

**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agenda Item number: 4c

Title:	Plan Commission recommendation to approve a General Amendment to Title 17 of the St. Charles Municipal Code (Zoning Ordinance) pertaining to site landscaping requirements.
Presenter:	Ellen Johnson

Meeting: Planning & Development Committee

Date: January 14, 2019

Proposed Cost: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Not Budgeted: **Executive Summary** *(if not budgeted please explain):*

Staff is proposing modifications to Ch. 17.26 “Landscaping and Screening” of Title 17 which contains requirements for landscaping of private property. This chapter was last amended in 2011. Since then, staff has observed a number of issues with the current provisions, including standards that are overly onerous, impractical, and/or difficult to administer.

Proposed are amendments to the following sections:

1. Building foundation landscaping.
2. Public street frontage landscaping.
3. Parking lot landscaping.
4. Retaining walls.
5. Buffer yards for existing parking lots.
6. Plant Palette (Appendix C).

Plan Commission Review

Plan Commission held a public hearing on 1/8/19 and voted 8-0 to recommend approval of the General Amendment, with a condition that invasive species be removed from the Plant Palette.

Invasive species have been removed from the Plant Palette.

Attachments *(please list):*

Plan Commission Resolution, Staff Report, General Amendment Application

Recommendation/Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

Plan Commission recommendation to approve a General Amendment to Title 17 of the St. Charles Municipal Code (Zoning Ordinance) pertaining to site landscaping requirements.

City of St. Charles, Illinois
Plan Commission Resolution No. 1-2019

A Resolution Recommending Approval of a General Amendment to Ch. 17.26 “Landscaping and Screening” and Ch. 17.14 “Business and Mixed Use Districts” regarding modifications to site landscaping requirements.

Passed by Plan Commission on January 8, 2019

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the St. Charles Plan Commission to hold public hearings and review requests for amendments to Title 17, “Zoning”; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission held a public hearing and has reviewed the petition for a General Amendment to Ch. 17.26 “Landscaping and Screening” and Ch. 17.14 “Business and Mixed Use Districts” regarding modifications to site landscaping requirements; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 17.04.320.C, the Plan Commission has considered the following criteria for General Amendment:

1. The Consistency of the proposed amendment with the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

The proposed amendments to Ch. 17.26 “Landscaping and Screening” require site landscaping that is consistent with several of the objectives and design guidelines contained in the Comprehensive Plan, including the following:

Ch. 3, p.32 Objective: “Review, update and strengthen the City’s landscape ordinance to ensure new development includes suitable, ecologically-based and aesthetically appropriate landscape areas, treatments, and long-term maintenance strategies integrated with stormwater approaches and other site functions to ensure long-term beauty and performance.”

Ch. 10, p.129-131 Downtown Design Guidelines:

“Landscaped islands and clearly marked pedestrian pathways are encouraged within the interior of parking areas.”

“Parking lots should include appropriate landscape elements and materials to shade/cool surfaces and minimize the impact of large expanses of pavement. Landscaped canopy tree islands, integrated with bioretention, should be located at a sufficient density and spacing in parking lots.”

“Landscaping islands should consist of canopy trees, attractive groundcover, and/or decorative bushes.”

Ch. 10, p.135 Gateway & Corridor Design Guidelines:

“Planters and landscaped areas should buffer parking and service areas. Plantings should consist of low evergreen and/or deciduous shrubs planted in conjunction with low-growing annual or perennial plants and groundcover. Large expanses of exposed mulch should be avoided.”

2. The Consistency of the proposed amendment with the intent and general regulations of this Title.

The proposed amendment supports the following purpose statements listed in Ch. 17.02 of the Zoning Ordinance:

- Maintaining business and industrial areas that are attractive and economically viable.
- Preserving and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors.

3. Whether the proposed amendment corrects an error or omission, adds clarification to existing requirements, is more workable than the existing text, or reflects a change in policy.

The proposed amendments clarify certain existing landscape provisions to align with staff’s interpretation of the requirements. The more significant proposed changes regarding building foundation landscaping and parking lot landscaping establish requirements that are more workable to interpret, enforce and adhere to, while still ensuring that building walls will be effectively softened with landscaping and that parking lots will be adequately landscaped to provide shade and improve aesthetics.

4. The extent to which the proposed amendment would be in the public interest and would not serve solely the interest of the applicant.

The proposed amendment reaffirms and creates landscaping requirements that will promote attractive new development and redevelopment, reducing adverse impacts of commercial uses and enhancing the general character and beauty of St. Charles.

5. The extent to which the proposed amendment creates nonconformities.

The proposed amendment does not establish standards that require more landscape area or landscape material than existing standards; any development landscaped in accordance with the existing provisions will also likely meet the proposed provisions. Nonconforming properties will not be required to come into compliance with the new requirements, per the authority to continue granted in Ch. 17.08 “Nonconformities”.

6. The implications of the proposed amendment on all similarly zoned property in the City.

The proposed amendment applies to all development for which a landscape plan is required, regardless of zoning designation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the St. Charles Plan Commission to recommend to City Council approval of a General Amendment to Ch. 17.26 “Landscaping and Screening” and Ch. 17.14 “Business and Mixed Use Districts” regarding modifications to site landscaping requirements, subject to the following condition:

1. Invasive species shall be removed from the Plant Palette.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Pretz, Kessler, Wallace, Holderfield, Pietryla, Vargulich, Macklin-Purdy, Becker

Nays: None

Absent: Funke

Motion carried: 8-0

PASSED, this 8th day of January 2019.

Chairman
St. Charles Plan Commission

Community & Economic Development
Planning Division

Phone: (630) 377-4443

Fax: (630) 377-4062



STAFF MEMO

TO: Chairman Ed Bessner
And the Members of the Planning & Development Committee

FROM: Ellen Johnson, Planner

RE: Application for a General Amendment to Title 17 of the City Code (Zoning Ordinance) regarding landscaping requirements

DATE: January 9, 2019

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Name: General Amendment – Landscape Chapter
Applicant: City of St. Charles
Purpose: Modify site landscaping requirements

II. BACKGROUND

Ch. 17.26 entitled “Landscaping and Screening” of the Zoning Ordinance, Title 17 of the City Code, contains requirements for landscaping of private property. The purpose of the chapter as provided in Section 17.26.010 is as follows:

“Landscaping contributes to the health, safety and welfare of the City by enhancing its character and scenic beauty, providing clean air, reducing noise, preventing erosion of topsoil, reducing the rate of stormwater runoff, providing habitat for wildlife, conserving energy, and providing shade and windbreaks. Specifically, these regulations are intended to minimize the adverse impact of noise, dust, motor vehicle headlight glare or other artificial light intrusions, visual pollution and other objectionable impacts on public and private property.

The use of native vegetation in managed landscapes, which is encouraged by this Chapter, may provide additional ecologic, economic, and aesthetic benefits. It provides wildlife habitat, reduces emissions from lawn mowing, reduces the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, provides enhanced erosion control and stormwater infiltration, and improves water quality.”

Ch. 17.26 was last amended in 2011 when a majority of the provisions were re-written. Since that time, staff has found that some of the requirements in the chapter are overly onerous and

impractical, leading to challenges with site planning. Other provisions are unclear making consistent administration difficult.

Attached is a copy of Ch. 17.26 in its entirety with proposed changes marked. The more significant changes are outlined below. Additions to text are underlined and deletions are crossed out.

III. ANALYSIS & PROPOSAL

1. Building Foundation Landscaping (Section 17.26.080)

Proposal:

C. Requirements for Building Foundation Landscaping

1. The amount of plants required shall be calculated by dividing the total lineal feet of the building foundation planting beds ~~building's walls~~ by fifty (50). A combination of the following landscape materials shall be required per every fifty (50) lineal feet of building foundation planting bed ~~building wall~~:
 - a. Any combination of two (2) shade, ornamental, or evergreen trees. Large shrubs may be counted as required trees on a case-by-case basis in cases where the planting of trees is impractical.
 - b. Any combination of twenty (20) shrubs, bushes, and perennials. Ground covers, annuals, and turf grasses shall not count towards fulfilling this requirement.
2. ~~Not less than seventy five percent (75%) of the horizontal dimension of the front wall of the building shall be landscaped. The front wall shall be considered the wall on which the primary public entrance to the building is located.~~
3. Not less than fifty percent (50%) of the total horizontal dimension of all the remaining ~~remaining~~ building walls, excluding door openings, shall be landscaped. A minimum of fifty percent (50%) of walls that face a public street shall be landscaped. ~~The landscaping may be distributed among all non front building walls.~~
4. The minimum width of planting beds for building foundation landscaping shall be eight five ~~eight~~ feet (58'), measured perpendicular to the building, unless otherwise specified as follows:
 - a. CBD-1 and CBD-2 Districts: No minimum width
 - b. ~~BL and BT districts: Five (5) feet~~

Explanation: The proposed changes reduce the building foundation landscaping requirements which apply to all new non-residential and multi-family residential buildings. Currently, the ordinance requires 75% of the front wall and 50% of the remaining walls to be landscaped. Under the proposed requirements, landscaping along the building foundation must be provided along a total of 50% of the building walls, not including door openings. At least 50% of any wall facing a public street must be landscaped, which will ensure landscaping is provided along the most visible sides of a building. Currently, landscaping is only required along the building wall containing the primary public entrance; buildings located on a corner could provide the remaining required landscaping on the interior side and rear walls, leaving a blank wall facing the street.

Landscape bed width is proposed to be reduced from 8 ft. to 5 ft. To calculate the number of plantings, proposed is using the length of planting beds instead of the full length of the

building walls. This will reduce the amount of required plantings. A provision allowing for large shrubs to be counted towards the tree requirement is also proposed, and will allow flexibility in situations where planting trees is impractical due to proximity to building walls or pavement.

