

City of Valdosta

Lowndes County
Valdosta MSA

2003 Population Estimate 45,059; +1.8% change from 2000 Census.

Tree City USA for 20 years.

No tree board established by ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-25

1. Chapter 4. Landscape and Tree Protection

First adopted 1977. Last revised 2005.

Addresses private property.

Includes landscape requirements.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 4.	Landscape and Tree Protection
Section 9-4001.	Purpose and Intent.
A.	Purpose.
B.	Intent.
Section 9-4002.	Definitions.
A.	Definitions.
Section 9-4003.	Office of Inspection.
A.	Office of Inspection.
Section 9-4004.	Application of this Chapter.
A.	Terms and Provisions.
Section 9-4005.	Permits.
A.	Tree Removal Permit.
B.	Landscape Permit.
C.	Landscaping Standards.
D.	Tree and Protected Zone Preservation Standards.
E.	Outdoor Storage/Utility Service Screening Standards.
F.	Surface Water Retention and Detention Basins.
G.	Land Disturbance Permit for Site Development.
H.	Tree Removal Permit for Specimen and Canopy Trees.
I.	Tree Bank.
Section 9-4006.	Continuing Compliance.
A.	Compliance Review.
Section 9-4007.	Enforcement.
A.	Enforcement Authority.
B.	Enforcement Procedures.
Section 9-4008.	General Section – Appeal.
A.	Filing of an Appeal.
Section 9-4009.	Violations and Penalties.
A.	Offenses.
Section 9-4010.	Exemptions.
A.	Exemptions
APPENDIX A	SMALL TREES
APPENDIX B	CANOPY TREES
APPENDIX C	CANOPY TREES PERMITTED WITHIN 20-30 FEET OF OVERHEAD UTILITY LINES
APPENDIX D	PROHIBITED PLANTS

City of Valdosta Tree Permit

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ORDINANCE NO. 2005-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER FOUR, LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT AND TREE PROTECTION OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF VALDOSTA.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Valdosta, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by authority of same, as follows:

The Code of Ordinances of the City of Valdosta is hereby amended by striking there from its entirety Article J, of Part 9, Planning and Regulation of Development, Chapter 1, Building Regulations, Article J, Landscape Development, and substituting in lieu thereof a new Article J, Landscape Development of Part 9, Planning and Regulation of Development, Chapter 1, Building Regulations, to read as follows:

I. Chapter 4. Landscape Development and Tree Protection.

Section 9-4001. Purpose and Intent.

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to protect, maintain, and enhance both the immediate and long-range health, safety, economic stability, and general welfare of the present and future citizens of the City. This ordinance is enacted to provide standards for the preservation and/or replacement of trees and vegetation as part of the land development and building construction within the city. Whereas the benefits of a healthy urban forest include moderation of extremes of temperatures and wind, provision of shade that conserves energy and water, provision of habitat for a variety of native plant and animal species, and reduction of storm-water runoff and flooding, it is also the purpose of this ordinance to protect the existing native tree canopy and to encourage the planting of new trees and the preservation of green space.

B. Intent.

The intent of this chapter is to provide necessary information to facilitate the development of project design, plan and review and enforcement processes administered in a most effective, efficient and economic manner so as to accomplish the purpose of this ordinance and to provide for orderly, enhanced development within the corporate limits of the City.

Section 9-4002. Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, the following terms or words used herein shall be defined as follows:

A. Definitions.

1. Applicant. The person or entity making application for a permit as provided herein and who shall be responsible for, and in charge of, a project; the applicant may be the owner, developer, project manager, or contractor.
2. Basal Caliper. Diameter of a plant's main stem measured at six inches above ground level.
3. Buffer. An area of land which includes landscape material established for the purposes of separating, screening, or shielding a use from a dissimilar or more intense use.
4. Building Permit. A permit issued by the Department of Inspections to proceed with the development or redevelopment of property meeting the form and requirements as established by the City of Valdosta Building Code.
5. Canopy Tree. A large tree or group of trees that has a distinct presence in the landscape or forest. For the purpose of this ordinance, all large trees and all medium trees identified as canopy trees are listed in Appendix A.
6. City Canopy Tree. Any tree growing on city owned property, i.e. streets, rights of way, etc., or any specimen tree overhanging the city right of way, regardless of the zoning of the property where the base of the tree is located.
7. Certificate of Occupancy. A certificate issued by the Department of Inspections certifying that all requirements for development or redevelopment of property have been met and authorizing occupancy of buildings and structures.
8. Change of Ownership. When the legal title or owner of the property changes from person, entity or corporation to another person, entity or corporation.
9. Critical Root Zone (CRZ). The minimum area beneath a tree which must be undisturbed in development in order to preserve a sufficient root mass to assure a tree a reasonable chance of survival. The critical root zone (CRZ) shall be a concentric circle centering on the tree's trunk with a radius equal in feet to one (1) times the number of inches of the trunk diameter; i.e., the CRZ radius of a twenty (20) inch diameter tree shall be twenty (20) feet.
10. Diameter, Breast Height (DBH). The diameter or width of the main stem of a tree as measured four and one-half (4.5) feet above the ground.

11. Drip Line. A vertical line extending from the outermost portion of a tree canopy to the ground.
12. Encroachment. The protrusion or extension of a vehicle outside or beyond the parameters of a parking space, display area, storage area, or access way into a landscaped area.
13. Green Space. Lands to be left as natural areas or landscapes in accordance with this ordinance after development.
14. Grubbing. The removal of underbrush, such as shrubs, vines and trees under four (4) inch basal caliper. Grubbing does not include root raking and/or soil disturbance within the drip line of preserved trees.
15. Interior Planting Area. The area within vehicular use area devoted to growing plants or vegetation.
16. Landscape. Existing natural vegetation or the placing of ground cover, shrubs, or trees in a planting area in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.
17. Land Disturbance Activity. Any activity, including, but not limited to clearing, dredging, grading, excavating, transporting, and/or the filling of a parcel with topsoil or landfill soils. Land disturbance activity shall not include agricultural practices as described in Section 9-5003 of this Code of Ordinances.
18. Mature Tree. The mature height and canopy width of a tree as described in the Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, latest edition.
19. Outparcel. A parcel of property adjacent to a principal development not included in the original or first development, but intended to be developed or sold or leased for development separately or at a later time.
20. Outside Storage Area. An outdoor area, open or fenced or a separate building constructed for storage of materials or refuse.
21. Perimeter Planting Area. The front, sides and rear yard areas between vehicular surface areas and adjacent property lines designed for planting and landscaping.
22. Planting Area. An outdoor area devoted entirely to the planting or conservation and maintenance of trees, shrubs, and ground covers.
23. Preserved Tree. Any tree designated on a site development plan that is to be preserved during development for incorporation into the final landscaping of the developed parcel.

24. Retention/Detention Basin. Land area designed to temporarily retain or detain storm water runoff.
25. Sight Triangle. The area of property on both sides of a driveway formed by the intersection of each side of the driveway and public right-of-way with the two sides of each triangle being a minimum of twenty (20) feet in length from the point of intersection and the third side being a straight line connecting the ends of the two other sides.
26. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. See Section 9-5004, Code of Ordinances, City of Valdosta. Land disturbance permit.
27. Specimen Tree. Any tree designated by the City Arborist for preservation because of its rarity, aesthetic value, historical value, botanical importance, or size. The City Arborist in certifying shall use the following criteria:
 - a. Size Criteria. All canopy trees that are 16" DBH or larger, Longleaf Pine and Spruce Pine that are 10" or larger, and Live Oaks or Magnolias (*grandiflora*) that are 14" or larger. All small species 6" DBH or larger.
28. Street Yard. A landscaped area required adjacent to a street right-of-way.
29. Substantial Improvements. Substantial improvements as used herein are defined as repair, reconstruction, alterations, or improvements to existing structures in which the cost thereof exceeds 25% of the ad valorem tax value as established by the current digest at the time the proposed improvements are begun or contemplated.
30. Tree Inventory. A listing and designation of all trees with a six (6) inch DBH or larger on a map or survey drawn to scale.
31. Tree Save Area. An area consisting of a group of trees designated to be preserved.
32. Utility Service Area. An area which contains any surface mounted HVAC equipment or freestanding above ground devices, such as utility boxes, booster boxes, switch boxes and transformers that are part of an underground utilities system.
33. Vehicular Use Area. Any ground surface area, excepting public right-of-way used by any type of vehicle, whether moving or at rest for the purpose of, including but not limited to, driving, parking, loading, unloading, storage or display, such as, but not limited to, new and used car lots, activities of a drive-in nature in connection with banks, restaurants, service stations, grocery and convenience stores.
34. Wetlands. Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by

shallow water. For this purpose, wetlands must have one or more of the following attributes:

- a. At least periodically, the land supports predominately hydrophytes;
- b. The substrate is predominately undrained hydric soil; and
- c. The substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year, or is designated by the National Cooperative Soils Survey of the Soil Conservation Service by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as designed by the National Wetlands Inventory, United States Department of Interior; or any future approved and designated State or Federal Agency.

