

## ARTICLE 9

### LANDSCAPING, SCREENING AND BUFFER AREAS

#### 9.1 Purpose and Scope

The landscaping, screening and buffer regulations, adopted and prescribed in this Ordinance, are found by the Board of Commissioners to be necessary and appropriate to:

- A. Maintain and enhance New London's existing tree coverage;
- B. To promote careful landscaping of outdoor areas;
- C. To soften and enhance the manmade environment;
- D. Provide the separation necessary to permit certain land uses to coexist harmoniously which might not do so otherwise;
- E. Safeguard and enhance property values and protect public and private investment;
- F. Reduce the negative impact of glare, noise, trash, odors, overcrowding, traffic, lack of privacy, and visual disorder when incompatible land uses adjoin one another.

The following requirements are intended to enhance the appearance and natural beauty of the town and to protect property values through preservation and planting of vegetation, screening, and landscaping material.

#### 9.2 Applicability

9.2.1 Exemptions: These requirements shall not apply to:

- (A) Single family detached dwellings or two-family dwellings on their own lots.
- (B) Multi-family developments containing four (4) or fewer dwelling units in a single zone (building) lot.
- (C) Property lines abutting railroad rights-of-way and utility easements in excess of 60 feet in width.

9.2.2 Application: These requirements shall apply to the following:

- (A) New Principal Building or Use: Principal buildings or open uses of land constructed or established after the adoption of this Ordinance.
- (B) Expansions or Reconstruction: Expansions which will result in a parking or building square footage increases of more than 3,000 square feet for developments existing on the effective date of this Ordinance. In such cases the landscaping requirements shall apply only to the expansion.

#### 9.3 General Provisions

9.3.1 Planting and Maintenance. Landscaping, trees, and plant material shall be planted in a growing condition according to accepted horticultural practices and they shall be maintained in a healthy growing condition. Any landscaping, trees, and plant material in a condition that does not fulfill the intent of these regulations shall be replaced by the property owner during the next planting season.

- 9.3.2 Screening Fences and Walls. A screening fence or wall area shall be maintained by the property owner, in good condition, throughout the period of the use of the lot.
- 9.3.3 Protection of Existing Vegetation. To the extent possible, existing trees, vegetation, and unique site features shall be retained and protected. Existing healthy, mature trees, if properly located, shall be fully credited against the requirements of these regulations.
- 9.3.4 Size and Spacing of Landscape Materials.
- (A) Trees shall be a minimum of six (6) to eight (8) feet in height, with a minimum circumference of three and one half (3 ½) inches, immediately after planting. Trees shall reach an expected height of 25 to 35 feet at maturity.
  - (B) Spacing of Trees. Trees shall be planted 25 to 35 feet on center depending on species.
  - (C) Evergreen trees shall be a minimum of six (6) feet immediately after planting.
  - (D) Shrubs and hedges shall be a minimum of one (1) to two (2) feet in height immediately after planting.
  - (E) Ground cover may include any plant material that reaches an average height of not more than 12 inches. Alternative materials may be used in lieu of grass provided they present a finished appearance and provide reasonably complete coverage at the time of planting.
  - (F) Plants that restrict sight visibility at intersections of streets or driveways, such as tall shrubs or low branching trees, shall be avoided.
  - (G) Alternate Methods of Compliance. Where lot size, shape, topography or existing structures make it not feasible to comply with the provisions of this ordinance, the Administrator may modify these provisions provided the alternate proposal will afford a degree of landscaping screening and buffering equivalent to or exceeding the requirements of these regulations.

#### 9.4 Front Landscaped Area

A front landscaped area shall be required for all multi-family developments with more than four (4) units and all non-residential uses. The required landscaped area shall be contiguous to the front lot line of the property and have an average minimum width of ten (10) feet. The area shall be covered with grass or other ground cover and shall include appropriate trees and shrubs. At a minimum, one (1) tree and ten (10) shrubs shall be planted within the front landscaped area for each 50 feet or fraction thereof of lot frontage. The purpose of the landscaping is to enhance the appearance of the use of the lot but not to negate access or screen the use from view.

#### 9.5 Buffer Area

A buffer area shall be required to separate and screen incompatible land uses from each other. A buffer area shall be required along all boundaries of a two-family, multi-family, or a nonresidential lot abutting a less intensive use. Such buffer shall comply with the following minimum standards.

- 9.5.1 A buffer area shall be located within the boundaries of the subject property. The buffer may be located on abutting property, provided the owners of all abutting properties agree in writing to the

proposal. Said agreement must be recorded and run with the land and provide stipulations for maintenance and upkeep, as deemed necessary.

9.5.2 The minimum width (in linear feet) of the buffer area shall be following the buffer matrix below:

**PROPOSED USE**

<b>Single-Family (SF)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Two-Family (TF)</b>	10	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Office (OF)</b>	10	5	-	-	-	-
<b>Commercial (CM)</b>	15	10	5	-	-	-
<b>Multi-Family (MF)</b>	15	10	5	-	-	-
<b>Industrial (IND)</b>	25	20	15	10	10	-
	<b>SF</b>	<b>TF</b>	<b>OF</b>	<b>CM</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>IND</b>

**ADJACENT USE**

9.5.3 The buffer area shall consist of trees and shrubs of such a type, height, spacing and arrangement to effectively buffer the activity on the lot from the neighboring area. At a minimum, the planting shall consist of five (5) trees and ten (10) shrubs per 100 linear feet for five (5) to ten (10) foot buffers, ten (10) trees and 15 shrubs per 100 linear feet for 15-20 foot buffers, and 20 trees and 20 shrubs per 100 linear feet for 25 foot buffers.