Staff has observed that developers consistently have difficulty meeting the current foundation landscaping requirements due to space limitations, particularly providing 8 ft. wide planting beds with the amount of plantings required. When a PUD is proposed, requests for deviations from foundation landscaping requirements are common. The number of plantings currently required within the planting beds is often impractical given that the number of plantings is based on the entire length of the building walls, not the length of the planting beds. In practice, staff has allowed some flexibility in locating required plant material, particularly trees, by counting trees located outside of the foundation planting beds towards the requirement when necessary. The proposed changes create standards that are more workable to enforce and to adhere to, while still ensuring adequate softening of building walls.

2. Public Street Frontage Landscaping (Section 17.26.090)

Proposal:

C. Required Landscape Materials

1. One shade, ornamental, or evergreen tree is required per every 50 lineal feet of public street frontage.
2. No less than 75% of the public street frontage as measured horizontally along the lot lines abutting the street excluding driveways shall be planted with a combination of ornamental shrubs, evergreen shrubs, and perennials. This requirement may be reduced to 40% if a minimum of 50% of the street frontage is supplemented with decorative walls, ornamental fencing, or sculptured berming, or the design includes permanent quasi-public usable open space or a visual focal feature abutting visible from the right-of-way, such as water features, public art, public or seating areas, ~~or a similar improvement of visual interest, then the requirement for trees and shrubs shall be reduced to 40%, provided the landscaping is designed to enhance the aesthetics of the wall, fence, berm, or feature provided.~~

Explanation: The proposed change clarifies that driveways are not included when calculating the lineal feet of required public street frontage landscaping. In practice, staff has been excluding driveways from the calculation; the proposed change codifies staff's interpretation.

The proposed changes to the provisions allowing a reduction in the street frontage landscaping simplify these requirements and remove unnecessary and repetitive text.

3. Parking Lot Landscaping (proposed Section 17.26.100; currently part of Section 17.26.090)

Proposal:

A. Screening of Parking Lots, Motor Vehicle Displays, and Drive-Throughs

1. Screening from Public Streets

Parking lots with more than five spaces, a Motor Vehicle Display, or a Drive-Through facility abutting a public street shall be screened to a minimum height of thirty inches (30") for no less than 50% of public street frontage measured horizontally along the lot line abutting the street and adjoining the parking lot, Motor

Vehicle Display, or Drive-Through facility, except where driveways and walkways generally perpendicular to the street are located. Screening shall be designed to soften and partially conceal the view of vehicles in parking or stacking spaces from the street. Required public street frontage landscaping may be used to meet this standard.

2. Screening of Residential Parking Lots adjoining other Residential Uses
Parking lots of more than 5 spaces located on a residential lot that adjoins a residential use on a separate lot shall be screened in accordance with the requirements of Section 17.26.070 Landscape Buffers, regardless of whether a Landscape Bufferyard is required.

B. Interior Parking Lot Landscaping

1. ~~General Requirements for all Parking Lots~~ Landscape Islands

A. One landscape island shall be required per ten (10) parking spaces.

B. All interior rows of parking shall be terminated by a landscape island or other landscaped area, except that this requirement may be waived for islands that would obstruct an accessible route (as defined in the Illinois Accessibility Code) from handicap parking spaces to the building.

~~C. Parking Lots Containing Twenty (20) or More Parking Spaces~~

- ~~1. General Requirements~~

~~A minimum of ten percent (10%) of the interior area of the parking lot shall be devoted to landscaping. The “interior area” of a parking lot means the area within a perimeter bounded by the backs of curbs (or edge of pavement where curbs are not used) encompassing the outer limits of parking spaces and circulation drives. Landscape islands extending into the parking lot from its edges may count toward the 10% minimum requirement. Landscaping located outside of the interior area of the parking lot shall not count toward the 10% minimum interior landscape requirement, nor is it used in calculating the interior area of the parking lot.~~

- ~~2. Guidelines for Location and Design~~

~~Landscape islands shall be distributed throughout the interior area of the parking lot to provide shade and enhance the visual appeal of the site. In general, the maximum distance between landscape islands should be approximately 60 to 100 feet.~~

2. Required Landscape Materials

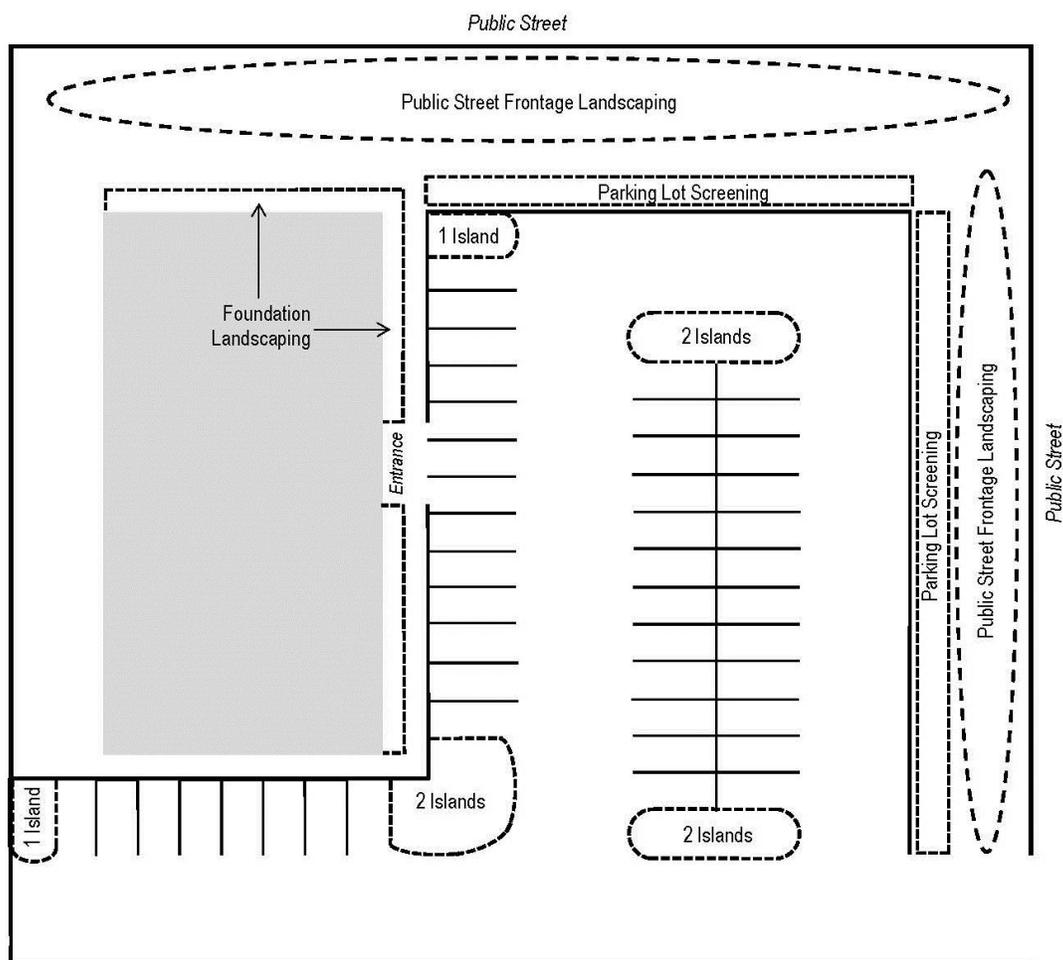
A. One shade tree shall be required per landscape island meeting the size standard of Section 17.26.030.K. Two shade trees shall be required within landscape islands that terminate a double row of parking.

B. Landscape islands shall be planted with a variety of shade trees, ornamental trees, shrubbery, grasses and perennials, ground cover and other plant materials.

C. Where the location of utilities or other required infrastructure conflicts with the placement of trees within landscape islands, required trees may be located adjacent to the parking lot.

The minimum number of shade trees required for interior parking lot landscaping shall be the product of dividing the total area of required interior parking lot landscaping, in square feet, by 160. These trees shall be located primarily within the interior of the parking lot, and may be evenly spaced or grouped, depending on their growth characteristics and the desired design effect.

Figure 1: Required Landscape Areas



Explanation: The first proposed change clarifies that landscaping provided to meet the 75% street frontage landscaping requirement may be counted towards the requirement to screen parking lots to a height of 30” for 50% of the parking lot frontage. These provisions overlap and often street frontage landscaping meets or exceeds the requirements for parking lot screening.

The proposed changes regarding interior parking lot landscaping apply to all parking lots. Previously, only parking lots containing 20+ spaces had to provide interior landscaping. The requirement was that 10% of the interior area of a parking lot had to be landscaped. The ordinance was unclear as to the definition of “interior area”, causing difficulty with administration of this section. Often, staff had to delineate the interior area on a case-by-case basis depending on the site plan, taking into account the location and purpose of access drives, stacking lanes, etc. The proposed change bases the amount of interior landscaping on the number of parking stalls; 1 landscape island is required per 10 parking spaces, and all rows of parking must terminate in a landscape island or landscaped area at the edge of the lot.

The proposed planting requirement is that one tree be provided per landscape island, or two trees per double island. The current tree requirement is based on a formula, calculated as the product of dividing the area of required landscaping by 160. This formula often has resulted in a tree count that is impractical to be accommodated within the interior of the parking lot. In practice, staff would often allow trees not technically within the interior of the lot to be

counted when there simply was not adequate space to accommodate the required trees with proper separation for the tree’s health. Also proposed is clarifying that in addition to trees, other plantings must be provided within the islands.

The proposed changes create parking lot landscaping requirements that are simpler to interpret and administer while still ensuring that new parking lots will be adequately landscaped to provide shade and improve aesthetics.

A new figure has also been created illustrating the locations of required site landscaping.

