

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING POLICY

CITY OF CHAMBLEE
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

[3506 BROAD STREET]
[CHAMBLEE, GA 30341]

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for maintaining landscapes on City property, keeping environmentally sensitive practices in mind as part of an ongoing effort to reduce the effects of landscaping maintenance through responsible irrigation and product selection. This document will clarify our policy to use environmentally responsible irrigation practices, drought tolerant plant selection, and chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Irrigating with potable water causes unnecessary stresses on the water system, public infrastructure, and ecosystems. Fresh water is a scarce resource, so it is important to find ways to mitigate consumption. The use of native and drought-tolerant plants facilitates less water consumption. Additionally, water from potable irrigation systems alters the natural state of resources on the site by introducing elements that were not previously present in the ecosystem.

This policy establishes standards of no net loss in canopy coverage on city-owned property. Furthermore, this policy reinforces the City's commitment to environmental, economic, and social stewardship. By incorporating environmental considerations into public use of resources, the City of Chamblee will positively impact human health and the environment, reduce costs and improve the environmental quality of the region.

DEFINITIONS

When used in this policy, the following words, terms and phrases, and their derivations shall be the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

AGENT means an official contracted or subcontracted person who is authorized to act on behalf of the City of Chamblee and represent their interests.

CITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR means the Development Director or other employee or agent as designated by the City Manager

CITY LANDSCAPE COORDINATOR means the Development Director or designee of the City of Chamblee having primary enforcement responsibilities under this policy, and charged with the responsibility for approval of all tree removals and tree replacements in the City of Chamblee required pursuant to this policy.

EMPLOYEE means an individual drawing a salary or wage from the City, whether on a full-time, part-time basis or contractual third-party. The term shall encompass all members of the City without regard to whether or not such individual is compensated.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT means the sustainable process for pest control that involves setting action thresholds, monitoring and identifying pests, utilizing prevention methods, and using pesticides judiciously.

OFFICIAL means any elected or appointed person who holds office or serves in a position of public capacity.

SCOPE

The scope of this Landscaping Policy covers all City-owned property, including parks, right-of-ways, and other landscaped areas. The policy specifies maintenance guidelines, installation practices, and design standards to establish procedures so that the City may become and remain a responsible steward of public property.

The following establishes maintenance guidelines and installation practices to be performed by all City employees, officials, or their agents that identify appropriate procedures in accordance with sustainable and environmentally sensitive standards:

1. Use integrated pest management to minimize adverse environmental impact;
2. Minimize the use of pesticides by planting native plant species that are more resistant to pests. Regional plants also are more sustainable because they are adapted to the average rainfall and are less likely to require irrigated water;
3. Group plants with similar water needs, and position them in appropriate habitat conditions, paying attention to sun exposure, soil conditions, size of planting area, and slope of the ground;
4. Sustain a mulch covering of at least two inches in planted beds and tree saucers in order to protect soil;
5. Strive to produce and install mulch and compost from plant debris located on-site;
6. Limit the disturbance of existing vegetation and topography when installing new landscaping because those plants have root systems that are more sustainable and require less maintenance;
7. Select regionally adapted turf species to minimize irrigation requirements, maintain at a clear distance from trees to prevent weed-eater damage to the tree, and attempt to minimize turf area to reduce watering requirements;
8. Develop an irrigation plan that distributes the appropriate amount of water to each established zone, and inspect the system annually to confirm efficiency;
9. Hire landscaping companies that are experienced in environmentally sustainable landscaping practices and trained in the execution and administration of Integrated Pest Management.

RESPONSIBILITY

As the steward of the City's sustainability program, the Development Director shall have the following duties and powers in regards to the No Net Loss of Trees Policy.

The City Landscape Coordinator has primary enforcement responsibilities for this policy and is charged with the responsibility for approval of all tree removal and tree replacement plans for public property in the City of Chamblee required pursuant to this policy.

1. Work with all City Department Heads to make certain that this document is being followed in the care and maintenance of City property and in the selection of third-party vendors.
2. Work with all City Department Heads to make certain that employees are aware and educated about the Sustainable Landscaping Policy.