35. Tree Protection Zone Active. The area beneath the tree's canopy, (critical root zone), to be protected in construction are by fencing.

36. Tree Protection Zone Passive. The area beneath the tree's canopy, (critical root zone), in areas adjacent to construction to be protected by flagging.

Section 9-4003. Office of Inspection.

A. Office of Inspection.

The Office of Inspection, acting through the Director of Inspections or his designee with the assistance of the City Arborist, shall be charged with the enforcement of this chapter and the regulation of the care and removal of all trees growing now or hereafter in the City of Valdosta in accordance with this chapter.

Section 9-4004 - Application of this Chapter.

A. Terms and Provisions.

The terms and provisions of this chapter shall apply to real property within the City of Valdosta, as follows:

1. All undeveloped property, existing commercial or multi-family residential development which undergoes substantial improvement as defined by this ordinance and/or has a change in the zoning classification of said property. All trees are subject to the tree protection provisions of this chapter. Tree protection provisions as stated in Section 9-4005 of this ordinance will remain applicable in perpetuity. The current developed and existing property zoned single family or two-family residential is exempt from the application of this chapter except where trees defined as city canopy trees are affected. Property that is zoned M-1 or M-2 shall also be exempt except for street yard requirements and primary (employee and customer) parking areas, but shall maintain the minimum greenspace requirements.

2. That portion of each lot which shall correspond with the portion of the lot covered by the front (street), side, rear yard, or interior vehicle use area as defined in this chapter.
3. Redeveloped or substantially improved property. All property except that zoned single family or two family residential which is redeveloped or substantially improved to the extent that the cost thereof, excluding landscaping, exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) of the ad valorem tax value as determined by the current digest shall comply with this chapter, as follows: Improvements or renovations at a cost which equals twenty-five percent (25%) of the ad valorem tax value as determined by the current digest shall comply with the landscape standards and requirements of this chapter at the rate of twenty-five percent (25%) of the total requirements. Improvements or renovations at a cost between twenty-five percent (25%) to forty-nine percent (49%) of the ad valorem tax value as determined by the current digest shall comply with the landscape standards and requirements of this chapter at the same ratio or percentage as the cost of improvements relates to the total ad valorem tax value (i.e., 45% improvements of the tax digest value requires 45% compliance with the landscape standards and requirements herein). Substantial improvements or renovations at a cost that equals fifty percent (50%) of the ad valorem tax value as established by the current tax digest or greater shall require full compliance with the landscape standards and requirements of this chapter. A second substantial improvement within twelve (12) calendar months shall require full compliance with the landscape requirements and standards of this chapter.
4. Structures that are reconstructed or rebuilt as a result of fire or natural disaster or structures which are improving their interior only shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this chapter. If the existing footprint of the exterior of the structure is being altered (i.e. additions), the landscape shall be in compliance with paragraph 3 above if such improvements exceed 25% of the ad valorem tax value of the property. The provisions of this chapter shall not result in noncompliance with zoning or parking regulations or noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act or other Federal law or the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Valdosta.
5. Property hereafter annexed into the corporate limits of the City of Valdosta is subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Parcels being developed with the intent of annexation and/or receiving city services shall comply with the provisions of this ordinance at the time of annexation.
 - b. Annexed property developed or improved prior to the passing of this chapter will comply with the terms and provision of the chapter in effect at the time of the passage of this ordinance (1996 Landscape Ordinance). Annexed property developed or improved after the passage of this chapter shall comply with the provisions of this chapter.

6. When development is commenced, trees are removed and cleared, but no actual construction has begun within six (6) months of the date of issuance of the initial permit, the owner and/or developer shall landscape the street yard within thirty (30) days thereafter in accordance with the plans approved.
7. Any expansion of existing vehicular use area shall require compliance with the landscape standards of this chapter.
8. This chapter shall not be applicable to any parcel of land within the CD (Downtown Commercial) zoning district and/or the Central Valdosta Area as defined in the Central Valdosta Development Authority act which has a zero building lot setback line under the City Zoning Ordinance. All other parcels in CD zoning shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter. The professional staff of the City shall, however, have authority to adjust requirements and standards of this chapter where the parcel is not large enough to allow full application of the landscape requirements of this chapter.

Section 9-4005. Permits.

A. Tree Removal Permit.

Before commencing development or substantial improvements, no person, firm, organization or corporation or other entity, i.e. landowner, developer, general contractor or subcontractor, etc., shall directly or indirectly remove or destroy any tree without first obtaining a permit for same.

1. Permits shall be obtained by making written application to the office of inspections. The application shall be submitted with a site drawing to scale giving a complete tree inventory and proposed landscaping plan, if applicable, showing all trees to be saved and all trees to be removed. The proposed plan must be submitted to and approved by the City Arborist by the issuance of a tree removal permit.
2. A copy of the tree removal permit must be displayed on site with all other construction permits during all phases of construction. This permit must be displayed on site in a weather tight container during removal.
3. Upon receipt of the application and accompanying documents, the Office of Inspections shall review the same and either approve or reject said application within ten (10) days of its receipt. Should any applicant be dissatisfied with the denial of said permit or request an interpretation of this chapter, an appeal should be filed within 30 days with the Zoning Board of Appeals.
4. A tree inventory drawn to scale shall accurately locate and identify all specimen trees and all other trees with a DBH of 6" or more. Groups of trees less than 6" DBH and not specimen or canopy trees shall be delineated as tree mass. The inventory shall

indicate and designate which trees are to be removed and/or retained. (Note that existing trees four (4) inches DBH or greater may be used to meet minimum landscape requirements as defined under this chapter.)

B. Landscape Permit.

The landscape permit shall be part of the building permit. No person, firm, organization, corporation, or entity shall directly or indirectly commence landscaping of any development or any construction project without first submitting a landscape plan as provided herein.

1. A permit shall be obtained by making written application in the form prescribed by Mayor and Council to the office of inspections. The landscape plan shall be a detailed plan of the site drawn to scale on a scale of 1 inch equals 20 feet or larger indicating or exhibiting the following:
 - a. Location type, dimension, and square footage of vehicular use areas, outdoor storage areas, utility service areas and proposed parking spaces, including proposed truck parking and loading service area.
 - b. Sidewalks or other pedestrian circulation or walkways.
 - c. All proposed landscaping, including location, botanical or common names, and size of proposed trees, shrubs and ground cover which meets the landscaping requirements of this chapter, and the location and dimension of planting areas, street yards, and the location and size of earthen berms and buffers.
 - d. All setback lines.
 - e. Location of all signage on property.
 - f. The location, species, and DBH of existing trees to be preserved and those to be relocated or removed.
 - g. Any barriers to be erected to protect any existing vegetation and trees from damage during construction as required under the tree and protected zone preservation standard.
 - h. A brief description of the type of barriers to be erected.
 - i. All walls, fences and railings.
 - j. Location of all overhead utility lines.
 - k. Any trenching adjacent to or within the drip line of trees to be preserved.