4. Retaining Walls (Section 17.26.120; currently 17.26.110)

Proposal:

- C. For retaining walls over four (4) feet in height, a terrace or stepping back of the wall shall be required to allow for a planting area. The terrace shall be between one-third (1 /3) and one-half (½) of the total retaining wall height, as measured from the base of the wall. The planting area shall be no less than two (2) feet in width and shall be planted with a combination of turf, shrubs and perennials. This standard shall not apply to a retaining wall which forms the inside wall of a detention basin.

Explanation: The proposed change clarifies that terracing and landscaping of retaining walls is not required when the retaining wall forms the inside wall of a detention basin. This change codifies staff’s interpretation of this section.

5. Buffer yard for Existing Parking Lots (Ch. 17.14, Table 17.14-2)

Proposal:

Footnote 3 on Table 17.14-1 “Business & Mixed Use Districts Bulk Regulations”:

If an existing parking facility is resurfaced or reconstructed, and the parking facility does not meet the current ~~parking setback yard~~ requirement, the required ~~setback yard~~ may be reduced by fifty percent (50%). If the existing parking facility is set back at a distance greater than fifty percent (50%) of the required ~~parking facility set back yard~~ of the Zoning District, the existing parking facility setback shall not be reduced (See Section 17.24.010.A).

Explanation: Existing parking lots which lawfully existed at the time they were constructed but which do not meet current standards are subject to Ch. 17.08 “Nonconformities”. Nonconforming facilities may not be enlarged or improved. However, the above provision allows existing parking lots which do not meet required setbacks to be resurfaced or reconstructed regardless of the nonconformity, if the lot can meet 50% of the current setback requirement. Proposed is expanding the language to apply the 50% setback reduction to both standard yard setbacks and buffer yard requirements. In practice, staff has interpreted that this provision allows buffer yards to be reduced as well as the standard setback area. The proposed change clarifies this is permitted.

6. Appendix C – Plant Palette

Proposal: Reformat for ease of use. Where provided, remove multiple varieties of the same plant. Remove Ash tree species and invasive species.

Explanation: The Plant Palette provided in Appendix C of the Zoning Ordinance provides a list of recommended and prohibited plant materials. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list; plantings other than those identified may be permitted. The Plant Palette identifies certain features of each plant, including: drought and salt tolerance; whether the plant is native; whether the plant is good for screening, foundation landscaping, around signs or along arterials; and sun or shade tolerance. For some plants, multiple cultivars are listed with no features identified. Proposed is to remove these from the list, as availability of cultivars changes over time and the information provided for the cultivars is incomplete. Also proposed is to remove invasive species, such as Catmint, from the list as these species are undesirable. Ash trees are also proposed for removal due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

IV. PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Plan Commission held a public hearing on 1/8/19 and recommended approval of the General Amendment by a vote of 8-0, with a condition that all invasive plant species be removed from Appendix C “Plant Palette”.

V. ATTACHMENTS

- Application for General Amendment, filed by staff on 12/19/2018

CITY OF ST. CHARLES
TWO EAST MAIN STREET
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60174-1984



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEV./PLANNING DIVISION

PHONE: (630) 377-4443 FAX: (630) 377-4062

GENERAL AMENDMENT APPLICATION

CITYVIEW	
Project Name:	<u>GA- Landscape Chapter</u>
Project Number:	<u>2018 -PR- 014</u>
Application Number:	<u>2018 -AP- 036</u>



Instructions:

To request an amendment to the text of the St. Charles Zoning Ordinance (City Code Title 17), complete this application and submit it with all required attachments to the Planning Division.

City staff will review submittals for completeness and for compliance with applicable requirements prior to establishing a meeting or public hearing date for an application.

The information you provide must be complete and accurate. If you have a question please call the Planning Division and we will be happy to assist you.

Applicant:	Name	City of St. Charles	Phone	(630)377-4443
	Address	2 E. Main St. St. Charles, IL 60174	Fax	
			Email	ejohnson@stcharlesil.gov

Attachment Checklist

If multiple zoning or subdivision applications are being submitted concurrently, do not submit duplicate checklist items or plans. Fee must be paid for each application.

- APPLICATION FEE:** Application fee in accordance with Appendix B of the Zoning Ordinance (\$500)
- REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AGREEMENT:**
An original, executed Reimbursement of Fees Agreement and deposit of funds in escrow with the City, as provided by Appendix B of the Zoning Ordinance.
- REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES INITIAL DEPOSIT:**
Deposit of funds in escrow with the City. (For a General Amendment application only: \$1,000 deposit.)
- FINDINGS:** Fill out the attached form or submit responses on a separate sheet.

□ **WORDING OF THE REQUESTED TEXT AMENDMENT**

What is the amendment regarding?

Modifications to site landscaping requirements

What sections are proposed for amendment?

Chapters(s): Ch. 17.26 "Landscaping & Screening"; Ch. 17.14 "Business & Mixed Use Districts"

Section(s): 17.26.030, 17.26.080, 17.26.090, 17.26.100, 17.26.110, 17.26.120; 17.14.030

The wording of the proposed amendment: Insert below or attached wording on a separate page.

See attached.

I (we) certify that this application and the documents submitted with it are true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge and belief.

Ellen Johnson
Applicant

12/17/18
Date

Findings of Fact

1. The consistency of the proposed amendment with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The proposed amendments to Ch. 17.26 "Landscaping and Screening" require site landscaping that is consistent with several of the objectives and design guidelines contained in the Comprehensive Plan, including the following:

Ch. 3, p.32 Objective: "Review, update and strengthen the City's landscape ordinance to ensure new development includes suitable, ecologically-based and aesthetically appropriate landscape areas, treatments, and long-term maintenance strategies integrated with stormwater approaches and other site functions to ensure long-term beauty and performance."

Ch. 10, p.129-131 Downtown Design Guidelines:

"Landscaped islands and clearly market pedestrian pathways are encouraged within the interior of parking areas."

"Parking lots should include appropriate landscape elements and materials to shade/cool surfaces and minimize the impact of large expanses of pavement. Landscaped canopy tree islands, integrated with bioretention, should be located at a sufficient density and spacing in parking lots."

"Landscaping islands should consist of canopy trees, attractive groundcover, and/or decorative bushes."

Ch. 10, p.135 Gateway & Corridor Design Guidelines:

"Planters and landscaped areas should buffer parking and service areas. Plantings should consist of low evergreen and/or deciduous shrubs planted in conjunction with low-growing annual or perennial plants and groundcover. Large expanses of exposed mulch should be avoided."

2. The consistency of the proposed amendment with the intent and general regulations of this Title.

The proposed amendment supports the following purpose statements listed in Ch. 17.02 of the Zoning Ordinance:

- Maintaining business and industrial areas that are attractive and economically viable.
- Preserving and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors.

3. Whether the proposed amendment corrects an error or omission, adds clarification to existing requirements, is more workable than the existing text, or reflects a change in policy.

The proposed amendments clarify certain existing landscape provisions to align with staff's interpretation of the requirements. The more significant proposed changes regarding building foundation landscaping and parking lot landscaping establish requirements that are more workable

to interpret, enforce and adhere to, while still ensuring that building walls will be effectively softened with landscaping and that parking lots will be adequately landscaped to provide shade and improve aesthetics

4. The extent to which the proposed amendment would be in the public interest and would not serve solely the interest of the applicant.

The proposed amendment reaffirms and creates landscaping requirements that will promote attractive new development and redevelopment, reducing adverse impacts of commercial uses and enhancing the general character and beauty of St. Charles.

5. The extent to which the proposed amendment creates nonconformities.

The proposed amendment does not establish standards that require more landscape area or landscape material than existing standards; any development landscaped in accordance with the existing provisions will also likely meet the proposed provisions. Nonconforming properties will not be required to come into compliance with the new requirements, per the authority to continue granted in Ch. 17.08 "Nonconformities".

6. The implications of the proposed amendment on all similarly zoned property in the City.

The proposed amendment applies to all development for which a landscape plan is required, regardless of zoning designation.

17.26 – Landscaping and Screening

Sections

- [17.26.010 – Purpose](#)
- [17.26.020 – Landscape plan improvements](#)
- [17.26.030 – General design principles and standards](#)
- [17.26.040 – Selection and installation of plant materials](#)
- [17.26.050 – Completion and maintenance](#)
- [17.26.060 – General landscaping requirement](#)
- [17.26.070 – Landscape buffers](#)
- [17.26.080 – Building foundation landscaping](#)
- [17.26.090 – Public street frontage and parking lot landscaping](#)
- [17.26.100 – Sign landscaping](#)
- [17.26.110 – Retaining walls](#)
- [17.26.120 – Additional screening requirements](#)

[17.26.010 – Purpose](#)

Landscaping contributes to the health, safety and welfare of the City by enhancing its character and scenic beauty, providing clean air, reducing noise, preventing erosion of topsoil, reducing the rate of stormwater runoff, providing habitat for wildlife, conserving energy, and providing shade and windbreaks. Specifically, these regulations are intended to minimize the adverse impact of noise, dust, motor vehicle headlight glare or other artificial light intrusions, visual pollution and other objectionable impacts on public and private property.

The use of native vegetation in managed landscapes, which is encouraged by this Chapter, may provide additional ecologic, economic, and aesthetic benefits. It provides wildlife habitat, reduces emissions from lawn mowing, reduces the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, provides enhanced erosion control and stormwater infiltration, and improves water quality.

[17.26.020 – Landscape plan improvements](#)

A. Landscape Plan and Landscape Improvements Required

1. A landscape plan containing the information specified in Appendix A (Submittal Items) and depicting the landscape improvements required by this Chapter (“Landscape Plan”) shall be prepared and approved in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. The improvements depicted on the approved Landscape Plan shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.
2. A Landscape Plan shall be required as part of Design Review (Section 17.04.230) and for PUD Preliminary Plans and PUD Final Plans. If a Landscape Plan submitted at the time of building permit for a lot within a Planned Unit Development does not substantially conform to the approved Landscape Plans, it shall be submitted to the City Council as a change to the PUD Preliminary Plan, and shall be reviewed as provided in Section 17.04.430 (Ord. 2011-Z-1 § 18.)
3. No Landscape Plan shall be required in connection with construction of or any improvements to a detached single family or two family dwelling or lot. A landscape plan shall be required, however, for any common areas, including those within single-family subdivisions.

