



Tree & Landscape Standards



Tree Preservation

Wooded sites provide distinct aesthetic, economic and environmental significance and value as a natural resource of the Town. Existing vegetation plays a critical role in maintaining aesthetics, water quality, minimizing erosion and downstream flooding, and increasing quality of life.

A site analysis for all development in residential and commercial zoning districts is completed in an effort to preserve 100% of heritage trees, and 10-50% of specimen trees and existing tree canopy.

Buffer Yards & Landscaping

In most zoning districts, the Town requires buffer yards to provide visual and distance separation between adjacent properties. The Town also requires the planting of street trees along public and parking lots to ensure a pedestrian friendly environment along with providing distinct aesthetic, economic and environmental significance, and value as a future natural resource to the Town.

Pruning Tips

Trees:

- Prune your tree in late winter before the buds begin to blossom or in the summer well after the tree has grown all of its leaves. Avoid pruning just after the tree has blossomed as the tree won't be able to heal as well.
- Remove any dead branches
- Lightly thin to allow for light penetration and air circulation
- Prune broken or damaged limbs
- Remove any branches that rub or cross another branch flush where it attaches to main trunk.
- Raise the bottom limbs to provide clearance for pedestrians (7 feet).
- Prune trees so that there is 2 feet of clearance to any Town Maintained street sign.

Shrubs:

- Shrubs within the right-of-way should be pruned so that the bush does not exceed 30 inches in height.

Crepe Myrtle Pruning

- Do not TOP. This leaves the tree susceptible to powdery mildew, spider mites, and aphids. This does promote blooms or new growth.
- Prune in Late winter/Early spring, before the plant leafs out and after risk of hard freeze (typically around mid-March)
- TREES: Prune branches as noted above. Remove root suckers, waterspouts, and new growth from the ground to the first main branches to retain the desirable trunk structure.
- Extend blooms by pruning flowers during the summer, immediately after they fade.

Public Right-of-Way & Safety

Trees and landscaping located on your property and in or near the public right-of-way should be pruned so as not to create a safety obstruction for:

- Vehicles: Sight distance or Intersection Sight Triangle
- Town street signage
- Pedestrians
- Utilities

Who Maintains?

For any trees touching or near utility lines, contact your local utility company.

For any trees in the tree save area, request a [Zoning Inspection](#) for dead, diseased, or dying vegetation.

Homeowners are responsible for all other trees and shrubs on their property, unless your specific homeowners association outlines otherwise.

Additional Resources

If you would like to request an evaluation of the sight distance at an intersection, contact the Town of Huntersville Engineering and Public Works Department at 704-875-7007.

Questions?

Town of Huntersville Planning Department IN PERSON:

105 Gilead Road, Third Floor
Huntersville NC 28078
Mon-Fri; 8am—5pm
No appointments necessary

TEL: 704-875-7000

EMAIL: planning@huntersville.org

WEB: www.huntersville.org