

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 7, STREET TREE PLANTING STRIPS AND SMALL MATURING YARD TREE OPTION

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Huntersville that Article 7.7, Section 2 of the Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended by modifying the minimum width of planting strips located between the existing street and proposed sidewalk as follows:

2. Spacing and Location of Street Trees. Small maturing sStreet trees are required to be within a minimum 7-foot planting strip located between the existing street and proposed sidewalk **and large maturing street trees are required to be within a minimum 9-foot planting strip between the existing street and proposed sidewalk.**¹ Planting shall be provided as follows:

- a. Large maturing canopy trees shall be planted at a spacing not to exceed 40 feet on center except that spacing may be altered slightly to accommodate driveways.
- b. Small maturing “canopy –like” trees shall be planted 30 feet on center where existing overhead utility lines prohibit the use of large maturing canopy trees.
- c. For property located on a major or minor thoroughfare, excluding the Town Center (TC) zoning district, an additional row of street trees are required to be located behind the proposed sidewalk in a 10-foot landscape easement to be recorded on a plat of record prior to issuance of a building permits. The interior row of trees shall be staggered from the trees provided within the right-of-way.
- d. All street trees must be listed as an approved street tree on The Town of Huntersville Tree and Shrub List.

¹ For lots greater than 50 feet in width with a front build-to-area depth of greater than 40 feet, in lieu of providing a planting strip located between the existing street and proposed sidewalk, the development may provide a minimum 5-foot green zone and one front-yard tree in addition to the required supplemental landscaping provisions for residential lots in the following section.

Section 2. Be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Huntersville that Article 7.7, Section 3 of the Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended by modifying the permitted types of yard trees as follows:

Supplemental Landscaping Provisions for Residential Lot Trees.

- 1. **New Required Yard Trees.** In order to maintain or replenish the urban tree canopy in areas of new residential subdivision, except when located in the TOD-R zoning district, each lot shall provide canopy trees in accordance with the following schedule:

Lot Size	Required Number of Canopy Trees
Less than 10, 000 sq./ft.	1 Front yard, 1 Rear Yard

10,000 – 15,000 sq./ft.	1 Front yard, 2 Rear Yard
15,001 – 20,000 sq./ft	2 Front yard, 2 Rear Yard
More than 20,000 sq./ft.	3 Front yard, 3 Rear Yard

2. **Existing Trees.** The use of existing trees to satisfy this requirement is encouraged. Supplemental plantings may be required in the addition to native material. Existing canopy trees over 6” in caliper may be counted towards fulfilling this requirement. Required street trees may not be counted towards the fulfillment of this requirement.
3. **Location and Spacing.** All trees required within this section shall be planted within the private lot and must be spaced at a width sufficient to accommodate mature growth. **In cases where the front build-to range or setback is 25 feet or less, small-maturing trees may be permitted.** All trees shall be listed as an approved tree on *The Town of Huntersville Tree and Shrub List*.

Section 3. Be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Huntersville that Article 5.5, Elements of Street Design, d of the Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

Tree-grates may be utilized for street trees; however, the grate-area may only count toward 1 foot of the “free and clear” (per ADA standards) sidewalk area. All other material placed at the base of street trees, other than concrete or asphalt, shall not count toward the minimum sidewalk width.

1. Street trees are required on both sides of all public streets except along the undeveloped side of residential-type streets adjacent to open space. Street Trees shall be located within a Green Zone, which is the space between the sidewalk and the back of curb or back of swale where no curb and gutter is present. Typically, Green Zones are a planting strip or hardscaped amenity zone, which serves as a buffer between pedestrians and vehicles. The Green Zone may include street trees and landscaping and often includes street furnishings and utilities. To encourage tree health, Green Zones shall be provided as follows:
 1. Curb and gutter section – 7 feet in width (minimum **for small maturing street trees), 9 feet in width (minimum for large maturing street trees) per Article 7;**
 2. Ditch section – 6 feet minimum outside the swale;
 3. Industrial Streets – 10 feet in width;
 4. Alleys – not required.
2. Generally, street trees shall be planted at a spacing not to exceed 40 feet on center, ~~and shall be a large-maturing type (see Town of Huntersville Approved Tree and Shrub List).~~ Where overhead utility lines preclude the use of large-maturing street trees, small-maturing street trees may be substituted, planted 30 feet on center. Street tree spacing may be “field-adjusted” for driveways or utilities **and to comply with the Town of**

Huntersville Engineering Standards and Procedures Manual, but should generally maintain uniform spacing. Street trees should not be planted within 40 feet of the radius return of an intersection.

Section 4. Be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Huntersville that Article 12.2.1, General Definitions, of the Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

Yard Tree, Required. A tree or trees required to be planted in the front or rear yard of a lot to satisfy the requirements of Article 7 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Section 5. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

HUNTERSVILLE ORDINANCE ADVISORY BOARD: 4/6/2023

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: July 17, 2023

PLANNING BOARD MEETING: July 25, 2023

TOWN BOARD DECISION: August 21, 2023