- B. The Director of Community Development shall consult with a landscape architect registered in Illinois, or a horticultural expert, in the review and implementation of Landscape Plans.
- C. For existing developments that lack the landscaping required by this Chapter, a Landscape Plan showing the required landscape improvements for all areas of the site to be disturbed by the proposed construction shall be required when one or more of the following conditions applies:
 - 1. When any new principal building is constructed on the site.
 - 2. When any addition to a principal building is constructed that increases its gross floor area by twenty percent (20%) or more.
- D. Resurfacing/Reconstruction of Existing Parking Facilities
 - 1. When an existing parking facility or Drive-Through Facility is resurfaced or reconstructed such that: the amount of pavement to be resurfaced exceeds 50% of the parking facility, the pavement is located within a required parking setback and/or within ten feet (10') of the required parking setback line, the resurfaced/reconstructed parking facility shall at a minimum conform to the following:
 - a. The setback of the parking facility shall conform to the standards established in Section 17.24.010.A Existing Facilities.
 - b. The required setback area shall be landscaped in accordance with the standards established in Section 17.26.090. A Public Street Frontage Landscaping and Section 17.26.090.B Screening of Parking Lots, Motor Vehicle Displays, and Drive-Through Facilities.
 - c. No existing landscaping shall be eliminated, unless it exceeds the minimum requirements of this chapter. "
- E. Field Adjustments to Landscape Plans
Minor changes in planting locations that do not reduce the quantity of plant material may be approved by the Director of Community Development without amending the approved Landscape Plan. Reductions in the size of plant materials and changes to the species shown in the approved Landscape Plan shall not be permitted without submitting a revised Landscape Plan for review as a major, minor, or administrative change in the case of a Planned Unit Development, or by the Director of Community Development in the case of other property.

17.26.030 – General design principles and standards

The Landscape Plan shall address the following criteria:

- A. Sensitivity to the Site
Landscape improvements shall be designed to integrate the building and other improvements with the site and its surroundings, with sensitivity to natural topography, watercourses, and existing vegetation. Existing landscape material and topography shall be taken into account and preserved where feasible, particularly where mature trees are part of the site. (See also St. Charles Municipal Code, Chapter 8.30 regarding tree preservation requirements.)
- B. Scale and Arrangement of Landscaping Material
The scale and arrangement of landscaping materials and the size of planting beds shall be appropriate to the size of existing and proposed structures and site improvements. For example, larger-scale buildings shall generally be complemented by plantings that are larger-scale at both

the time of installation and at maturity. Whenever possible, plantings shall be arranged in groupings and masses to provide a more natural appearance.

C. Existing Trees and Other Vegetation

Subject to the approval of the Director of Community Development, existing trees and other vegetation may be utilized in lieu of installing new plant material to satisfy the requirements of this Chapter. The Landscape Plan shall accurately show the existing trees and other vegetation to be so utilized, and shall include the types and quantities of plantings that will be installed if the existing plant material dies.

D. Storm Water Management

Natural drainage patterns and features such as swales, filter strips, wetlands and rain gardens shall be integrated into the landscape design, and shall be preserved or restored if existing. To the greatest extent possible, stormwater detention and retention basins and associated landscaping shall be designed to resemble natural landforms. Grading of stormwater basins shall be designed so as to accommodate the proposed plantings. The Landscape Plan shall be coordinated with the stormwater management plan to slow storm water runoff, increase infiltration on the site, and filter suspended solids and contaminants. Landscaping is required around the perimeter of all retention and detention basins, and a planting scheme using native grasses and forbs to discourage waterfowl in developed areas is encouraged.

E. Softening of Walls and Fences

Plant material shall be placed intermittently against long expanses of building walls, fences and other barriers to create a softening effect and to help break up long expanses of blank walls with little architectural detail. Conversely, where walls, fences, and other barriers are designed with articulation and/or architectural detail, there is less need for softening with landscaping.

F. Irrigation

Landscape designs shall be cognizant of the need for water conservation and irrigation, depending on the site environment and type of plant material selected. Where no permanent source of water for irrigation is available, the landscape design shall not rely on irrigation to maintain healthy plantings.

G. Energy Conservation

Plant material placement shall be designed to reduce the energy consumption needs of the development.

1. Locate sun tolerant trees and plants on the south and west sides of buildings to provide shade from the summer sun.
2. Locate shade tolerant trees and plants on the north and west sides of buildings to dissipate the effect of winter winds.

H. Berming

Earthen berms and existing topographic features shall be incorporated into the landscape treatment of a site where there is sufficient space and, in particular, where berms and existing topographic features can be combined with plant material to provide effective screening. Berms shall be no steeper than a 4:1 proportion on average and shall have a rounded top surface a minimum of five (5) feet in width to accommodate plantings. Berming more than one foot in height is prohibited over utility easements when located parallel to, or approximately parallel to, the easement. Berming located perpendicular to utility easements is permitted.

I. Landscape Protection

Landscaping in proximity to vehicular areas shall be protected by curbs, wheel stops, decorative bollards, retaining walls, or other methods integrated into the site improvements or Landscape Plan.

J. Clear Zones

1. Notwithstanding any provision hereof to the contrary, landscaping around fire hydrants shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 16.44.070 M of the St. Charles Municipal Code, as amended.
 2. A clear zone of three (3) feet shall be maintained in all directions from a pad-mounted electrical transformer; a ten (10) foot clear zone shall also be maintained in front of transformer access doors to allow for operation and maintenance activities, in accordance with the guidelines established by the St. Charles Electric Utility. Plantings within this zone shall be limited to non-woody plants or turf grass.
- K. Parking Lot Landscape Islands
- Landscape islands shall be a minimum of eight (8') feet in width and a minimum of 160 square feet in area, their surface shall be at least six (6") inches above the surface of the parking lot and shall be crowned to allow for positive drainage, and shall be protected with concrete curbing, except in the case of a bioswale design. Bioswales, which are continuous, planting beds designed for the conveyance, absorption, or filtration of stormwater runoff, may be provided as an alternative design to conventional planting islands. ~~Landscape islands shall be planted with a variety of shade trees, ornamental trees, shrubbery, grasses and perennials, ground cover and other plant materials.~~

17.26.040 – Selection and installation of plant materials

- A. Selection of Plant Material
- Plant material shall be selected for its form, texture, color, size, and suitability to local conditions. The use of native woody and herbaceous plants is encouraged, unless a more traditional approach would be more compatible with the predominant landscape design in the area, or with the architecture of the building. All plant materials shall be of good quality and of a species capable of withstanding the climate extremes of northeastern Illinois and the conditions of the site. Size and density, both at the time of planting and at maturity, shall be considered when selecting plant material. The use of drought and salt tolerant plant material is preferred. Appendix C (Plant Palette) lists recommended and prohibited plant materials. Plant materials other than those listed as recommended may be approved if consistent with the design standards and requirements of this Chapter.
- B. Shade Trees
- All shade trees shall have a minimum trunk size at planting of two and one half to three inches (2 ½" to 3") in caliper at planting, unless otherwise specified. Minimum caliper shall be measured six inches above grade.
- C. Evergreen Trees
- Evergreens trees shall have a minimum height of six (6) feet at planting. Evergreens are useful in those areas where year-round screening and buffering is required. However, evergreens are generally incompatible with prairie plants.
- D. Ornamental Trees
- Ornamental trees shall have a minimum height of six (6) feet at planting, with the exception of true dwarf species, which may be shorter.
- E. Shrubs
- Shrubs shall have a minimum height of twenty-four inches (24") feet at planting.
- F. Planting Beds
- Unless otherwise specified, planting beds shall be mulched with shredded hardwood mulch. Mulch shall not be used as a substitute for plant materials.
(Ord. 2011-Z-1 § 20.)

G. Installation

All landscaping materials shall be installed in accordance with the planting procedures established by the American Association of Nurserymen in effect at the time the Landscape Plan is submitted. All plant materials shall be free of disease and shall be installed so that sufficient soil and water are available to sustain healthy growth.

17.26.050 – Completion and maintenance

A. Completion Guarantee

All required landscaping and screening materials shown on the approved Landscape Plan shall be installed prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit, weather permitting. In periods of weather conditions adverse to planting the landscaping materials shown on the approved Landscape Plan, a temporary occupancy permit may be issued prior to installation of landscaping and screening when the property owner provides the following:

1. A completion guarantee in the form of a cash escrow or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to one hundred fifteen percent (115%) of the estimated cost of the landscaping installation, as certified by a landscape contractor or an Illinois registered landscape architect. (This completion guarantee shall not be required where the property owner is a unit of federal, state, or local government.)
2. Written permission from the property owner giving the City and its agents the right to enter upon the property to complete the installation of required landscaping, in case of forfeiture of the performance guarantee. (This provision shall not be required where the property owner is a unit of federal, state, or local government.) If the landscaping is not completed within six (6) months after the issuance of the temporary occupancy permit, the cash escrow or irrevocable letter of credit may be used by the City to complete the installation of the required landscaping.