- l. Location of all surface water retention and/or detention areas.
- m. The proposed plan shall also indicate thereon lineal feet of street yard, side yard and rear yard.
- n. The total area in square footage of vehicular use areas, number of parking spaces provided and required.
- o. Percentage of proposed green space, natural or landscape on parcel and designation of green space areas with square footage. The total number and total caliper inches (DBH) of specimen trees removed by category of specimen trees.
- p. The following procedures and requirements shall be followed by the applicant and the City:
 - (1) Landscape plans shall be reviewed and approved by the Landscape Inspector prior to the issuance of permits by the Office of Inspections.
 - (2) The City shall have ten (10) working days after receiving the completed landscape plan within which to approve or deny the application for a landscape permit. If the permit is denied, the City shall specify to the applicant in writing the reasons for denial.
 - (3) A copy of all approved plans and the tree removal permit shall be prominently displayed on site during installation of landscape improvements.
 - (4) No certificate of occupancy shall be issued unless and until the City has determined at the final inspection that required site improvements have been installed according to the approved application and all landscaping has been completed in accordance with the landscaping plan. The City may require a performance bond or other security in an amount of not more than 110% of the cost of required improvements in lieu of withholding a certificate of occupancy and may further require that the improvements be satisfactorily installed and completed within the specified length of time, not to exceed six months; excepting, however, additional allowances up to one month may be granted from time to time if weather conditions do not permit planning with a reasonable probability of plant survival.
 - (5) An applicant objecting to the interpretation and/or any enforcement of this ordinance shall have the right to appeal the action to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The appeal shall be filed in the office of the Director of Inspections in writing within 30 days of the action

aggrieved. The appeal shall be in writing and shall be heard at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals provided the appeal is filed within fifteen (15) days prior to said meeting. If not filed within fifteen (15) days, it shall be heard at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Board of appeals.

- (6) Any changes in the quantity or category of plant material that would result in the reduction from the approved plan, or any change in location shall be resubmitted in written form to the Office of Inspections for approval. The proposed plan shall not begin until permission is granted by the Landscape Inspector. However, plant species may be substituted provided the substitution is taken from the appropriate category of the approved adapted list in either Appendix A, B or C of the ordinance.

C. Landscaping Standards.

To insure the attainment of the objectives of this chapter, the design and installation of required landscaping shall be consistent with the following standards unless it can be demonstrated that alternative design and installation plans will meet the intent and spirit of this chapter.

1. General Requirements.

- a. Green Space. All properties subject to the provisions of this chapter shall be developed with a minimum of 15% of the total area developed as green space. The street yard, side yard, rear yard, wetlands, surface water retention and/or detention areas and parking islands may be used to satisfy the green space requirements, provided these areas meet the landscape requirements. All barren areas within the green space must be landscaped with a minimum of one tree every 600 square feet. The minimum area to be designated green space is 150 square feet and the minimum width of any area shall be nine feet for interior vehicular use area islands only. For rear and side yards, minimum size requirements shall be 100 square feet with a minimum width of three feet.
- b. Line of Sight. All landscaping shall be in compliance with the City's minimum line of site standards and site triangles for streets, intersections, or driveways as defined herein and in the City of Valdosta Zoning Ordinance. No landscaping plant materials shall obstruct or impede the traffic flow on any public right of way or pedestrian walkways.
- c. Plant Protection. All planting in areas which are adjacent to vehicular use area or outdoor storage areas shall be protected from vehicular encroachment by construction of curbing or other appropriate barriers.

- d. Erosion Control. Surface water on all planting areas shall be stabilized to prevent erosion by the use of live ground cover, mulches, shrubs, permeable pedestrian paver blocks, or any combination thereof.
- e. Maintenance. The owner and/or developer is responsible for maintaining all plant materials in healthy condition. Maintenance practices include sufficient water, weeding, and replacement of dead plant materials, proper pruning and litter removal. All tree trunks shall be protected from damage from string trimmers and mowers by a protective collar, a mulch ring or surrounded by other bedding material. It is recommended that the mulch rings shall be a minimum of three (3) feet in diameter for up to 3" DBH trees and expanded six (6) inches for every additional one (1) inch diameter. Refer to #4d.(6) in section 9-4005.
- f. Overhead Utility Lines. The location of all overhead utilities shall be considered during the placement of required trees in accordance with the following standards:
- (1) Small species at maturity not to exceed height of utility line shall be used when located within 20 feet of the overhead utility lines. (See Appendix A for characterization of tree sizes by species).
 - (2) Trees specified in Appendix C may be used within 20 to 30 feet of overhead utility lines.
 - (3) Medium to large Canopy species may be used when located more than thirty (30) feet from the nearest overhead utility lines(s). (See appendix B for a characterization of tree sizes by species.)
- g. Fire Equipment. A minimum five (5) feet radius shall be maintained around all fire protection equipment, including fire hydrants, and shall contain no plant materials or structural elements other than ground cover plants.
- h. Minimum Planting Area Per Existing or Proposed Tree. Trees provided shall have no less than 150 square feet of planting area surrounding its base. Said area shall be maintained in either vegetative landscape material or other pervious surface cover. The length of all planting beds shall not exceed two and one-half (2.5) times its width.
- i. Root Barriers. Prior to the installation of trees, a determination shall be made as to whether root barriers are necessary to prevent roots from uplifting or cracking sidewalks.

- j. Tree Wrap and Binding Devices. All tree wrap, burlap, wire baskets, ties, or other binding devices shall be removed from all vegetation and trees at the time of planting.
 - k. Preservation of Existing Trees. Preservation of existing trees shall be given special consideration in the preparation of landscape plans. The City desires to preserve all existing trees wherever possible in all developments. Preserved trees may be used in the minimum landscape requirements. To be deemed a preserved tree and to comply with the minimum landscape requirements, any existing tree must be at least 4 inches DBH and be included among the approved species listed in Appendix A, B and C. (See Tree and Protected Zone Preservation Standards.) See Section 9-4006, item C. 2d (3).
 - l. Selection Criteria. All plants shall be healthy, well-proportioned, disease free and pest free, and suitable for the climate. All trees selected for planting shall be made from the locally adapted species list included in Appendix A, B and C. If a species not included is intended for planting, it must first be approved by the Landscape Inspector. All plants must conform to the American Nursery Stock Standard, latest edition, published by the American Nursery and Landscape Association. Plant material that does not meet criteria may not be approved. A copy of the publication is available for review at the Departments of Inspections, Recreation and Parks and with the City Arborist.
 - m. Planting Sites. Planting sites shall have at least a six (6) inch clearance of good top soil, including 6" around and below the root ball of all trees. The Department of Inspections, during planting, may require that undesirable soil be removed and replaced with top soil.
 - n. Azaleas. Valdosta is known as the Azalea City; the use of azaleas where appropriate is encouraged.
 - o. Landscaping. Landscaping shall be designed to consider the long-term survivability of the plant material. Minimum spacing for all required plant material shall be 1/2 of mature width. The recommended source of plant dimensions is the current edition of "Manual of Woody Plants", by Michel Dirr.
2. Vehicular Use Area Landscape Requirements. The following landscaping standards shall apply to all interior or perimeter vehicular use areas:
- a. Tree, Shrub, and Ground Cover Selection and Minimum Size Requirements.
 - (1) All medium and large trees must be at least two and one-half (2.5) inches basal caliper and at least eight (8) feet in height; if container grown trees are used, they must be a minimum of twenty-five (25)

gallon size. If field-grown trees are used, sufficient root mass must be preserved to guarantee survival of trees.