9.5.4 An earthen berm, fence, or wall of a location, height, design, and material approved by the Administrator may be substituted for any portion of the required planting and/or buffer area. Fences and walls, if substituted, shall be constructed of materials congruous with the materials of the main building. Trees and shrubs shall supplement earthen berms, fences, or wall areas.

9.6 Landscaped Parking Area

Parking areas shall comply with the following minimum standards.

9.6.1 All uses required to have 20 or more off-street parking spaces shall have at least ten (10) square feet of interior landscaping, within the paved portion of the parking area, for each parking space and at least one (1) tree for every ten (10) parking spaces or fraction thereof.

9.6.2 Each interior landscaped area shall contain a minimum of 200 square feet and shall be planted with shrubs and trees.

9.6.3 A landscaped area shall be provided along the perimeter of any parking area. The required landscaped area shall have a minimum width of five (5) feet and shall be planted with two (2) trees and ten (10) shrubs per 100 linear feet of perimeter area.

9.6.4 Interior landscaped areas shall be spaced throughout the lot to reduce the visual impact of long rows of parked cars. At a minimum, landscaped areas shall be distributed approximately once every ten (10) spaces for residential and once every 15 spaces for other developments.

9.6.5 Landscaped areas shall be provided at the ends of parking aisles and shall be planted with shrubs and/or trees.

9.6.6 The required number of parking spaces may be reduced by one (1) parking space for each 150 square feet of interior planting area, not exceeding ten percent (10%).

9.7 Screening of Outdoor Storage Areas

Outdoor storage areas shall be screened from view of adjacent streets, and from all residentially zoned land by a double row of evergreen shrubs or trees planted to form a continuous hedge of at least six (6) feet in height within two (2) years of installation.

9.8 Screening of Mechanical Equipment

All non-residential uses shall screen from view from public places and neighboring properties all mechanical equipment, such as but not limited to, ground or roof mounted air conditioning, air conditioners, or pumps, through the use of features such as berms, fences, false facades or dense landscaping compatible with the site.

9.9 Central Solid Waste Storage Area

All new buildings and uses, except for single-family and two-family dwellings, shall provide facilities for the central storage of solid waste within the lot. Where such facilities are provided outside of a building they shall be screened from adjacent properties by an enclosure constructed of materials congruous with the materials on the exterior wall of the main buildings.

9.10 Unoccupied Lot Areas

All areas of a developed lot not occupied by buildings, structures, pedestrian and vehicle circulation ways, off-street parking and outside storage shall be appropriately improved with ground cover, trees, shrubbery or mulch. No exposed soils shall be permitted after issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, except for agricultural activities or extraction of earth products.

9.11 Planting List

The following trees and shrubs by way of example but not by way of limitation are suitable for use in the New London area:

**Large Trees (mature height 35 feet or greater and 35 feet spacing).**

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Willow Oak        | Black Gum            |
| Sugar Maple       | Littleleaf Linden    |
| Red Maple         | White Oak            |
| Scarlet Oak       | Japanese Scholartree |
| Pin Oak           | Gingko               |
| Southern Magnolia | English Oak          |
| London Plane-tree | Japanese Katsuratree |
| River Birch       | Shumard Oak          |
| Japanese Zelkova  | Chinese Elm          |
| Tulip Poplar      |                      |

**Medium Trees (mature height 25 to 35 feet and 30 feet spacing)**

Mountain Silverbell	Weeping Cherry
Sourwood	Kwanzan Cherry
Thornless Honeylocust	Yellowwood
Eastern Redbud	Ironwood
Mountain Ash	Pistachio
Yoshino Cherry	Redwood Linden
Golden-Rain Tree	American Holly
Saucer Magnolia	

**Small Trees (mature height less than 25 feet and 25 feet spacing)**

Japanese Maple	Crabapple
Japanese Dogwood	Amur Maple
Flowering Dogwood	Russian Olive
Smoketree	Wax Myrtle
Crepe Myrtle	Star Magnolia

**Shrubs (mature height approximately 36 inches)**

*Evergreen*

Warty Barberry	Mugo Pine
Dwarf Burford Holly	Juniper
Japanese Holly	Euonymous
Azalea	Leatherleaf Viburnum

*Deciduous*

Forsythia	Potentilla
Dwarf Burning Bush	Ornamental Grass Varieties
Thunberg Spirea	Oregonholly Grape
Viburnum	Red Chokeberry
Oakleaf Hydrangea	Nandina
Japanese Flowering Quince	Dwarf Nandina

**Screening Plants (installation height 6 feet)**

American Holly	Hetz Juniper
Burford Holly	Arborvitae
Nellie Stevens Holly	Eastern Red Cedar
Wax Myrtle	Japanese Black Pine