B. Maintenance

The owner of the premises, and any lessee, shall be jointly and severally responsible to maintain, repair and replace all landscape materials and other improvements shown on the approved Landscape Plan over the entire life of the development. All trees and shrubs shall be maintained in good condition, including appropriate pruning. Planting beds shall be maintained by seasonal mulching and weed control, and shall be kept free of refuse and debris. Any plant materials such as trees, shrubs, perennials and ground covers that die, are in decline, or are supporting less than fifty percent (50%) of healthy leaf growth shall be replaced within six (6) months of notification by the City, in compliance with the approved Landscape Plan; however, the Director of Community Development may approve alternative materials if he determines that they would be more suitable than the originally approved plant materials and will provide an equivalent landscape effect. Plant materials that are diseased shall be treated, and if treatment is not successful, shall be replaced. Fences, refuse disposal areas, barriers and retaining walls shall be maintained in good repair. Irrigation systems, if provided, shall be maintained in good operating condition to promote the health of the plant material and the conservation of water. If existing vegetation that was used in lieu of new plantings to satisfy a requirement of this Chapter dies, the responsible party shall install new plant materials in conformance with the provisions of this Chapter and the approved Landscape Plan. For natural landscaping the following replacement thresholds shall apply. Plantings not meeting the minimum threshold shall be replaced after the time period specified.

1. Plantings of potted herbaceous perennials shall meet or exceed eighty-five percent (85%) survivorship of all plants and a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) survivorship of any one species in healthy, vigorous condition, one full growing season following completion.
2. Plantings of seeded grasses, sedges and forbs shall meet or exceed seventy percent (70%) plant cover after one full growing season, eighty percent (80%) after two full growing seasons, and ninety-five percent (95%) after four full growing seasons following completion.

17.26.060 – General landscaping requirement

The minimum percentage of a lot or parcel that is landscaped shall be:

1. 20% for a lot or parcel with on-site stormwater storage
2. 15% for a lot or parcel with off-site stormwater storage
3. No minimum for a lot or parcel in the CBD-1 Zoning District

If the total landscaped area resulting from the requirements of subsequent Sections of this Chapter is less than the percentage required by this Section, additional landscaped area shall be provided to meet the minimum requirement of this Section.

Landscaping to meet this requirement may include any combination of the following:

1. Live plant materials such as trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, ground cover, turf grass, and annual plantings;
2. Decorative surfaces such as pavers, flagstone, boulders, etc.;
3. Stormwater detention and retention basins, including planting areas and water surface, but not including retaining walls more than three feet (3') in height;
4. Displays of public art, pedestrian plazas, walkways and seating areas open to the general public or to employees and patrons; and
5. Play surfaces such as ball fields, baseball diamonds, tennis courts and other sport courts that are available for use by the general public.

Paving for vehicular access, concrete sidewalks, and curbing shall not be counted as landscaped area, except that systems designed to integrate a drivable surface with turf grass or other plant growth may be counted as landscaped area, where they are provided for emergency access routes.

17.26.070 – Landscape buffers

- A. The Landscape Plan shall provide for Landscape Buffers to enhance privacy and provide screening between dissimilar uses, wherever the zoning district regulations require a Landscape Buffer Yard. Where Landscape Buffers overlap with other landscape requirements with respect to the same physical area on the lot, the requirement that yields more intensive landscaping shall apply, but the requirements need not be added together.
- B. The Director of Community Development, in the case of Design Review, or the City Council, in the case of a Planned Unit Development, may reduce or waive the requirements of this Section where existing conditions make it impractical to provide the required Landscape Buffer, or where providing the Landscape Buffer would serve no practical purpose. Examples include, but

are not limited to, instances where existing topography or structures effectively screen the more intensive use and provide a measure of privacy to the less intensive use.

- C. Within required Landscape Buffers along common property lines, opaque, year-round screening shall be provided by means of berming, landscaping, fencing and/or decorative walls to a height of six feet (6') above the grade of the common property line.
- D. Along right of way lines, where a Landscape Buffer of forty feet or more in width is required, opaque, year-round screening shall be provided by means of berming, landscaping, fencing and/or decorative walls, to a minimum height of six feet (6') above the grade of the right of way line. Such opaque, year-round screening shall be designed so that the first twenty feet (20') of the Landscape Buffer abutting the right of way line is relatively open and consists primarily of landscaping, and the elements of screening that provide opacity are located twenty feet (20') or more from the right of way line. Opaque, year-round screening is not required within Landscape Buffers of less than 40 feet in width along right of way lines.
- E. For each 400 square feet of required Landscape Buffer, there shall be at least one shade tree or two evergreen trees, plus ornamental trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, or perennials as needed to soften the appearance of solid forms such as fences, walls and berms that may be used to provide a visual screen.
- F. If a new building or outdoor use is added on a lot where other buildings or uses exist, a Landscape Buffer, where required by the district regulations, shall be provided to buffer adjoining lots from the new building or use, but an additional Landscape Buffer beyond that which is required for the new building or use need not be provided to buffer adjoining lots from the existing buildings or uses.

17.26.080 – Building foundation landscaping

A. General Requirements

Building foundation landscaping shall be provided around the perimeter of all new non-residential and multi-family residential buildings. In the CBD-1 and CBD-2 Districts, foundation landscaping shall only be required in a setback of 5 feet or more from the building wall to the right-of-way or property line.

B. Guidelines for Location and Design

1. Building foundation landscaping shall include a range of sizes and types of plants, which relate to the size of the building. Consideration should be given to including shade trees, ornamental trees, evergreens, shrubs, decorative grasses, perennials, ground cover, and flowers, in a coordinated design.
2. Building foundation landscaping shall be continuous, except where walkways, driveways, or loading areas provide access to the building.
3. Building foundation landscaping planting beds shall be located immediately adjoining the building wall or, where the intervening space is designed for pedestrian use, the interior side of the planting bed shall be not more than sixteen (16) feet from the nearest building wall.
4. Turf grass shall not be counted as part of the required building foundation landscaping.

C. Requirements for Building Foundation Landscaping

1. The amount of plants required shall be calculated by dividing the total lineal feet of the building foundation planting beds ~~building's walls~~ by fifty (50). A combination of the

following landscape materials shall be required per every fifty (50) lineal feet of building foundation planting bed building wall:

- a. Any combination of two (2) shade, ornamental, or evergreen trees. Large shrubs may be counted as required trees on a case-by-case basis in cases where the planting of trees is impractical.
 - b. Any combination of twenty (20) shrubs, bushes, and perennials. Ground covers, annuals, and turf grasses shall not count towards fulfilling this requirement.
2. ~~Not less than seventy five percent (75%) of the horizontal dimension of the front wall of the building shall be landscaped. The front wall shall be considered the wall on which the primary public entrance to the building is located.~~
 3. Not less than fifty percent (50%) of the total horizontal dimension of the remaining building walls, excluding door openings, shall be landscaped, however a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of walls that face a public street shall be landscaped. ~~The landscaping may be distributed among all non-front building walls.~~
 4. The minimum width of planting beds for building foundation landscaping shall be eight five feet (58'), measured perpendicular to the building, unless otherwise specified as follows:
 - a. CBD-1 and CBD-2 Districts: No minimum width
 - ~~b. BL and BT districts: Five (5) feet~~
 5. Special Requirements for the M-1 and M-2 Districts
Within the M-1 and M-2 Districts, building foundation landscaping as required in the preceding sections may be modified along walls that face lot lines which abut another lot in the M-1 or M-2 district and do not abut a street. The requirement shall only be modified for the portion of such walls located a distance greater than two times the required yard setback from any street, in compliance with the following:
 - a. Where off-street parking or loading areas abut a building wall, building foundation landscaping shall not be required.
 - b. Where off-street parking or loading areas do not abut a building wall, building foundation landscaping shall be required; however this requirement shall be waived if an equivalent area of landscaping is provided in an alternate location, subject to the approval of the Director of Community Development. Shade or ornamental trees may be utilized to meet this requirement at a rate of one tree per 160 square feet of required building foundation landscape area.

17.26.090 – Public street frontage landscaping and parking lot landscaping

A. Public Street Frontage Landscaping

A. General Requirements

Landscaping is required in the front and exterior side yard adjoining a public street right-of way in the RM-1, RM-2, RM-3, BL, BC, BR, OR, M-1 and M-2 zoning districts.

B. Guidelines for Location and Design

1. Shade trees, ornamental trees, evergreen trees, ornamental and evergreen shrubs, perennials, decorative walls, fencing, and berming shall be placed in

naturally appearing groupings as opposed to distributed in a linear fashion. These groupings shall be placed strategically to accentuate the development's architecture or other significant features while concealing mechanical or other physical structures that do not add to the aesthetic value of the site. The groupings shall also be designed to create visual interest by varying the heights and widths of plant materials.

2. Types of plants chosen should be salt and drought tolerant.
3. Types of plants and plant groupings should provide four-season color and variety in texture and shape.

C. Required Landscape Materials

1. One shade, ornamental, or evergreen tree is required per every 50 lineal feet of public street frontage.
2. No less than 75% of the public street frontage as measured horizontally along the lot lines abutting the street excluding driveways shall be planted with a combination of ornamental shrubs, evergreen shrubs, and perennials. This requirement may be reduced to 40% if a minimum of 50% of the street frontage is supplemented with decorative walls, ornamental fencing, or sculptured berming, or the design includes permanent quasipublic usable open space or a visual focal feature abutting the right-of-way, such as water features, public art, public seating areas, or a similar improvement of visual interest, ~~then the requirement for trees and shrubs shall be reduced to 40%~~, provided the landscaping is designed to enhance the aesthetics of the wall, fence, berm, or feature provided.
(Ord. 2013-Z-21 § 6.)

17.26.100 – Parking lot landscaping

B.A. Screening of Parking Lots, Motor Vehicle Displays, and Drive-Throughs

A.1. Screening from Public Streets

Parking lots with more than five spaces, a Motor Vehicle Display, or a Drive-Through facility abutting a public street shall be screened to a minimum height of thirty inches (30") for no less than 50% of public street frontage measured horizontally along the lot line abutting the street and adjoining the parking lot, Motor Vehicle Display, or Drive-Through facility, except where driveways and walkways generally perpendicular to the street are located. Screening shall be designed to soften and partially conceal the view of vehicles in parking or stacking spaces from the street. Required public street frontage landscaping may be used to meet this standard.