- (2) All small trees planted must be at least two (2) inches basal caliper and at least six (6) feet in height, and a minimum fifteen (15) gallon container for container trees at the time of planting.
- (3) For multi-stemmed container trees, such as Crepe Myrtles and River Birch, the minimum size shall be twenty-five (25) gallon containers, and for all other multi-stemmed trees a minimum installation height of eight (8) feet is required. A minimum of 4 inch collective caliper is required for multi-stemmed trees.
- (4) Shrubs included in interior planting areas with a spreading growth habit must be a minimum of twelve (12) inches in height at the time of installation. Shrub species that have an upright growth habit must be at least eighteen (18) inches tall at the time of installation. The Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by Michael Dirr is the recommended source of information regarding growth habit. At least sixty percent (60%) of the shrubs must be three (3) gallon containers or larger. Shrubs shall be locally adapted species and shall be spaced according to growth habit. Not more than thirty (30) percent of the shrubs shall be deciduous species.
- (5) Ground cover other than lawn grass shall be placed eighteen (18) inches on center.
- (6) Ornamental grasses shall be a minimum of 12 inches tall at planting.
- (7) If the required number of trees cannot be planted on site, the caliper inch may be increased per tree to reduce the number of trees, but still achieve the same number of required caliper inches.

b. Interior Vehicular Use Area Minimum Landscape Requirement.

- (1) Minimum landscape requirements for interior vehicular use areas shall be: One (1) tree; five (5) shrubs, and a combination of ground cover, grass or mulch to cover barren areas for every twenty-one hundred (2,100) square feet of vehicular use areas or greater fraction thereof. All trees and shrub plantings may be spaced in any pattern so long as no parking space is located more than fifty (50) feet from the base of any canopy tree. The street yard or exterior canopy trees may be included when calculating the fifty (50) foot requirement for location of parking spaces. Interior planting areas shall be protected from vehicular encroachment by curbing or other barrier.

- (2) A variance from the fifty (50) foot spacing requirement for loading dock areas or heavy truck traffic areas and/or car display areas may be granted upon approval by the Inspections Department.
- (3) A minimum of 60% of all trees planted in the interior vehicular use areas shall be canopy trees. Canopy trees are identified in Appendix B and shall consist of all large trees and designated medium trees. (All trees have a minimum planting area as described in the General Requirements of the Landscape Standards.) If canopy trees cannot be planted due to overhead utility lines or if the site cannot accommodate additional canopy trees due to existing canopy trees (i.e. current growth form), small trees shall be planted to equal the same number of required caliper inches.
- (4) If the required number of trees cannot be planted on site, the caliper inch may be increased per tree to reduce the number of trees, but still achieve the required number of caliper inches.

c. Perimeter Area Minimum Landscape Requirement.

(1) Street Yard.

- (a) A landscaped street yard shall be required adjacent to all street rights-of-way. For property having more than one street front, a primary street yard shall be designated by the developer. The primary street yard shall be designated by the developer and shall be landscaped to the full requirements of this ordinance. The remaining street yard(s) shall meet landscape planting requirements at 75%. For all parcels developed greater than 1.1 acres and for outparcels, the primary street yard shall have a minimum width of ten (10) feet. All other street yards shall have a minimum width of six (6) feet. For parcels equal to or less than 1.1 acre, all street yards shall have a minimum width of six (6) feet. A minimum of three (3) trees and thirty (30) shrubs and a combination of grass, mulch or other ground cover to cover barren area shall be required every seventy-five (75) linear feet or primary street yard. All other street yards shall be planted with a minimum of two (2) trees, twenty-two (22) shrubs and a combination of grass, mulch or other ground cover to cover barren area for every seventy-five (75) linear foot. For property having less than seventy-five (75) feet of street yard, a minimum of three (3) trees and thirty (30) shrubs shall be required. The width of all street yards is measured from the right-of-way line to the nearest impervious

area.

- (b) All walkways constructed of impervious material shall be no less than four (4) feet from the trunk of any existing tree. The minimum distance shall be increased to eight (8) feet if the existing tree is a specimen tree.
- (c) Parcels greater than 1.1 acres and outparcels a minimum of sixty percent (60%) of all trees planted shall be large canopy trees whose growth form will provide shade. For parcels equal to or less than 1.1 acres (excluding outparcels), the total site shall contain sixty percent (60%) large canopy trees, but the percentage may be reduced for the street yard provided it does not reduce the required number of large canopy trees on site. Canopy trees are identified in Appendix A and consist of all large trees and designated medium trees. (All trees have a minimum planting area as described in General Requirements of Landscape Standards.)
- (d) All outparcels shall have the same minimum width on the street yard as the main parcels.
- (e) If the required number of trees cannot be planted on site, the caliper inch may be increased per tree to reduce the number of trees, but still achieve the same number of required caliper inches.

(2) Side and Rear Yard Areas.

- (a) All parcels greater than 1.1 acres and all outparcels, the side and rear yard areas shall have a minimum width of five (5) feet. Width is measured from property line to the nearest impervious area. A minimum of one (1) tree and a combination of ground cover shall be required in every fifty (50) lineal feet or greater fraction thereof on side and rear yards. Grouping trees together in clumps is preferred but not required. Side or rear yard areas may be used to meet the fifteen percent (15%) green space requirements or buffer, as long as compliance with the minimum side or rear yard landscape standards are met.
- (b) For parcels 1.1 acre or less, the side and rear yards shall have a minimum width of three (3) feet. A minimum of one tree every fifty (50) feet or greater fraction thereof is required. The width is measured from the right-of-way line to the

nearest impervious area. Grouping trees together in clumps is preferred but not required.

- (c) For property zoned so as to provide for zero lot lines, the side yard minimum is not required for the area of the building only. Zero lot lines shall not change the side yard calculations for plant material requirements. Developments with zero lot lines shall also comply with the fifteen percent (15%) of the total area green space requirements.
- (d) A minimum of sixty percent (60%) of all trees planted in side and rear yard areas shall be canopy trees whose growth will provide shade. Canopy trees are identified in Appendix A and consist of all large trees and designated medium trees. (All trees have a minimum planting area described in the General Requirements of the Landscape Standards.)
- (e) All outparcels shall have the same minimum width on the street yard as the main parcels.
- (f) If the required number of trees cannot be planted on site, the caliper inches may be increased per tree to reduce the number of trees, but still achieve the same number of required caliper inches.

(3) Residential Subdivision Requirements.

- (a) All residential subdivisions are required to have a landscaped street yard at the primary street entrance to the development. If there is more than one entrance, the developer shall designate the primary entrance. The street yard shall be landscaped the entire length of the property line fronting on a public street at a minimum width of ten(10) feet. The street entrance must be landscaped with a minimum of three (3) trees and thirty (30) shrubs per seventy-five (75) lineal feet. A combination of grass, mulch, or ground cover for bare areas shall be required. The width of the street entrance is measured from the right of way to the nearest impervious area. Existing trees that exceed 4" DBH can be used to meet minimum plant requirements. Specimen trees provide a credit based upon values stated in Appendices A & B toward the landscape requirement.
- (b) All residential subdivision developments must comply with the buffer requirements. (See Appendix "A" attached hereto,

Buffer Provisions of the Valdosta Zoning Ordinance.)

- (c) The rear property line of all residential lots shall be preserved green space and landscaped at a minimum width of ten (10) feet. The rear lot area landscaped shall have a minimum of one (1) tree per six hundred (600) square feet of preserved green space, or a minimum of two (2) trees per lot, whichever is greater. Preservation of existing trees that exceed four (4) inches DBH will result in one-for-one credit toward the landscape requirements. See Appendices A and B for credit ratios.
- (d) No final inspection shall be performed for any residential structure until the minimum landscape requirements have been met.
- (e) In all residential subdivision developments of fifty (50) or more lots or phases of developments of fifty (50) or more lots with a minimum lot size of ten thousand (10,000) square feet or less, the developer shall designate on the plat thereof one (1) lot as green space or open space to be landscaped in accordance with the green space development standards hereinafter stated.
- (f) Upon obtaining the written consent from the Inspections Department, the residential subdivision developer may, before or at the time fifty percent (50%) of the total number of lots have been sold, substitute a different lot within the subdivision as the designated green space lot, provided the substituted lot sacrifices the minimum square footage and landscape requirements set forth in this section. Upon substitution of the green space, a revised plat shall be prepared and recorded, along with any other documents necessary to effect such change at the expense of the developer.

(4) Green Space Development Standards.

