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## PART II - CODE OF ORDINANCES

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### CHAPTER 30 – UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

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#### Article 30-5: Development Standards

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#### 30-5.B. Landscaping and Tree Protection Standards\*

##### 30-5.B.4. Landscaping Requirements

a. **Street Trees**

Street trees shall be required to serve all development in the City in accordance with the following:

1. *Where Required*

Except where exempted in (b) below, street trees shall be required along both sides of all streets.

2. *Exemptions*

Street trees shall not be required for:

- a. Agricultural uses in the AR district, except when agricultural land is subdivided for new residential development; or
- b. Single-family lots, provided each lot includes one or more canopy trees between the dwelling and the right-of-way. Spacing shall be in accordance with Section 30-5.B.4.a.5, Maximum On Center Spacing, below. Existing healthy, well-formed trees located within 20 feet of the back of curb may be credited toward the requirement of this section, provided the trees meet the requirements of Section 30-5.B.7.a, Tree Preservation Credits and are adequately protected during construction (see Section 30-5.B.8, Tree Protection During Construction).

3. *Location*

- a. Except where authorized by an Alternative Landscape Plan (see Section 30-5.B.4.f), or indicated in the Engineering and Infrastructure Department's approved cross section diagrams for utility installations, all street trees shall be planted between the back of the curb and the sidewalk.
- b. In cases where street trees cannot be planted between the curb and the sidewalk, applicants shall contact the City Engineering and Infrastructure Department for utility installation cross sections which depict approved street tree locations in the public right-of-way.

- c. Street trees shall be located to avoid utilities (both overhead and underground), in accordance with the utility's requirements for clearance, unless specific written consent from the utility owner is provided.

4. *Configuration*

- a. Street trees shall be canopy trees except beneath overhead utilities or other projections into the public right-of-way, where understory trees shall be used instead.
- b. In locations directly under overhead utility lines, two understory trees may be substituted for each required canopy tree.
- c. Within the DT-1 district, other urban areas, or redevelopment areas, street trees may be located within reduced planting strips or tree pits with irrigation and drainage systems or as part of an adopted streetscape master plan. Tree pits may be located adjacent to the back of the curb.
- d. All trees planted along NCDOT right-of-way shall conform to NCDOT guidelines.

5. *Maximum On-Center Spacing*

- a. Understory trees shall be spaced between 15 to 25 feet on center, depending upon the species size at maturity.
- b. Canopy trees shall be spaced between 25 to 40 feet on center, depending upon the species size at maturity.
- c. Wherever possible, small and medium trees shall be placed between large trees to accommodate the canopy growth of large trees over time.
- d. Alternative layout may be considered through the Alternative Landscape Plan procedure in Section 30-5.B.4.f.

b. **Site and Building Landscaping**

Site and building landscaping material is intended to soften the visual impact of the building base and provide for the even dispersal of trees and other plantings across a development site.

1. *Standards*

Except for substations and lift stations, single-family detached dwellings and properties in the Downtown (DT) district, site and building landscaping shall be required for all development, and shall be supplied in the amounts identified in Table 30-5.B.4.b, Required Site Landscaping Plantings, below, and Figure 30-5.B.4.b, Site and Building Landscaping Placement. Site landscaping shall meet the minimum size standards for new planting specified in Section 30-5.B.3.e, Planting Standards.

**Table 30-5.B.4.b: Required Site & Landscaping Plantings**

TYPE OF USE [1]	REQUIRED PLANTINGS PER SITE [2]
Detached single-family residential uses	Exempt from the requirements of this Section 30-5.4.b, Site & Building Landscaping.
Other household living uses; group living uses	Four canopy trees (including at least one evergreen tree) per acre + at least one shrub per each five feet of outer building perimeter
All other uses	Two canopy trees (including at least one evergreen tree) per acre, + at least one shrub per each five feet of outer building perimeter