B.2. Screening of Residential Parking Lots adjoining other Residential Uses

Parking lots of more than 5 spaces located on a residential lot that adjoins a residential use on a separate lot shall be screened in accordance with the requirements of Section 17.26.070 Landscape Buffers, regardless of whether a Landscape Bufferyard is required.

C.B. Interior Parking Lot Landscaping

1. General Requirements for all Parking Lots Landscape Islands

A. One landscape island shall be required per ten (10) parking spaces.

A.—B. All interior rows of parking shall be terminated by a landscape island or other landscaped area, except that this requirement may be waived for islands that would

obstruct an accessible route (as defined in the Illinois Accessibility Code) from handicap parking spaces to the building.

B.—Parking Lots Containing Twenty (20) or More Parking Spaces

1.—General Requirements

A minimum of ten percent (10%) of the interior area of the parking lot shall be devoted to landscaping. The “interior area” of a parking lot means the area within a perimeter bounded by the backs-of-curbs (or edge of pavement where curbs are not used) encompassing the outer limits of parking spaces and circulation drives. Landscape islands extending into the parking lot from its edges may count toward the 10% minimum requirement. Landscaping located outside of the interior area of the parking lot shall not count toward the 10% minimum interior landscape requirement, nor is it used in calculating the interior area of the parking lot.

2.—Guidelines for Location and Design

Landscape islands shall be distributed throughout the interior area of the parking lot to provide shade and enhance the visual appeal of the site. In general, the maximum distance between landscape islands should be approximately 60 to 100 feet.

2. Required Landscape Materials

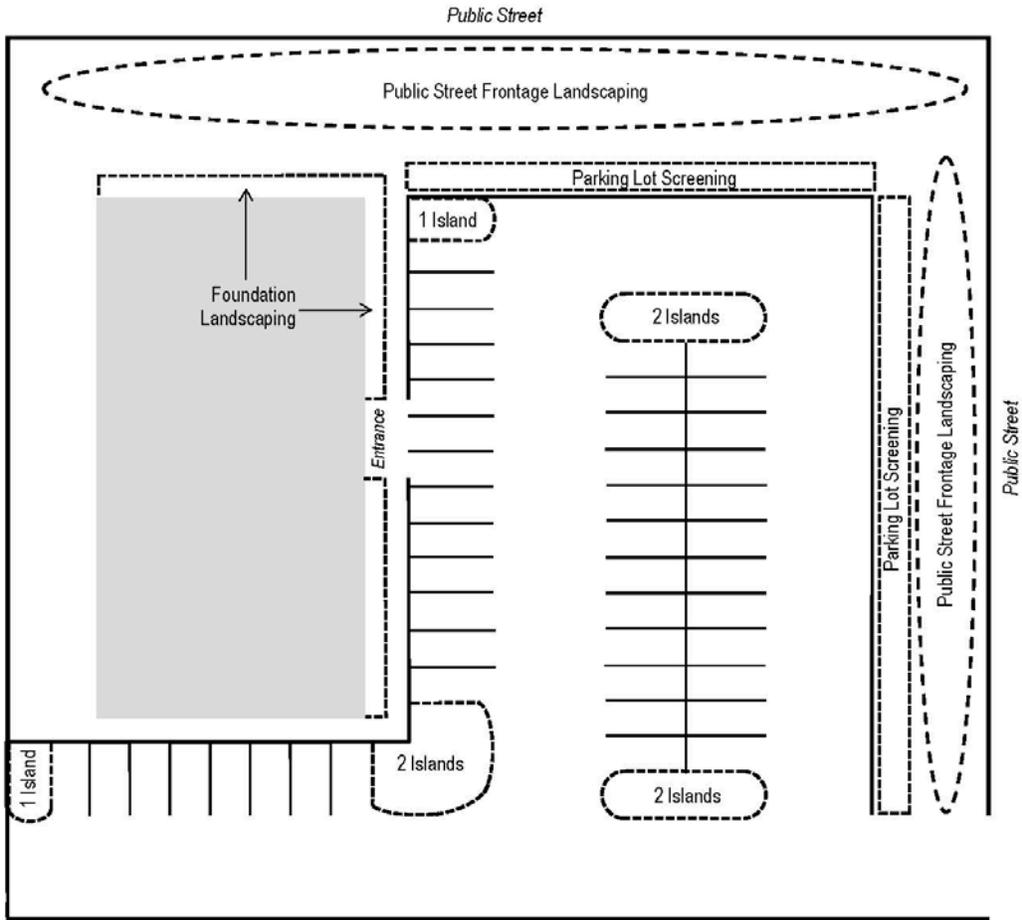
A. One shade tree shall be required per landscape island meeting the size standard of Section 17.26.030.K. Two shade trees shall be required within landscape islands that terminate a double row of parking.

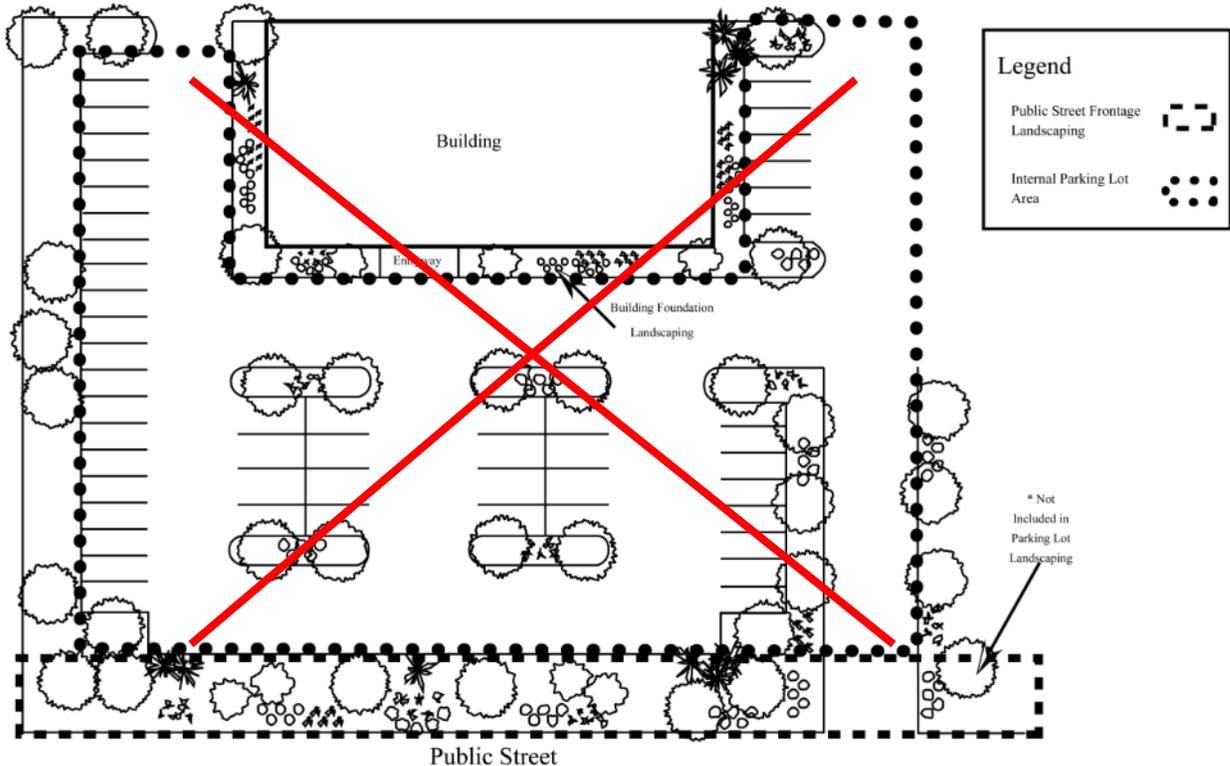
B. Landscape islands shall be planted with a variety of shade trees, ornamental trees, shrubbery, grasses and perennials, ground cover and other plant materials.

3. C. Where the location of utilities or other required infrastructure conflicts with the placement of trees within landscape islands, required trees may be located adjacent to the parking lot.

The minimum number of shade trees required for interior parking lot landscaping shall be the product of dividing the total area of required interior parking lot landscaping, in square feet, by 160. These trees shall be located primarily within the interior of the parking lot, and may be evenly spaced or grouped, depending on their growth characteristics and the desired design effect.

Figure 1: Required Landscape Areas





17.26.100-110 – Sign landscaping

Freestanding signs shall be landscaped at the base of the sign in accordance with the following:

- A. The landscaping shall extend a minimum of three (3) feet from the outer edge of the sign base on all sides. Where the area around the base of a sign is insufficient in size to accommodate landscaping, the Director of Community Development may permit installation of a portion of the required landscaping at an alternate location on the site.
- B. Freestanding signs shall be landscaped with small shrubs, ornamental grasses, and/or perennials to a height of twelve inches (12”) to three feet (3’) at planting, depending on the height of the sign.

17.26.110-120 – Retaining walls

- A. The Building ~~and Code Enforcement Division Manager-Commissioner~~ may require review of retaining walls by a structural and/or civil engineer for stability and drainage.
- B. In the CBD-1 District, retaining walls shall be of a historic character, preferably brick and mortar or cut limestone, or other material approved by the Director of Community Development.
- C. For retaining walls over four (4) feet in height, a terrace or stepping back of the wall shall be required to allow for a planting area. The terrace shall be between one-third (1/3) and one-half (1/2) of the total retaining wall height, as measured from the base of the wall. The planting area shall be no less than two (2) feet in width and shall be planted with a combination of turf, shrubs and perennials. This standard shall not apply to a retaining wall which forms the inside wall of a detention basin.