- (a) The green space must be landscaped no later than at the time of fifty percent (50%) of the designated lots in the subdivision have been sold.
- (b) The green space must be landscaped at a minimum of one (1) tree per six hundred (600) square feet.

- (c) The specimen tree provisions of this ordinance shall apply to residential subdivisions for the street yard only.
- (d) Trees required to be planted in the green space must meet the minimum size of 2.5 inches basal caliper or, if containerized, a minimum container size of twenty-five (25) gallons.
- (e) The developer may petition Mayor and Council to accept the green space area required hereinabove as a community park or playground. Mayor and Council may, in its discretion, accept said property as part of the City Parks and Recreation Facility.

D. Tree and Protected Zone Preservation Standards.

1. City Arborist.

The City Arborist in reviewing the site development plans shall verify that trees and vegetation in protected zones intended to be preserved are retained within the protected areas so as to eliminate the following:

- a. Soil compaction in the critical root zone areas resulting from heavy equipment, vehicular or excessive pedestrian traffic or storage of equipment or building materials.
- b. Root disturbance due to cuts, fills or trenching.
- c. Wounds to exposed roots, trunks or limbs by mechanical equipment.
- d. Any other activity which may endanger trees or vegetation.

2. Preservation Standards.

- a. Trees, groups of trees, or protected zones to be preserved shall be protected during development or construction by completely surrounding the critical root zone of all trees to be preserved with appropriate materials.
- b. No construction or soil disturbance shall occur within a tree's drip line unless protective measures to insure the protection of the tree or trees are detailed in the Landscape Plan and approved by the City Arborist.
- c. The Landscape Plans shall indicate what tree protection devices are to be used. Active tree protection devices are required where trees or protected zones are located in close proximity to construction activity.
- d. Trees intended to be preserved but which are removed during construction

shall be replaced prior to occupancy according to the standards of this ordinance.

- e. The location of all tree protection devices will be verified by the Inspections Department before any construction activity occurs on the site. Any change in Protected Zones must be reviewed and approved by the Department of Inspections.

3. Materials.

- a. Active tree protection shall be in work zone areas. Active Tree Protection shall consist of chain link, orange laminated plastic, wooden post and/or rail fencing or other equivalent restraining material.
- b. Passive tree protection shall be used in areas adjacent to, but not a part of the work zone. Passive protection shall consist of heavy grade plastic flagging, a minimum of four (4) inches wide with dark lettering on bright background reading "Tree Protection Area - Do Not Enter " or equivalent signage on a continuous, durable restraint.

4. Installation and Removal.

- a. All tree protection devices shall be installed prior to any clearing, grubbing or grading.
- b. The Department of Inspections shall inspect and approve the installation of protection control devices before a land disturbance permit is issued.
- c. Tree protection shall remain in functional condition throughout all phases of development.

5. Other Specifications.

- a. Clearing. Where clearing has been approved, all trees shall be removed in a manner which does not adversely impact preserved trees. No felling of trees into protection zones or disturbance of roots inside the protection zones is permitted.
- b. Erosion and Sedimentation Control. All erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be installed in a manner which will not result in the accumulation of sediment in a tree protection zone.
- c. Signage. All tree protection zones shall be designated as such with "Tree Save Area" signs posted visibly at intervals along the perimeter of the fenced in area during construction.

d. Tunneling. All boring under the tree protection zone shall be a minimum of thirty-six (36) inches deep on center and shall begin before the critical root zone and end beyond the critical root zone or drip line, whichever is greater.

e. Trenching. All trenching shall meet the following specifications:

- (1) All crushed or torn roots shall be cleaved back to good wood and a sharp clean cut made to promote re-growth.
- (2) All work in the area and foot traffic should be on the farthest side of the trench away from trees.
- (3) All exposed root ends shall be kept moist.
- (4) If trenching causes the death of a tree to be preserved, the tree shall be replaced prior to occupancy according to the standards of this ordinance.

f. Pruning. The following tree pruning is recommended and is in accordance with ANSI (American National Safety Institute) A300 - 1995 Standard Practices for Tree Care Operations (a copy is on file in the office of the City Arborist) for trees, shrubs, and other woody plant maintenance:

- (1) All pruning shall start beyond the branch collar of the tree.
- (2) Pruning shall be done so as to remove branch weight as much as possible before final cut to prevent tearing of bark and cambium.
- (3) In all pruning, the branch collar, part of the trunk, shall remain intact and uninjured.

Refer to the "Manual of Woody Plants" by Michael Dirr as the recommended source for proper growth habit for each species.

g. Safety. All tree care operations shall comply with ANSI (American National Safety Institute) Z133.1 - 1994 Safety Requirements for Pruning, Trimming, Repairing, Maintaining, and Removing Trees and Cutting Brush.

E. Outdoor Storage/Utility Service Screening Standards.

1. All outdoor storage with a lineal dimension of fifteen (15) feet or greater, or any dumpster type refuse container with a lineal dimension of five (5) feet or greater which is not screened by a building or other structure shall be screened from view from street rights-of-way for the entire length of the structure, except for necessary access. All utility service areas within one hundred (100) feet of right-of-way shall

be screened from public rights-of-way. Screening for both outdoor storage areas and utility service areas shall be as follows:

2. Evergreen plants shall have a minimum installation height of thirty six (36) inches, spaced three (3) feet on center and be expected to reach a minimum height of 6 ft. within 3 years.
3. Fences or walls shall be constructed of a compatible material with that of the principal building of masonry, stone or wood and of a height and width equal to or greater than the utility service structure to be screened. One third of fences or walls must be screened with plants within three (3) years, after year of planting.
4. No screening shall be installed which would impair the safe operation, maintenance or function of the utility service equipment.

F. Surface Water Retention and Detention Basins.

1. Surface water retention and Detention Basins designed to handle surface water runoff and overflow are recommended to be constructed so as to appear natural in appearance. In the case of a retention pond, landscaping must be provided at or immediately above the high water mark consistent with the interior vehicular area use standards. Trees specified to be planted below the high watermark of a retention pond shall be suitable for wet conditions. Trees should be located so as to integrate into the surrounding landscape. Where surface water retention and detention basins are to be considered as part of the fifteen percent (15) Green Space requirements, all trees must be planted at a density of 1 tree per 600 square feet, except in residential developments.

G. Land Disturbance Permit for Site Development.

1. A Land Disturbance Permit for site development is required for parcels 1.1 acre or greater and shall be obtained only after the approval of and issuance of a Tree Removal permit as required by this chapter.
2. The applicant is required to insure that the Land Disturbance Permit and Tree Removal Permits are obtained in the name of the owner of the project and displayed on the site prior to any land disturbance activity and is required to insure that all contractors and workers are in compliance with the tree and protected zone preservation standards stated herein.

H. Tree Removal Permit for Specimen and Canopy Trees.

1. Permit Procedure. Permits for removal of specimen or canopy trees shall be obtained by making written application on the form prescribed by Mayor and Council to the office of inspections.

2. Identification of Specimen Trees. Specimen trees are those trees which warrant special consideration and encouragement for preservation. Specimen trees may be designated for preservation because of rarity, aesthetic value, historical value, botanical importance, and importance to overall community planning or size. The size or condition of trees will be evaluated by the City Arborist to determine if they qualify as specimen trees based upon the following criteria:

a. Size Criteria.

- (1) All canopy trees: 16" DBH or larger
- (2) Longleaf and Spruce Pine: 10" DBH or larger
- (3) Live Oak and Magnolia grandiflora: 14" DBH or larger
- (4) Small species: 6" DBH or larger
- (5) Refer to Appendices A&B for a list of small and canopy trees.

b. Condition Criteria. All trees must be relatively sound and have a solid trunk. No major insect or pathological problems. Trees which face imminent death within two (2) years based upon the judgment of the City Arborist may be disqualified as specimen trees.

c. Preservation of Specimen and Canopy Trees. Preservation of specimen and canopy trees shall be given special consideration in the preparation of site development plans. It is the desire of the city to preserve all existing trees wherever possible in development. Preserved specimen and canopy trees may be used in minimum landscape or buffer requirements in accordance with values found in the Appendices A and B. Any preserved specimen tree greater than 48" DBH shall receive a 5 to 1 credit. All replacement trees shall be planted in accordance with size standards set forth in this ordinance. See appendices A and B for replacement value.

d. Removal and Replacement of Specimen Trees.

