

4. Hardscape components that add visual interest and character. Each site shall incorporate elements including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Sculpture or other public art
 - b. Entrance or gateway features
 - c. Fountains
 - d. Decorative planters
 - e. Outdoor plazas or seating areas for employees and patrons, where applicable

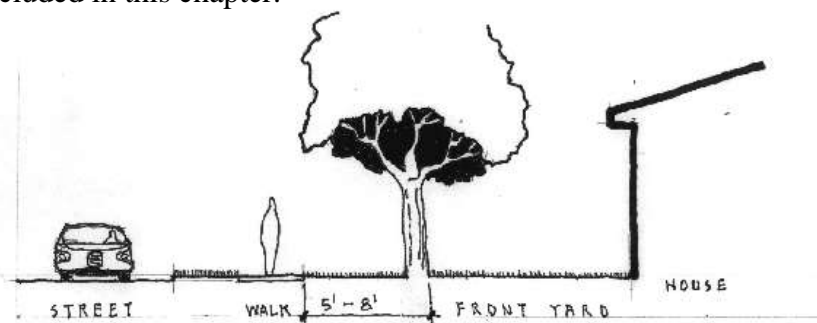
7.08.00 LANDSCAPING INDIVIDUAL RESIDENCES

Building permit applications for new homes will be required to include landscape and irrigation plans for approval. The plans shall be clearly readable, drawn to a reasonable scale, show the entire site to be irrigated, and must include all improvements. Unless prepared by the property owner, drawings shall be prepared by a Florida registered landscape architect, a landscape contractor, or an irrigation contractor. The landscaping and irrigation shall be inspected as part of the overall permit and no certificate of occupancy shall be issued unless the landscaping and irrigation has been installed and accepted.

7.08.01 Required Landscaping

- A. For single family lots that are **one half acre or less** in size, a **minimum of three (3) canopy trees is required**. Each such single family lot will be required to have one (1) tree with a caliper of at least four inches (4") and two (2) trees each with a caliper of at least two and one half inches (4 2½"). These trees shall have a minimum height of 10 feet at time of planting. These trees should be canopy trees as listed in this chapter. Existing trees may be counted as meeting this requirement, as long as they are of sufficient size and accepted species.

One of the canopy trees on each such single-family lot shall be planted in the front yard, no less than 5 feet and no more than 8 feet from the sidewalk or lot line. These trees will help to form a canopy over the sidewalk and street sides. Corner lots are required to provide two such trees, one on the front and one on the side of the lot. Additionally, if the lot is more than 100 feet wide at the sidewalk, then the lot will be required to have two such trees. Existing trees in this specific area can be counted as meeting this requirement. These trees shall be coordinated with the placement of streetlights to prevent conflicts. A list of approved canopy trees is included in this chapter.



Ordinance #2

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL STREET TREES

For lots greater than one half acre in size, an additional canopy tree is required for each additional eighth of an acre above the one-half acre, or portion thereof.

- B. A minimum of two (2) understory trees are required for single family lots of one-half acre or less in size. For lots greater than one half acre in size, an additional understory tree is required for each additional one quarter of an acre above the one-half acre, or portion thereof.
- C. A maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the landscaped area may be covered with sod. Other ground covers should be used to the extent possible
- D. Shrubs and other plants shall be used as foundation plants along the outline of the house, except where doors or patios are located. Alternate plantings may be permitted if the architectural style of the house warrants it.
- E. A minimum of two areas of the yard that have at least 400 square feet of non-turf plantings in a row or cluster, not including the foundation plantings, is required. For single family lots greater than one half acre in size, an additional 400 square feet of non-turf plantings in a row or cluster, not including the foundation plantings, is required for each additional eighth of an acre, or portion thereof.
- F. At least 50% of the landscaped area for each single-family lot shall be drought tolerant or Florida Friendly plants. Florida Friendly plants require a minimum of irrigation and shall be grouped together on the lot in order to reduce the irrigation requirement for those zones.

7.08.02 Crediting Existing Materials

For purposes of developing residential lots, existing trees of approved species and shrubs, including preserved natural areas, may be credited toward the requirements of this section.

7.08.03 Replacements Required

Replacement trees and landscaping shall be required whenever the proposed removal will result in less than indicated in the above schedule.

Lots which do not meet the above requirements on the effective date of this provision shall have legal nonconforming status with respect to landscaping. Replacements shall only be required to ensure that the extent of the nonconformity is in no way enhanced or enlarged by tree or vegetation removal activities.

Redevelopment of the lot or an expansion to the primary structure that equals twenty-five percent (25%) of the total gross square footage of the existing structure, shall require the lot to come into full compliance with this section.

7.09.00 LANDSCAPING MATERIAL

7.09.01 Minimum Specifications

All landscape material required to satisfy this code shall be Florida No. 1 Grade or better, according to the current Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants, State of Florida Department of Agriculture. In addition, all landscape material shall satisfy the following minimum specifications.