17.26.120-130 – Additional screening requirements

A. Refuse Dumpsters and Recycling Containers

Outdoor refuse dumpsters, recycling containers, compacting equipment, pallet storage, baled cardboard, and other refuse and recycling materials that are visible from public streets or adjoining property shall be enclosed and screened on all sides by a masonry screen wall or opaque fence, at a height sufficient to provide screening of the container, unit, material and pallets. Such enclosures shall be gated ~~and situated on a concrete apron that extends a minimum of six (6) feet beyond the opening of the enclosure~~. No material shall be permitted to accumulate such that it is visible above the height of the enclosure.

B. Outdoor Storage

Where outdoor storage areas accessory to nonresidential uses are visible from a public street or from any lot in a residential district, opaque, year-round screening shall be provided by means of berming, landscaping, fencing and/or masonry walls, to a minimum height of six feet (6') above the grade of the right of way line or property line, as the case may be. Where feasible, fences and walls used to provide the screening that are located along public rights-of-way shall be landscaped to provide a softening effect in accordance with Section 17.26.030 E (Softening of Walls and Fences). The height of materials stored outdoors shall not exceed the height of the screening provided.

C. Loading ~~Berths~~Docks

Except in the M-1 and M-2 Districts, loading ~~berths docks~~ shall be located and oriented so that they are not visible from the public right-of-way, or shall be screened from the public right of way to a height of eight feet (8 ft.) above the elevation of the right of way line. If any lot in any district containing a loading ~~berth dock~~ adjoins or is across the street from a lot in a residential district, the loading ~~berth dock~~ shall be screened from view from the residential property to a height of eight feet (8') above the elevation of the common property line or right of way line, as the case may be.

D. Screening of Mechanical Equipment

1. Ground-Mounted Equipment

- a. In accordance with the provisions of Table 17.22-3 (Permitted Encroachments), where it is impractical to locate ground-mounted HVAC and other mechanical equipment within the rear or interior side yard of a single-family or two-family dwelling, the Building ~~and Code Enforcement Division Manager~~ Commissioner may approve an alternative location if the mechanical equipment is screened with landscaping, hedges, berming, walls and/or fencing so as not to be visible from any public street or adjoining lot when viewed from an observation height of five feet above grade.
- b. For multi-family residential and non-residential buildings, ground-mounted mechanical equipment, such as HVAC units, refrigeration units, and pool equipment is discouraged. Wherever possible, this equipment should be contained within the building or roof-mounted. Where the nature of the mechanical equipment or the design of the building precludes its location within the building or on the roof, it shall be screened from view from public streets and adjoining residential dwellings by landscaping, berming, walls and/or fencing. Color and texture of any screening wall or fence shall be compatible with the color and texture of the primary buildings on the site.

2. Building or Roof-Mounted Equipment

- a. All newly installed or enlarged mechanical equipment, such as HVAC units, refrigeration units, and pool equipment located on the roof of any structure in

any zoning district shall be screened from view from public streets and adjoining residential dwellings by its location on the roof (away from the parapet), by an architectural element of the building (e.g. a parapet), by a screening wall that is compatible with materials of the building, or a combination thereof. Where the majority of an individual unit of equipment is screened by its location, a parapet wall, and/or the building architecture, and where installation of a screening wall would increase the visual mass of the equipment, a screening wall may not be required, provided the unit is painted to blend with the building.

- b. For existing buildings with roof-mounted equipment lacking screening, equipment may be replaced or added without additional screening, provided the equipment has been located in the most unobtrusive location available on the roof. Where possible, new equipment shall be grouped with existing equipment in an organized manner that is consistent with the architecture of the building.

(Ord. 2011-Z-1 § 25.)

E. Screening of Large Satellite Dish Antennas

Large Satellite Dish Antennas shall be fully screened so as not to be visible from any public street or adjoining lot when viewed from an observation height of five feet above grade.

Groundmounted antennas shall be screened by landscaping, berming, walls and/or fencing.

Roof-mounted antennas shall be screened by their location on the roof (away from the parapet), by an architectural element of the building (e.g. a parapet), by a screening wall, or a combination thereof. Any screening wall or fence shall be compatible with the color texture, and/or materials of the primary buildings on the site.

TABLE 17.14-2
BUSINESS AND MIXED USE DISTRICTS
BULK REGULATIONS

ft = feet sf = square feet du = dwelling unit B = building and structures P = parking lots	ZONING DISTRICT				
	BL	BC	BR	CBD-1	CBD-2
Minimum Lot Area 1	Dwelling, Upper Level: 3,000sf/du Minor Motor Vehicle Service & Repair: 1 acre Other Uses: No minimum lot area	1 acre	1 acre	Dwelling, Upper Level & Multi- family: 1,000 sf/du Nonresidential Uses: No minimum lot area	Single-Family: 5,000sf Two-family: 3,750 sf/du Townhouse: 3,000 sf/du Upper Level & Multi-Family: 2,200sf/du Non-Residential Uses: 5,000 sf
Minimum Lot Width	None	None	None	None	Townhouse, multi-family, mixed-use development: 100 ft All other uses: 50 ft
Maximum Building Coverage 2	60%	40%	30%	None	Single-family: 25% All other uses: 40%
Maximum Gross Floor Area per Building	10,000 sq	75,000 sq	None	40,000 sq	10,000 sq
Maximum Building Height	30 ft	40 ft	40 ft	50 ft	40 ft
Front Yard 3	B: Minimum 20 ft P: Minimum 10 ft	B, P: Minimum 20 ft	B, P: Minimum 20 ft	B: Maximum 5 ft/No Minimum P: Minimum 5 ft	B, P: Minimum 5 ft
Side Yards:					
Interior Side Yard	B: Minimum 5 ft P: None	B: Minimum 10 ft P: None	B: Minimum 15 ft P: None	B: If provided, minimum 5 ft P: None	B: Minimum 5 ft P: None
Exterior Side Yard	B: Minimum 20 ft P: Minimum 10 ft	B, P: Minimum 20 ft	B, P: Minimum 20 ft	B: Maximum 5 ft/No minimum P: Minimum 5 ft	B, P: Minimum 5 ft
Minimum Rear Yard	B: 20 ft, P: None	B: 30 ft, P: None	B: 30 ft, P: None	B,P: None	B: 20 ft, P: None
Landscape Buffer Yard (B, P) 3, 4	10 ft	25 ft	40 ft., except on lots with a building over 150,000 sf of gross floor area: 80 ft.	None	10 ft

¹ The Lot Area for Two Family, Townhouse and Multi-Family developments with more than one lot may be calculated by adding the land area of all lots and common areas on which one category of dwellings is located, and dividing the total land area by the total number of dwelling units of that category. Common areas may be included in the calculation of land area, except for the area within a public or private street right of way; if no right of way is designated to private streets, the area between the backs of curbs of the private street shall be excluded.

² In the CBD-2 District, if a detached garage is provided in lieu of an attached garage, or if an attached garage is accessed via an alley, a) on lots 65 feet or less in width, 500 square feet of additional Building Coverage is allowed, and b) on lots more than 65 feet in width, 250 square feet of additional Building Coverage is allowed.

³ If an existing parking facility is resurfaced or reconstructed, and the parking facility does not meet the current [parking setback yard](#) requirement, the required ~~set backyard~~ may be reduced by fifty percent (50%). If the existing parking facility is set back at a distance greater than fifty percent (50%) of the required ~~parking facility set back yard~~ of the Zoning District, the existing parking facility setback shall not be reduced ([See Section 17.24.010.A](#)).

⁴ Within the zoning districts specified, a Landscape Buffer Yard shall be provided along any lot line that abuts or is across a street from property in any RE, RS, RT or RM District. See Chapter 17.26 for planting and screening requirements for Landscape Buffers. Landscape Buffer Yards may include or overlap with other required yards.

Proposed Plant Palette

Existing Plant Palette can be viewed here:

<https://codebook.stcharlesil.gov/sites/default/files/appendix-exhibits/Appendix%20C%20-%20Plant%20Palette.pdf>

APPENDIX C

Appendix C: PLANT PALETTE										
Botanic Name	Cultivar or Common Name	Native	Drought Tolerant	Parking Lot (Salt Tolerant)	Buffer/ Screening	Foundation Landscape	Sun	Shade	Signs	Encouraged Along Arterials
GROUNDCOVERS										
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Canadian Wild Ginger	X						X		
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'coloratus'	Wintercreeper, Purpleleaf									X
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy, English					X				
<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	Ivy, Boston					X	X	X		
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> 'compactum'	Fleeceflower, Dwarf		X			X	X			X
<i>Sedum kamtschaticum</i>	Stonecrop, Kamtschatka		X	X		X	X			X
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle						X	X		
<i>Waldsteinia ternata</i>	Strawberry, Barren					X	X	X		
PERENNIALS										
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow			X		X	X		X	X
<i>Agastache scrophulariaefolia</i>	Purple Giant Hyssop	X					X			
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Nodding Wild Onion	X					X			X
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Lead Plant	X					X	X		
<i>Aquilegia canadense</i>	Wild Columbine	X						X		
<i>Artemisia stelleriana</i> 'Brocade'	Artemisia		X				X			
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	X								X
<i>Aster novi-angliae</i> 'Purple Dome'	Aster, New England			X		X	X	X	X	
<i>Astilbe chinensis</i>	Astilbe							X		
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	False Indigo, False	X	X				X			
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Stiff Tickseed	X				X	X		X	X
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Coreopsis, Threadleaf					X	X	X	X	X
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Pale Purple Coneflower	X	X	X		X	X		X	
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Coneflower, Purple	X								X
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master	X	X				X			
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe Pye Weed	X	X				X		X	
<i>Euphorbia polychroma</i>	Spurge, Cushion		X				X			
<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>	Blanketflower		X				X			
<i>Geranium hybrids</i>	Geranium, Hybrid						X	X		
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Geranium, Wild	X								
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Prairie Smoke	X					X			
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	False Sunflower	X	X				X			
<i>Hemerocallis hybrids</i>	Daylily, Hybrid		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	Alum Root					X		X		

