *Malus amsalazam* – Amsalazam Crabapple
 - *Malus jewelcote* – Red Jewel Crabapple
 - *Malus* “Red Barron” – Red Barron Crabapple
 - *Syringa reticulata* ‘Ivory Silk’ – Ivory Silk Tree
 - *Viburnum lentago* – Nannyberry *Viburnum* (Tree form)
 - *Malus* ‘Rejzam’ – Rejzam Crabapple
 - *Malus* ‘Sentinel’ – Sentinel Crabapple

- b. Medium Trees - Trees recommended for curb strips between 6 feet–8 feet with a mature height of 30 feet – 45 feet:
 - *Acer campestre* – Hedge Maple
 - *Acer freemanii* ‘Celebration’ – Celebration Maple
 - *Acer platanoides* ‘Ezestre’ – Easy Street Maple
 - *Acer rubrum* – Red Maple
 - *Alnus glutinosa* – Black Alder
 - *Carpinus betulus* – European Hornbeam
 - *Cladastrus lutea* – Yellowwood
 - *Eucommia ulmoides* – Hardy Rubber Tree
 - *Koelreutaria paniculata* – Goldenrain Tree
 - *Tilia cordata* – Littleleaf Linden
 - *Tilia cordata* ‘Corzam’ – Corzam Linden

- c. Large Trees - Trees recommended for curb strips greater than 8 feet with a mature height greater than 45 feet:
 - *Acer nigrum* – Black Maple
 - *Acer saccharum* – Sugar Maple
 - *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* – Katsura Tree
 - *Ginkgo biloba* – Ginkgo (male trees or sterile trees only)
 - *Gymnocladus dioica* – Kentucky Coffeetree
 - *Liquidambar styraciflua* – Sweetgum
 - *Nyssa sylvatica* – Blackgum
 - *Quercus acutissima* – Sawtooth Oak
 - *Quercus rubrum* – Red Oak
 - *Tilia tomentosa* – Silver Linden
 - *Ulmus Americana* – American Elm (resistant varieties)
 - *Ulmus parvifolia* – Lacebark Elm
 - *Zelkova serrata* -- Zelkova

F. Chapter 913 – Landscaping Requirements

913.01 Intent

The intent of this chapter is to improve the appearance of vehicular use areas and property abutting public right-of-way; to require buffering between noncompatible land uses; and to protect, preserve and promote the aesthetical appeal, character and value of the surrounding neighborhoods; to promote public health and safety through the reduction of noise pollution, air pollution, visual pollution, air temperature and artificial light glare. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.02 Purpose

It is further the purpose of this chapter to specifically promote the preservation and replacement of trees and significant vegetation removed in the course of land development, and to promote the proper utilization of landscaping as an easement between certain uses to minimize the opportunities of nuisances. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.03 City and Landscape Boards Rights

- a. The City shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenue, lanes and other public grounds as may be necessary to insure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.
- b. The Director of Public Service and/or Parks Superintendent may cause or order to be removed any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest. This section does not prohibit the planting of street trees by adjacent property owners provided that the selection and location of such trees is in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
- c. The Director of Public Service will notify in writing the owners of such trees. Removal shall be done by such owners at their own expense within sixty days after the date of service of notice.
- d. In the event of failure of owners to comply with such provisions, the City shall have the authority to remove such trees and charge the cost of removal on the owners property tax notice. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.04 Definition

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall, for the purpose of this chapter, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the singular number include the plural, words in the plural number include the singular; “occupied” includes arranged, designed or intended to be used; “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directive; “may” is permissive; “lot” includes plot or parcel:

1. “Accessory use or building” means a use or a structure subordinate to the principal use or building on a lot and serving a purpose customarily incidental thereto.
2. “Commission” means the City Landscape Commission.
3. “Injurious plants” means the following list of trees that 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	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.

20. "Vehicular use area" means any area used by vehicles. (Ord.160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.05 Site Affected

- a. New Sites. No certificate of zoning compliance or occupancy permit shall be issued hereafter for any site development or the construction or improvement of any building, structure or vehicular use area except where landscaping for such development, construction or improvement shall have been approved as required by the provisions of this chapter.
- b. Existing Sites. No building, structure or vehicular use area shall be constructed or expanded, unless the minimum landscaping required by the provisions of this chapter is provided for the property unless the alteration or expansion is substantial, (any additional construction equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the existing area of the structure or new use area) in which case, landscaping shall be provided as hereafter required in this chapter. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.06 Landscaping for Accessory Buildings