- (1) Where application is made for removal of a specimen tree, a plan or written documentation indicating the reason for the removal must be submitted and approved by the City Arborist/ Director of Inspections or their designee.
- (2) The replacement value of specimen trees will be in accordance with the species values stated in Appendices A and B.
- (3) Replacement trees shall be planted on site, if the site can

accommodate trees above the required minimum specifications. In the event replacement trees cannot be planted on site, the canopy and specimen trees will be valued and funds placed in the Tree Bank established under this chapter at the rate of \$50.00 per diameter inch DBH. Funds in the Tree Bank shall be used to install trees on public property, entrances to the city, or other approved property. All projects shall be approved by the Valdosta Tree Commission.

- (4) Where payment to the Tree Bank is required under subsection (3) above, the developer may plant trees larger than the minimum requirement and shall be entitled to a credit of fifty (50) Dollars per inch above the minimum inch requirements.
- (5) Removal of specimen trees from property currently not being developed also has replacement requirements. Replacement canopy trees shall have a minimum basal caliper 2.5", and small trees shall have a minimum basal caliper of 2". All removed trees that cannot be replanted on site shall be valued in accordance with the species values stated in Appendices A & B.

Example: A Live Oak has a value of 3. Removal of this tree would require planting 3, 2.5" basal caliper trees. (See item 6 to follow).

- (6) Specimen trees must be replaced by the same species or a species having the potential for comparable size, quality, and longevity.
- (7) No specimen tree or canopy tree which overhangs any public right of way shall be removed without first obtaining a tree removal permit.

I. Tree Bank.

1. Tree Bank Fund. There is hereby established by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Valdosta a separate fund to be known and designated as the Tree Bank. Funds herein provided shall be accumulated in said fund and used for the planting and installation of trees on public property, parks, and other approved property within the City. All projects for planting shall be approved by the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Section 9-4006. Continuing Compliance.

A. Compliance Review.

All developments are to be reviewed every year for a period of five (5) years to insure continuing compliance with the landscape permit and to determine and to establish that all plants are thriving and healthy. The owner of the property shall be responsible for

continuing maintenance and shall be notified by the Department of Inspections of any missing or dead plants that need replacement. Replacement will be required if the existing remaining plants or inventory of trees falls below the minimum landscape requirements.

Section 9-4007. Enforcement.

A. Enforcement Authority.

1. The Department of Inspections, the City Marshal with the assistance of the City Arborist or their designee shall be charged with the enforcement of this chapter.

B. Enforcement Procedures.

1. Routine Inspections. The following inspections shall be conducted in conjunction with all development activities under this chapter:
 - a. Initial Inspections. Any inspection by the City Arborist and/or the Director of Inspections or their designee shall be conducted prior to approval of any permit application.
 - b. Vegetation Protection Inspection. An inspection by the City Arborist will be conducted to ensure proper installation of tree and vegetation protection devices before site disturbance. (See Tree and Protected Zone Preservation Standards.)
 - c. Final Inspection, Notice of Completion and Certificate of Occupancy. This inspection shall occur when all development activities permitted for the site have been completed. No certificate of occupancy shall be issued, nor any building or premises occupied, unless and until final inspection reveals that all work has been installed in accordance with the approved permit and tree protection or removal activity has been carried out according to the approved permit and plan.
 - d. Inspection for Performance Bond and Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. In the event that there is a delay in complying with the approved permits and plans by final inspection, the owner will be required to secure a performance bond or other securities in the amount of no less than 110% of the cost of the non-constructed improvements. A temporary certificate of occupancy may be issued where a performance bond has been approved, provided that such bonded uncompleted improvements are satisfactorily installed within a reasonable length of time as specified by the Valdosta City Landscape Inspector not to exceed three (3) months. After improvements are completed and approved, a permanent certificate of occupancy will be issued after a final inspection by the Department of Inspections.

2. Notification of Violations.

- a. Where it is determined that a violation of this chapter has occurred, the City shall give written notice of the violation to the occupant, applicant, and or the owner shown on the most recent tax roll of the City. Said written notice shall include, but not be limited to:
- (1) A description of the location of the property involved, either by street address or by legal description.
 - (2) A statement indicating the nature of the violations.
 - (3) A statement showing the time within which all necessary remedial action must be accompanied which time may not be less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty (60) days from the date of said written notice.
 - (4) The name of the person(s) upon whom the notice of violation is served.
 - (5) A statement advising that upon failure to comply with the requirements of the notice the Valdosta City Landscape Inspector and/or City Marshall shall take such enforcement procedures as may be required under this notice.
 - (6) Written notice required above shall be served upon the person violating this ordinance and the person owning this land by either personal delivery or Certified mail.

3. Stop Work Order

- a. Warranting Circumstances. The Director of Inspections upon the recommendation and advice of the City Arborist and/or the Landscaping Inspector can request issuance of a Stop Work Order in any of the following circumstances:
- (1) When development is being implemented without approved permits;
 - (2) When ongoing non-complying work is not immediately and permanently stopped upon receipt of a written or oral Notice of Violation;
 - (3) Upon failure to post all required and approved permits under this chapter;

(4) The Director of Inspections or the City Marshall shall have the authority to issue a Stop Work Order.

- b. Failure to Comply After Notice of Violation or Stop Work Order. Where work or development continues after issuance of a stop work order, the Director of Inspections may initiate any appropriate act or legal action authorized by law.
- c. Notice of Compliance. Upon satisfactory completion of corrective action required by a notice of violation or stop work order, the Director of Inspections or his designee shall issue a notice of compliance and allow the work to continue.

Section 9-4008. General Section - Appeal.

A. Filing of an Appeal.

In the event any person is dissatisfied with the decisions of the Office of Inspections adversely affecting such person involving the application of this chapter may, within thirty (30) days of the decision for which the appeal is taken, file an appeal with the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall hear the appeal and render a written opinion regarding the decision of the City Office of Inspections. Appeals from the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals must be made in accordance with the applicable state law.

Section 9-4009. Violations and Penalties.

A. Offenses.

1. The following shall constitute offenses punishable in the Municipal Court of the City:
 - a. It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to remove or destroy a tree without first obtaining a permit where applicable. The removal or destruction of each tree shall constitute a separate offense under this chapter.
 - b. It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to commence construction or development without first obtaining a land disturbance permit, and/or tree removal permit, where applicable. Each day said development or construction continues without obtaining a permit shall constitute a separate offense.
 - c. It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to fail to protect and preserve trees designated for preservation during development. Each day said failure to protect said designated trees continues shall constitute a separate offense.

- d. It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to fail to replace any dead plants or trees after sixty (60) days written notice to replace said plants or trees. Each day that said party fails to replace said dead plants or trees after said notice shall constitute a separate offense.
- e. The violation of any other provision or requirement of this chapter shall constitute a violation punishable in the Municipal Court of the City of Valdosta.

Section 9-4010. Permit Exemptions.

A. Exemptions.

1. In the event any tree is damaged by a wind storm or any other act of God, or shall be in a hazardous or dangerous condition so as to endanger the public health, welfare or safety and require immediate removal without delay, the same shall be removed without obtaining a permit as herein required.
2. During any period of emergency, such as tornado, hurricane, flood, or any other act of nature, the requirements of this chapter may be waived by Mayor and Council or their designee.
3. The pruning or trimming of trees for beautification purposes or for removal of dead or diseased limbs shall be exempt. Also, the pruning or trimming of trees, as part of normal maintenance, or public utilities maintaining lines and easements within the City shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter; however, all public utilities holding easements within the City shall give notice at least three (3) days in advance when pruning or trimming of easements and rights-of-ways is done. All trimming and pruning shall be done prudently so as to maintain the natural shape and beauty of all plants and trees.