APPENDIX C

Botanic Name	Cultivar or Common Name	Native	Drought Tolerant	Parking Lot (Salt Tolerant)	Buffer/ Screening	Foundation Landscape	Sun	Shade	Signs	Encouraged Along Arterials
<u>Hosta, species, hybs. and cultivars</u>	Hosta		X	X		X	X	X	X	
<u>Iris siberica cultivars</u>	Iris, Siberian									
<u>Iris versicolor</u>	Iris, Blue Flag							X		
<u>Liatris aspera</u>	Blazing Star	X					X			
<u>Liatris spicata cultivars</u>	Gayfeather	X					X			
<u>Lobelia cardinalis</u>	Cardinal Flower	X					X	X		
<u>Monarda fistulosa</u>	Wild Bergamot, Horsemint	X				X	X		X	
<u>Parthenium integrifolium</u>	Wild Quinine	X	X				X			
<u>Penstemon digitalis</u>	Penstemon	X	X				X			
<u>Perovskia atriplicifolia</u>	Sage, Russian		X	X			X		X	
<u>Physostegia virginiana</u>	Obedient Plant	X					X	X		
<u>Ratibida pinnata</u>	Prairie or Gray Headed Coneflower	X				X	X		X	
<u>Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'</u>	Black-Eyed Susan, Hybrid					X	X		X	
<u>Rudbeckia subtomentosum</u>	Black-Eyed Susan, Native, Sweet	X								
<u>Salvia nemorosa 'Caradonna'</u>	Salvia, Hybrid					X	X		X	X
<u>Sedum spectabile 'Autumn Joy'</u>	Sedum, Autumn Joy		X	X		X	X		X	X
<u>Solidago speciosa</u>	Showy Goldenrod	X	X			X	X		X	X
<u>Veronica incana</u>	Speedwell, Woolly						X	X		
<u>Veronicastrum virginicum</u>	Culver's Root	X			X	X	X	X		
<u>Zizia Alexander</u>	Golden Alexander	X								
ORNAMENTAL GRASSES										
<u>Andropogon gerardii</u>	Bluestem, Big	X	X				X		X	
<u>Calamagrostis acutifolia 'Karl Foerster'</u>	Feather Reed Grass						X		X	X
<u>Carex, species</u>	Carex (excluding nutsedge)						X	X		X
<u>Helictotrichon sempervirens</u>	Blue Oat Grass						X			
<u>Panicum virgatum</u>	Switch Grass	X				X	X		X	
<u>Pennisetum alopecuroides</u>	Fountain Grass		X		X	X	X		X	
<u>Schizachyrium scoparium</u>	Bluestem, Little	X	X		X	X	X		X	
<u>Sorghastrum nutans</u>	Indian Grass	X	X				X			
<u>Spartina pectinata</u>	Cordgrass, Prairie	X	X				X			
<u>Sporobolus heterolepis</u>	Dropseed, Prairie	X	X				X			

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SHRUBS										
Deciduous Shrubs (small-med)										
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Barberry		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	X	X			X	X	X		
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	Quince, Flowering		X				X			
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet	X		X	X	X	X	X		
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Dogwood, Redtwig	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Cotoneaster apiculata</i>	Cotoneaster, Cranberry									
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Bush Honeysuckle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Diervilla sessifolia</i>	Bush Honeysuckle	X								
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witchhazel	X			X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Hydrangea, Arborescens	X			X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> 'grandiflora'	Hydrangea, Panicle				X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Lonicera, Dwarf									
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro-Low'	Sumac, Gro-Low		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<i>Ribes alpinum</i> 'Greenmound'	Currant, Alpine Greenmound									
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose	X				X	X		X	X
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Rose, Shrub Rugosa									
<i>Rosa x</i>	Rose, Shrub, Flower Carpet Series					X	X		X	X
<i>S. x doornbuseii</i> 'Magic Berry'	Coralberry									
<i>Spirea fritschiana</i>	Spirea, Fritsch									
<i>Spirea japonica</i>	Spirea, Japanese 'Little Princess'			X	X	X	X		X	
<i>Spirea x bumalda</i>	Spirea, Hybrid Bumalda			X	X	X	X		X	
<i>Symphoricarpus alba</i> 'Hancock'	Coralberry				X			X	X	
<i>Syringa meyeri</i> 'Palibin'	Lilac, Dwarf Palibin			X	X	X	X		X	
<i>Syringa patula</i> 'Miss Kim'	Lilac, Dwarf Korean			X	X	X	X		X	

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Deciduous Shrubs (med-large)										
<i>Amelanchier stolonifera</i>	Serviceberry, Running		X	X		X	X	X		
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> <i>'Brilliantissima'</i>	Chokeberry, Red		X				X	X		
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Chokeberry, Black		X				X	X		X
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush									
<i>Cornus mas 'Golden Glory'</i>	Dogwood, Corneliancherry			X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Dogwood, Gray	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Corylus americana</i>	Filbert, American Hazelnut	X					X	X		
<i>Cotoneaster acutifolia</i>	Cotoneaster, Peking		X	X		X	X	X	X	
<i>Lonicera tatarica 'Zabelli'</i>	Honeysuckle, Tatarian Red					X	X	X	X	
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius 'nanus'</i>	Ninebark, Dwarf									
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Sumac, Fragrant	X								
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Currant, Alpine		X	X		X	X	X	X	
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Rose, Shrub Rugosa									
<i>Spirea prunifolia</i>	Spirea, Bridalwreath									
<i>Spirea x vanhoutteii</i>	Spirea, VanHoutte			X	X	X	X		X	
<i>Syringa chinensis 'Saugeana'</i>	Lilac, Hedge			X	X	X	X		X	
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Lilac, Common			X	X	X	X		X	
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Viburnum, Arrowwood	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Viburnum lantana 'Mohican'</i>	Viburnum, Wayfaring				X	X	X		X	
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Viburnum, Highbush Cranberry									
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Viburnum, Blackhaw	X	X		X	X	X		X	
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Viburnum, American	X			X	X	X		X	
Evergreen Shrubs										
<i>Juniperus chinensis cultivars</i>	Juniper, Upright				X	X	X		X	X
<i>Juniperus horizontalis cultivars</i>	Juniper, Creeping				X	X	X		X	X
<i>Juniperus sabina cultivars</i>	Juniper, Savin									
<i>Pinus mugo pumilio</i>	Pine, Mugo Dwarf									
<i>Taxus x media cultivars</i>	Yew, Spreading									

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TREES										
Evergreen										
<i>Abies concolor</i>	Fir, White, Concolor	X	X		X		X			
<i>Picea abies</i>	Spruce, Norway									
<i>Picea glauca</i>	Spruce, White	X								
<i>Picea pungens cultivars</i>	Spruce, Colorado				X		X			
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Pine, Austrian		X	X	X		X			
<i>Thuja occidentalis cultivars</i>	Arborvitae, Eastern				X		X			
Ornamental										
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Maple, Hedge		X	X	X	X	X			
<i>Acer ginnala 'Flame'</i>	Maple, Amur		X		X		X			
<i>Acer miyabe 'Morton'</i>	Maple, Miyabe									
<i>Acer tataricum</i>	Maple, Tatarian									
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder, Black						X			
<i>Amelanchier species and hybrids</i>	Serviceberry		X	X	X	X	X		X	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	X	X				X	X	X	
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Dogwood, Corneliancherry				X	X	X			
<i>Crataegus crusgalli var. inermis</i>	Hawthorn, Cockspur		X	X	X	X	X	X		
<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	Hawthorn, Washington	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<i>Malus species and hybrids</i>	Crabapple		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<i>Syringa pekinensis 'Morton'</i>	Lilac, Peking			X		X	X			
<i>Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'</i>	Lilac, Japanese Tree			X			X			X
Shade										
<i>Acer x freemannii 'Autumn Blaze'</i>	Maple, Hybrid									
<i>Celtis occidentalis 'Prairie Pride'</i>	Hackberry, Common	X	X				X	X		
<i>Corylus colurna</i>	Filbert, Turkish		X				X	X		
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree						X			X
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos 'inermis'</i>	Honeylocust		X	X	X		X			X
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Coffeetree, Kentucky	X		X			X			X
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Oak, Swamp White	X								
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Oak, Bur	X								
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak, English				X		X			
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Oak, Northern Red	X								

APPENDIX C

Botanic Name	Cultivar or Common Name	Native	Drought Tolerant	Parking Lot (Salt Tolerant)	Buffer/ Screening	Foundation Landscape	Sun	Shade	Signs	Encouraged Along Arterials
<i>Quercus x schuettii</i>	Oak, Hybrid, Schuett									
<i>Tilia americana 'Redmond'</i>	Linden, American									
<i>Tilia cordata 'Glenleven'</i>	Linden, Littleleaf									
<i>Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'</i>	Linden, Littleleaf		X				X	X		
<i>Ulmus x</i>	Elm, Hybrid			X			X			

UNACCEPTABLE TREES

Botanic Name	Cultivar or Common Name	Problem(s)
<i>Robinia spp.</i>	Black locust	Shallow roots/invasive
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Boxelder	Weak wooded
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	Buckthorn	Disease/short lived
<i>Morus spp.</i>	Mulberry	Litter/short lived
<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	Osage orange	Litter/thorns
<i>Diospyros spp.</i>	Persimmon	Litter
<i>Populus spp.</i>	Poplar	Weak wooded/short lived
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive	Weak wooded/short lived
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	Weak wooded
<i>Ailanthus spp.</i>	Tree of heaven	Weak wooded/invasive
<i>Juglans spp.</i>	Walnut	Litter
<i>Salix</i>	Willow, corkscrew	Weak wooded/litter