- a. Any accessory building shall be screened whenever located in any professional office zone, commercial or manufacturing zone or multi-family zone or when located on property abutting any residential zone, freeway or arterial street prohibiting driveway access. Structures may be grouped together; however, screening height requirements will be based upon the tallest of the structures.
- b. Location of Screening. A continuous (having one hundred percent (100%) opacity) planting, hedge, fence, wall of earth, which would enclose any accessory building on four sides with provisions for access by gate is required. The average height of screening material shall be one foot more than the height of the enclosed structure, but shall not be required to exceed ten feet in height. Whenever an accessory building is located next to a building wall, perimeter landscaping material, or vehicular use area landscaping material, such walls or screening material may fulfill the screening requirement for the side of the accessory building if that wall or screening material is of an average height sufficient to meet the height requirement set out in this section. Whenever accessory buildings are screened by plant material, such material may count towards the fulfillment of required interior or perimeter landscaping. No interior landscaping shall be required within an area screened for accessory buildings.
- c. Whenever screening material is placed around any trash disposal unit or waste collection unit which is emptied or removed mechanically on a regularly occurring basis, a curb to contain the placement of the container shall be provided within the screening material on those sides where there is such material. The curbing shall be at least one foot from the material and shall be designed to prevent possible damage to the screening when the container is moved or emptied. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.07 LANDSCAPE MATERIALS, SPACING AND LOCATION.

The landscaping materials shall consist of, the following, but are not limited to, the following: City Landscape Commission approval must be obtained prior to execution of landscaping.

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 (Gramineak) 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

(75%) of complete coverage after complete growing seasons, with a maximum of eight inches on center. In certain cases, ground cover also may consist of rocks, pebbles, sand, and similar approved materials. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.08 INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND PRUNING.

All landscaping materials shall be installed in a sound, workmanshiplike manner, and according to accepted, good construction and planting procedures. The owner of the property shall be responsible for the continued proper maintenance of all landscaping materials, and shall keep them in proper, neat and orderly appearance, free from refuse and debris at all times. All unhealthy or dead plant material shall be replaced within one year, or by the next planting period, whichever comes first; while other defective landscape material shall be replaced or repaired within three months. Violation of these installation and maintenance provisions shall be grounds for the Building Department to refuse a building occupancy permit or institute legal proceedings. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.09 PROTECTION OF TREES.

- a. All trees and shrubs on any street or other publicly owned property near any excavation or construction of any building, structure or street work, shall be guarded with a good substantial fence, frame or box, not less than four feet high and eight feet square, or at a distance in feet from the tree or shrub equal to the diameter of the trunk in inches at five feet above grade, whichever is greater. All building material, dirt or other debris shall be kept outside the barrier and shall be removed upon completion by the company or person doing such work.
- b. No person shall excavate any ditches, tunnels, trenches or lay any drive within a radius of ten feet from any public tree or shrub without first obtaining a written permit from the Landscape Commission. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.10 STREET TREE PLANTING REQUIREMENTS.

- a. These requirements shall apply to ER-1, ER-2, SF-1, SF-2, SF-3, MR-1, AR, SO, CC, CS, PCC, PID, and all planned districts, as well as all public lands within the City limits.
- b. The subdivider or developer of property within the City shall pay a fee for the planting of street trees. This fee shall be placed in a Street Tree Fund and shall be used for the sole purpose of street tree planting and maintenance within the City. This fee shall be based on the amount of linear street built for the subdivision, plus any street frontage on existing streets. This fee shall be established as ten dollars (\$10.00) per linear foot of street that the subdivision involves as measured at the centerline of the street. This fee shall be placed in a Street Tree Fund established by the City, and the money in this Fund will be used for yearly bid contracts for the planting of street trees as shown on the approved street tree plans for approved subdivisions within the City, as well as areas in need of street trees as indicated by the Landscape Commission. The fee shall be paid by the developer prior to the acceptance of the appurtenances and improvements of the subdivision by Council. No funds shall be expended for other areas until the approved street tree plan has been completed for the approved subdivision. Funds shall be held for a two-year period after completion of the subdivision before funds can be used for other planting purposes

- 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 planted 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

disconnects or other controls and devices to which immediate access may be required under emergency conditions.