SO ORDAINED, this 7th day of April, 2005

John J. Fretti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa S. Bolden
Clerk of Council

APPENDIX A

SMALL TREES

Small Trees
15'-30' in Height at Maturity

Credit	Botanical Name	Evergreen (E) Deciduous (D)	Habit or Growth Form
	Common Name		
1	<i>Acer buergeranum</i> Trident Maple	D Yellow-red fall color	Oval – rounded
2	<i>Acer palmatum</i> ² Japanese Maple	D Bronze-purple fall color	Oval – rounded
1	<i>Butia capitata</i> Pindo Palm	E Long arching fronds	Columnar
1	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> ^{1,2} Eastern Rebud	D Flowers before leaves appear	Irregular crown
1	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> ¹ Fringe Tree	D Flowers before leaves appear	Open-rounded crown
2	<i>Cornus florida</i> ^{1,2} Flowering Dogwood	D Flowers before leaves appear	Spreading layered crown
1	<i>Crataegus uniflora</i> ¹ Hawthorn	D Thorny branches	Irregular crown
1	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> Loquat	E Large edible fruits	Rounded crown
2	<i>Halesia diptera</i> ¹ <i>Halesia diptera</i> var. <i>magniflora</i> Two-wing Silverbell	D Showy white flowers	Irregular crown

Small Trees
15'-30' in Height at Maturity

Credit	Botanical Name	Evergreen (E) Deciduous (D)	Habit or Growth Form
	Common Name		
2	<i>Halesia carolina</i> ¹ Carolina Silverbell	D Showy white flowers	Irregular crown
1	<i>Ilex latifolia</i> Lusterleaf holly	E Large leaves, bold texture	Irregular crown
1	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> ¹ Yaupon Holly	E Small, spineless leaves	Irregular crown Tree form only
1	<i>Ilex X attenuata</i> ² Foster, Savannah, and Nellie R. Stevens	E Abundant red berries in fall	Densely pyramidal Tree form only
1	<i>Illicium parviflorum</i> ¹ Star Anise	E Tolerates wet sites, good dense hedge	Irregular Crown Tree form only
1	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> ² Crape Myrtle	D Showy flowers in summer	Irregular Crown

Small Trees
15'-30' in Height at Maturity

Credit	Botanical Name Common Name	Evergreen (E) Deciduous (D)	Habit or Growth Form
1	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Little Gem'	E Early flowering, small leaves, dwarf growth	Multistem, shrub-like
1	<i>Magnolia X soulangeana</i> ² Japanese Saucer Magnolia	D Large flowers before leaves	Low branched, irregular crown
2	<i>Malus species</i> ² Flowering Crabapples	D Profusion of fragrant, showy flowers	Rounded crown
1	<i>Myrica cerifera</i> ¹ Wax Myrtle or Bayberry	E	Tree form only
1	<i>Osmanthus americanus</i> ¹ Wild Olive	E Flowers fragrant, early	Irregular crown
2	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> ¹ Eastern Hornbeam	D Exfoliating bark	Graceful, rounded crown
.5	<i>Prunus campanulata</i> 'Okame' or other varieties Flowering Cherry	D Profusion of showy flowers	Elliptic-rounded crown
.5	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> ² 'Aristocrat'	D Good fall color	Pyramidal when young
1	<i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i> ¹ Needle palm	E Good native plant, most cold hardy	Shrub – like palm

Small Trees
15'-30' in Height at Maturity

Credit	Botanical Name	Evergreen (E)	Habit or Growth Form
	Common Name	Deciduous (D)	
1	<i>Sabal palmetto</i> ¹	E	Columnar
	Cabbage or Sabal Palm	Tight clustered fan- shaped fronds	
1	<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	E	Columnar
	Windmill Palm	Good palm form small gardens and courtyards	

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Weatherly, F. Neal, Jr., Hudson, Horace E., Gibson, John D., and Coder, Kim D. 1989. *Treescape: A Citizen's Guide to Urban Tree Planting*. Georgia Cooperative Extension Service Bulletin 853. University of Georgia College of Agriculture, Athens.

APPENDIX B

CANOPY TREES

CANOPY TREES
30-45 Feet in Height at Maturity

Credit	Botanical Name	Evergreen (E)	Habit or Growth Form
	Common Name	Deciduous (D)	
1	<i>Acer barbatum</i> ¹ Florida Maple	D Dead leaves persist into water	Elliptic-rounded, canopy trees
1	<i>Acer rubrum</i> ^{1,2} Red Maple	D Yellow-red fall color	Pyramidal-elliptic crown
1	<i>Acer saccharinum</i> Silver Maple	D Brittle; weak Wood	See Red Maple
1	<i>Betula nigra</i> ¹ River Birch	D Good bark texture	Pyramidal with delicate branching, canopy tree
.5	<i>Carya illinoensis</i> Pecan	D Brittle, weak wood	Open, irregular crown
2	<i>Carya glabra</i> ¹ Pignut Hickory	D Shade Tolerant	Open, oval crown Canopy tree
2	<i>Carya tomentosa</i> ¹ Mockernut Hickory	D Prefers full sun	Open, oval crown Canopy tree
.5	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> ¹ Southern Catalpa	D Purple flowers in spring	Open oval crown
1	<i>Celtis laevigata</i> ¹ Sugarberry	D Tolerates drought	Spreading crown Canopy tree
.5	<i>Cunninghamia lanceolata</i> China-fir	E Stiff needle-like foliage	Pyramidal Canopy tree
1	<i>Cupressus glabra</i> Arizona-cypress	E Gray-green-scale-like foliage	Pyramidal
2	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> ¹ American Beech	D Yellow-brown fall color	Stately wide spreading crown Canopy tree

CANOPY TREES
30-45 Feet in Height at Maturity

Credit	Botanical Name	Evergreen (E)	Habit or Growth Form
	Common Name	Deciduous (D)	
1	<i>Fraxinus americana</i> ^{1,2} White Ash	D Very adaptable	Irregular crown Canopy tree
1	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> ^{1,2} Green Ash	D Very daptable	Irregular crown Canopy tree
2	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> ² Maidenhair Tree	D Yellow fall color, drops leaves quickly	Open pyramidal
1	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> ¹ Honey Locust	D Thorny branches, thornless cultivars	Open spreading crown
1	<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i> ¹ Loblolly-bay	E Tolerates wet sites	Pyramidal, canopy tree
1	<i>Ilex opaca</i> ^{1,2} American Holly	E Cultivars highly variable	Pyramidal-elliptic crown
1	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> ^{1,2} Eastern Red Cedar	E Tolerates adverse conditions	Densely pyramidal
1	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> Golden Raintree	D Showy yellow flowers in summer followed by pink seed capsules	Rounded crown, canopy tree
1	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> ¹ American Sweetgum	D Five-lobed leaves, good fall color	Pyramidal when young Canopy tree
2	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> ¹ Yellow Poplar	D Showy, tulip-like flowers	Pyramidal when young, overtops Canopy trees
1	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> ^{1,2} Southern Magnolia	E Showy, fragrant flowers	Densely pyramidal crown
1	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> ¹ Sweetbay Magnolia	E Showy, fragrant flowers Tolerant of wet soils	Narrowly pyramidal crown

CANOPY TREES
30-45 Feet in Height at Maturity

1	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> Dawn Redwood	D Red-brown fall color	Pyramidal when young, overtops Canopy tree
Credit	Botanical Name Common Name	Evergreen (E) Deciduous (D)	Habit or Growth Form
2	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> ¹ Blackgum	D Tolerates drier sites	Tapering-rounded crown Canopy tree
1	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> ¹ Sourwood	D Summer flowering, red-purple fall color	Pyramidal
1	<i>Pinus echinata</i> ¹ Shortleaf Pine	E Persistent cones	Open pyramidal
1	<i>Pinus elliottii</i> ¹ Slash Pine	E Sheds cones yearly	Pyramidal when young, overtops Canopy tree
1	<i>Pinus glabra</i> ¹ Spruce Pine	E Persistent cones	Pyramidal when young, overtops Canopy tree
2	<i>Pinus palustris</i> ¹ Longleaf Pine	E Sheds cones yearly	Open sparsely branched Canopy tree
1	<i>Pinus taeda</i> ¹ Loblolly Pine	E Persistent cones	Pyramidal when young, overtops Canopy tree
1	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> Chinese Pistachio	D Orange-crimson fall color	Oval-rounded crowns
1	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> ¹ Sycamore	D Susceptible to blight	Irregular, open crown Canopy tree
1	<i>Populus deltoides</i> ¹ Eastern Cottonwood	D Tolerates moist conditions	Pyramidal when young