- A. **Canopy trees.** Canopy tree species shall be a minimum of 4 inches caliper and ten feet in height at the time of planting. All canopy trees shall be staked and guyed at the time of planting for a period of one growing season.
- B. **Understory trees.** Understory tree species shall be a minimum of two- and one-half inch (2 ½ “) and eight feet in height at the time of planting. Multi-trunk species shall be full and upright and have 1 ½” canes. All understory trees shall be staked and guyed at the time of planting for a period of one growing season.
- C. **Shrubs.** Shrubs shall be a minimum of three-gallon container 18 to 24 inches in height at time of planting.
- D. **Ornamentals.** Ornamental plantings shall be minimum one-gallon container grown species.
- E. **Ground covers.**
 - 1. **Ground covers.** Plants used as ground covers shall follow horticultural standards to achieve full coverage within one growing season.
 - 2. **Turf.** Turf shall be installed for full coverage at time of planting.
- F. **Mulch.** All planting beds shall be filled with a minimum of three inches (3”) of clean, weed free mulch. A maximum of 25 percent of these mulch areas may consist of nonorganic decorative material such as crushed rock, gravel, and other similar materials. Rubber mulch is prohibited, and cypress mulch is discouraged.

7.09.02 Maintenance of Plant Materials

- A. **Property owners and/or their agents shall be jointly and severally responsible for the maintenance of all landscaping in good appearance, free of refuse and debris. This includes newly installed landscapes as well as those older established landscapes.**
 - 1. **Replacement of substandard plant materials.** All unhealthy and dead plant materials shall be replaced within 30 days in conformance with the approved site or landscape plan. Failure to replace the plant material within 30 days shall constitute a violation and be regulated through code enforcement.
 - 2. **Proper Pruning.** Proper pruning practices as stated in the National Arborist Association’s (NAA) Pruning Standards for Shade Trees are required by this LDC. The practice of “topping” or “hat-racking” is considered unacceptable by the NAA standards. In compliance with these standards, every effort shall

be made to cut back to a lateral at least one-third to one-half the diameter of the parent limb or leader that is being removed. Cuts not made to a suitable lateral, sometimes called topping cuts, shall not be permitted.

7.10.00 APPROVED TREE AND PLANT LIST

Table 7.10.00 Approved Tree and Plant List

Canopy Trees	Understory Trees	Aquatic Plants	Shrubs	Ground Cover	Turf
Bald Cypress	American Holly	Arrowhead	American Beauty Berry	Aloe	Bahia
Laurel Oak	Chickasaw Plum	Arrowroot	Cherry Laurel	Chinese Juniper	Bermuda
Live Oak *	Crape Myrtle	Bald Cypress	Fetterbrush	Coontie	St. Augustine
Longleaf Pine	Dahoon Holly	Blue Flag Iris	Firebush	Day Lily	Zoysia
Red Maple	Date Palm	Buttonbush	Florida Anise	Dwarf Yaupon Holly	
Shumard Oak	Drake Elm	Cinnamon Fern	Gallberry	English Ivy	
Slash Pine	East Palatka Holly	Duck Potato	Indian Hawthorne	Florida Lantana	
Southern Magnolia *	Flowering Dogwood	Fragrant White Water Lily	Ligustrum	Lirope	
Sweet Bay	Ligustrum	Golden Canna	Ligustrum	Mondo Grass	
Sweetgum	Loquat	Maidencane	Native Azaleas	Society Garlic	
Sycamore	Sabal/Cabbage Palm	Pickerel Weed	Pampas Grass	Wandering Jew	
Water Oak	Savannah Holly	Pond Cypress	Pink Muhly Grass	Perennial Peanut	
	Washington Palm	Sawtooth fern	Pittosporum	Beach Sunflower	
	Wax Myrtle	Soft Rush	Podocarpus	Dwarf Asiatic Jasmine	
	Weeping Bottlebrush	Swamp Hibiscus	Sandanka Viburnum		
	Winged Elm		Saw Palmetto		
	Yaupon Holly		Silverthorn		
			Simpson Stopper		
			St. Johns Wort		
			Star Anise		

			Sweet Viburnum		
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*Live Oaks and Southern Magnolias are the two approved Street Tree species in the Town of Howey in the Hills. Other trees may also be requested as street trees and will be considered on a case by case basis depending on the site conditions. Palms in clusters may be used as canopy trees, but not in excess of 10 percent of the total required canopy trees for the site.

Plants that do not appear on the above table may also be used if they are recommended by one of the following agencies:

1. The St. Johns River Water Management District,
2. The University of Florida, IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) Extension, or
3. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Aquatic Plant Management.

7.10.01 Prohibited Plant List

The following trees and plants are prohibited:

- A. Acacia
- B. Albizia Julibrissin (mimosa or silk tree)
- C. Australian Pine
- D. Brazillian Pepper Tree
- E. Camphor
- F. Castor Bean
- G. Chinaberry
- H. Chinese Tallow
- I. Ear Tree
- J. Eucalyptus
- K. Hydrilla
- L. Monkey Puzzle
- M. Punk Tree
- N. Rice Paper Plant
- O. Silk Oak
- P. Taro
- Q. Water Hyacinth

Also prohibited are those plant species prohibited by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Agriculture and the plants listed as invasive by the Florida Exotic Pest Council. Trees on the Prohibited Plant List are exempt from the tree protection requirements of this chapter.