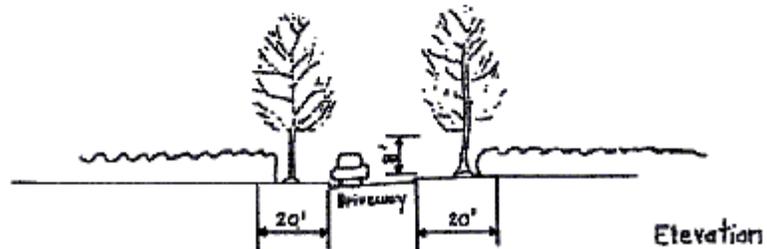
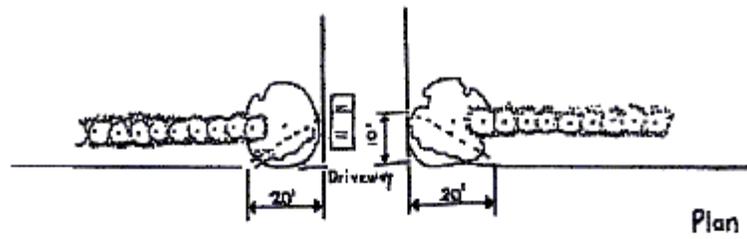
- h. Reducing Tree Lawn. No person shall by any type of construction reduce the size of a tree lawn without first procuring permission from the Landscape Commission.
- i. Species not Permitted to be Planted on Public Property or Utility or Drainage Easements within the City. The Landscape Commission has determined that poplar and willow trees shall not be planted within the City. The City Landscape Commission must approve, prior to planting, all species of trees to be planted in the street tree lawn. (Refer to Definitions, Section 913.04, for other “injurious plants”.)
- j. Abuse or Mutilation of Trees. It shall be a violation of this chapter to abuse, destroy or mutilate any tree, shrub or plant in a public tree lawn or any other public place, or to attach or place any rope or wire other than one used to support a young or broken tree. No signs of any kind shall be attached to any tree in a public tree lawn or other public place. No gaseous, liquid, or solid substance which is harmful to such trees, shrubs or plants shall be allowed to come in contact with their roots or leaves, or to set fire or permit fire to burn when such fire or heat thereof will injure any portion of any tree or shrub.
 - 1. No person shall deposit, place, store or maintain upon public places of the City, any stone, brick, sand, concrete, wood or other materials which may impede the free passage of water, air or fertilizer to the roots of any tree growing therein, except by written permit from the Landscape Commission.
 - 2. No person, business entity, or City department shall top any tree located on public property unless such action is first specifically approved by the Landscape Commission or Parks Superintendent unless otherwise provided within this chapter.
 - 3. A person or business entity who holds a grant of right-of-way by easement or otherwise or a City department may prune or top trees located on public property which might interfere with or endanger the safe and efficient operation of a service provided by such person, firm or City department. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

913.99 PENALTY.

- a. A person who removes, damages or causes to be removed a public tree, shrub or lawn cover from the tree lawn or other public place will be required to replace such trees at his own expense, with the replacement tree having a minimum diameter of two and one-half (2 ½) inches.
- b. Whoever violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense, and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree upon the commission of any subsequent offenses.

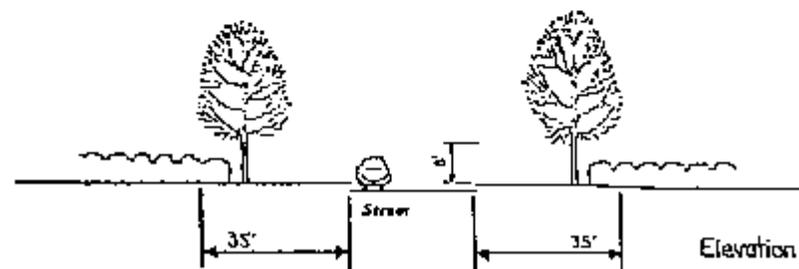
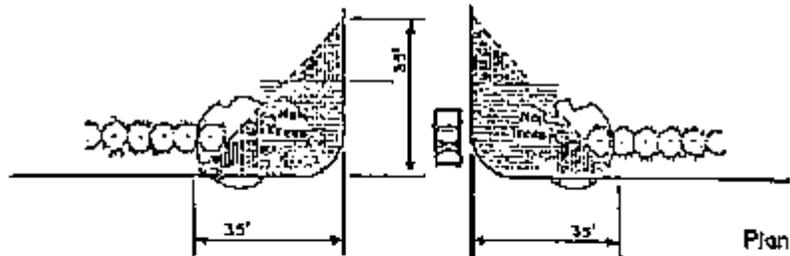
Each tree, shrub or planting affected by a violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense. (Ord. 160-92. Passed 10-6-92.)