1 - Native Species 2- Many Cultivars are available locally, adapted ones should be planted Appendix A Page 1

CANOPY TREES
30-45 Feet in Height at Maturity

Credit	Botanical Name	Evergreen (E)	Habit or Growth Form
	Common Name	Deciduous (D)	
2	<i>Quercus alba</i> ¹ White Oak	D Stately, doesn't tolerate	Pyramidal when young, overtops Canopy tree
2	<i>Quercus hemisphaerica</i> ¹ Laurel Oak	D Tolerates dry conditions	Broad oval crown Canopy tree
1	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i> ¹ Diamondleaf Oak	E Not long-lived	Spreading crown Canopy tree
2	<i>Quercus lyrata</i> ¹ Overcup Oak	D Tolerates flooding	Canopy tree
2	<i>Quercus michauxii</i> ¹ Swamp Chestnut Oak	D Stately with large lobed	Oval-rounded leaves Canopy tree
.5	<i>Quercus nigra</i> Water Oak	D Older trees have very weak wood	Canopy tree
2	<i>Quercus phellos</i> ¹ Willow Oak	D Narrow fine-textured leaves	Pyramidal when young, overtops Canopy tree
2	<i>Quercus shumardii</i> ¹ Shumard Oak	D Large toothed leaves	Spreading crown Canopy tree
1	<i>Quercus stellata</i> ¹ Post Oak	D Coarse lobed leaves	Spreading crown Canopy tree
1	<i>Quercus velutina</i> ¹ Black Oak	D Tolerates clay soils	Spreading crown Canopy tree
3	<i>Quercus virginiana</i> ¹ Live Oak	E Short trunk, needs plenty room	Spreading crown Canopy tree

CANOPY TREES
30-45 Feet in Height at Maturity

Credit	Botanical Name	Evergreen (E)	Habit or Growth Form
	Common Name	Deciduous (D)	
1	<i>Salix babylonica</i> Weeping Willow	D Prefers moist sites	Rounded with drooping branches
1	<i>Sassafras albidum</i> ¹ Sassafras	D Good fall color, root sprouts	Irregular crown
1	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i> ¹ <i>Taxodium distichum</i> var. <i>imbricarium</i> Pond Cypress	D Tolerates upland sites, cinnamon fall color	Pyramidal when young, overtops Canopy tree
1	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> ¹ <i>Taxodium distichum</i> var. <i>distichum</i> Bald Cypress	D Tolerates upland sites, Cinnamon fall color	Pyramidal when young, overtops Canopy tree
1	<i>Ulmus alata</i> ¹ Winged Elm	D Twigs with flat corky extensions	Weakly pyramidal crown
1	<i>Ulmus americana</i> ¹ American Elm	D Select cultivars resistant to disease	Spreading-rounded crown Canopy tree
1	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Ailee' Ailee Elm	D Interesting, exfoliating bark, good Chinese elm	Vase like, upright, canopy tree
1	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> Bosque Elm	D Exfoliating Bark	Form Similar to Red Maple
1	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Athena', Chinese Elm	D Interesting, exfoliating bark	Rounded crown
1	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Drake' Drake Elm	D Exfoliating bark, width and height about equal	Rounded crown, canopy tree

CANOPY TREES
30-45 Feet in Height at Maturity

REFERENCES:

Dirr, Michael A. 1983. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. Stipes Publishing Company, Champaign.

Godfrey, Robert K. 1988. *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Florida and Adjacent Georgia and Alabama*. University of Georgia Press, Athens.

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APPENDIX C

**CANOPY TREES
PERMITTED
WITHIN 20 - 30
FEET OF
OVERHEAD
UTILITY LINES**

CANOPY TREES PERMITTED

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Burch
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	Arizona-Cypress
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Blackgum
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood
<i>Pinus echinata</i>	Shortleaf Pine
<i>Pinus elliottii</i>	Slash Pine
<i>Pinus glabra</i>	Spruce Pine
<i>Pinus palustris</i>	Longleaf Pine
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly Pine
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistachio
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Common Sassafras
<i>Taxodium ascendens</i> [<i>Taxodium distichum</i> var. <i>imbricarium</i>]	Pond Cypress
<i>Taxodium distichum</i> [<i>Taxodium distichum</i> var. <i>distichum</i>]	Bald Cypress

REFERENCES:

Dirr, Michael A. 1983. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. Stipes Publishing Company, Champaign.

CANOPY TREES PERMITTED

Godfrey, Robert K. 1988. *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Florida and Adjacent Georgia and Alabama*. University of Georgia Press, Athens.

Martin, Edward C., Jr. 1983. *A Photographic Guide Landscape Plants in Design*. AVI Publishing Company, Westport.

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APPENDIX D

PROHIBITED PLANTS

Appendix D - Prohibited Plants

Prohibited Plants. Certain exotic plant species are known to be invasive, displacing native vegetation and diminishing biodiversity and the quality of habitat for variety of life forms, including songbirds and other animals. The exotic plant pest species listed in Appendix D are prohibited and their eradication is to be encouraged.

Appendix D. Exotic pest plants in Georgia, based upon lists of the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council.

Top ten exotic pest plants in Georgia.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i> (Lour.) Merr.
Chinese privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> Lour.
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> Thunb.
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> (L. f.) Royle
Chinese tallow tree	<i>Triadica sebifera</i> (L.) Small [<i>Sapium sebiferum</i> (L.) Roxb.]
Nepalese browntop	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> (Trin.) A. Camus
Bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i> Carr. ex A. & C. Rivière
Autumn olive (silverberry)	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> Thunb.
Chinese wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> (Sims) DC.
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i> Durazz.

Other Important Exotic Pest Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name
Alligatorweed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>
Benghal dayflower	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>
Bermudagrass, common	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>
cogongrass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i>
Chinese silvergrass (zebragrass)	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>
Common broomrape	<i>Orobanche minor</i>
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
French tamarix (salt-cedar)	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>
Giant reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Itchgrass	<i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i>
Japanese climbing fern	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Lespedeza, bicolor	<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>
Lespedeza, sericea	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>

Appendix D - Prohibited Plants

Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Nandina	<i>Nandina domestica</i>
Parrotfeather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
Phragmites (common reed)	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Paulownia (Princess-tree, Empress-tree)	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>
Privet, Waxleaf	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>
Queen Anne's Lace (Wild carrot)	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Rattlebush (rattlebox)	<i>Sesbania punicea</i>
Salvinia, giant	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
Salvinia, ??	<i>Salvinia auriculata</i>
Salvinia, ??	<i>Salvinia biloba</i>
Salvinia, ??	<i>Salvinia herzogii</i>
Tall fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>
Tall vervain	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>
Torpedograss	<i>Panicum repens</i>
Tropical soda apple	<i>Solanum viarum</i>
Water hyacinth	<i>Eichornia crassipes</i>
Wintercreeper	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>

References:

<http://www.gaeppc.org/exotalk1.html>
<http://www.gaeppc.org/moreinfo.html>



CITY OF VALDOSTA TREE PERMIT

Date _____

SITE ADDRESS: _____

APPLICANT:

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Address _____

_____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code

PROPERTY OWNER:

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Address _____

_____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code

TENANT: (If Applicable)

Name _____

Type of Tree	# of Trees	Removal Requested		Reason
		Yes	No	

COMMENTS: _____

City Arborist _____ Date _____
Parks/Recreation Department (912-259-3507)

Administrative Assistant _____ Date _____
Building Inspections Department (912-259-3506)