Planting Requirements – Driveway Intersection



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

Planting Requirements – Street Intersection



G. CHAPTER 914 - Tree Replacement Ordinance

914.01 PURPOSE & INTENT

(a) The city council and residents believe trees are a vital asset to any urban environment and are critical to aesthetics, health, ecology, and cost containment. The benefits include:

1. Add beauty and soften the harshness of our environment by absorbing noise, and providing shade
2. Absorb carbon dioxide and provide oxygen
3. Increased property values
4. Aid in traffic control and provide safer walking conditions by separating pedestrians and vehicles
5. Provide habitat for many species of birds, mammals and other wildlife, large and small
6. Provide energy efficiencies by reducing the need for cooling and heating
7. Reduce storm water run-off and erosion management costs by intercepting, storing, and using rainfall
8. Provide a positive physical and emotional effect on people by connecting us to nature, reducing stress, helping us to a swifter recovery from illness, and generally restoring our spirits
9. Enhance tourism

(b) Therefore, to ensure Gahanna will maintain its beneficial environment, this Tree Replacement Ordinance has been adopted.
(Ord. 0148-2010. Passed 9-7-10.)

914.02 REPLACEMENT STANDARDS

An owner of land desiring to subdivide or develop that land, shall submit as a part of the environmental plan referred to in 1109.12 a complete account of existing trees and proposed impacts prior to any work and/or clearing being done.

- a) During the course of subdivision, development or redevelopment of any property , excepting for heavily wooded sites defined as a site which has an existing tree canopy coverage prior to development of sixty percent (60%) or greater, the developer or owner shall be required to replace trees removed or injured, as determined by the City of Gahanna Forestry Technician or designee as a result of construction pursuant to Section 914.02 in accordance with the following provisions:

- (1) Major trees having a trunk diameter of five inches and over, measured 24" above ground as per International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards, are to be replaced on an inch per inch basis. The replacement tree(s) trunk cumulative diameter shall equal the cumulative diameter of all the trees removed. The Forestry Technician will work with the developer to determine the appropriate replacement tree formula. For example, the technician may approve the appropriate replacement value for a 15" tree that was removed to be five 3" trees.

- (2) Replacement trees shall have a trunk diameter of at least two inches, measured twenty-four inches above the ground level as per ISA Standards.
- b) Replacement Schedule for Heavily Wooded Sites. In lieu of the provisions in 914.02(a) above, the developer or owner of a heavily wooded site shall, during the course of development, be required to retain or replace major trees pursuant to Section 914.02 in accordance with the following provisions:
- (1) As recommended by the City of Gahanna Landscape Board, a minimum of forty percent (40%), of the development site shall remain under canopy coverage. At the conclusion of development and installation of landscaping, a prescribed number of large canopy trees shall have been planted or retained so as to return the development site to the percentage of canopy coverage existing prior to development. The canopy coverage shall be achieved over a thirty year period. For calculation purposes, a canopy tree will achieve a canopy spread at maturity of forty feet (40') or more in diameter – a radius of twenty feet (20") or more. The canopy coverage on one acre is equal to 43,560 sq. ft. ÷ 1257 sq. ft. (average canopy) = 35 large canopy trees per acre.
 - (2) Replacement canopy trees shall have a trunk diameter at planting of at least two inches, measured twenty-four inches above the ground level or ISA standards.
 - (3) In the event that the developer or owner of a heavily wooded site is unable to plant the number of trees required to achieve the canopy outlined above, said developer or owner shall replace such trees in compliance with (c) below.
- c) Where it is impractical or not feasible to replace all of the trees on the affected lot or within the affected subdivision, the Landscape Board, may approve one or any combination of the following alternatives as a means of meeting the tree replacement requirements:
- (1) Replace as many trees as is practical on the affected lot;
 - (2) Replace as many trees as is practical within affected subdivision;
 - (3) Replace as many trees as is practical within another subdivision;
 - (4) For those trees that cannot be replaced through steps one through three above, the developer or owner shall be required to replace the trees elsewhere in the City approved by the City of Gahanna Forestry Technician or designee; or
 - (5) Pay a fee per inch of tree in accordance with the fee schedule. The fee will be \$300 per inch for trees five inches and over.
(Ord. 0148-2010. Passed 9-7-10.)

914.99 PENALTY.

A person who is convicted of violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense, and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree upon the commission of any subsequent offenses. Each tree affected by a violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. 0148-2010. Passed 9-7-10.)