

***ADOPTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO
THE PUBLIC FACILITIES MANUAL
OF THE COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA***

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, held in the Board Auditorium, Lobby Level, Government Center Building, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia, on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, the Board after having first given notice of its intention so to do, in the manner prescribed by law, adopted an amendment to the Public Facilities Manual of the County of Fairfax, Virginia, said amendment so adopted being in the words and figures following, to-wit:

***BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY,
VIRGINIA:***

That the Public Facilities Manual of the County of Fairfax, Virginia, is amended, as follows:

Amend Article 12-0300 (TREE CONSERVATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS), Section 12-0310 (10-year Tree Canopy Requirements), Subsection 12-0310.4 (Planting Trees for 10-year Tree Canopy Credit) by revising subparagraph B(5) and adding new paragraph F to read as follows:

(5) Native Trees. A multiplier of 1.5 times the 10-year Tree Canopy credit listed in Table 12.14 may be applied to the canopy area of native tree species identified in the “Native” column of Table 12.14 that will be planted in nursery stock sizes. ~~For purposes of administering this Chapter, a “native tree species” is defined as a tree species that the Director determines to be indigenous to any of the forest or woodland communities that were likely present in Fairfax County immediately before European settlement of Virginia. Native species are those known to occur naturally (i.e., not assisted by human movement) in Fairfax County as indicated in the [Digital Atlas of Virginia Flora](#).~~

F. Credit for RPA Establishment, Restoration, and Mitigation Plantings

The surface area associated with plantings under § 12-0316.4 may be used to meet 10-year Tree Canopy requirements when being planted to offset allowable disturbances to RPAs. The 10-year Tree Canopy credit area allowed is the ground surface area of the planting.

Amend Article 12-0300 (TREE CONSERVATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS), Section 12-0316 (Requirements and Specifications for Replacement Trees and/or Vegetation), by revising Table 12.13 to read as follows:

Table 12.13A Replanting of Temporary Use and Resource Protection (RPA) Areas				
Area Type	Trees 1.5 inches in caliper or greater	Shrubs 18 inches in hgt.	Seedlings	Other
Temporary Use (§ 12-0316.3)	25% of the disturbed area	10 per 1000 ft ²	10 per 1,000 ft ²	Grass, and perennial seed mixes
RPA (§ 12-0316.4)	25% of the disturbed area	10 per 1000 ft ²	10 per 1,000 ft ²	Wetland plants, Wetland seed

Staff note: All existing references to Table 12.13 in other sections of the PFM will be updated to Table 12.13A.

Amend Article 12-0300 (TREE CONSERVATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS), Section 12-0316 (Requirements and Specifications for Replacement Trees and/or Vegetation), by revising Subsection 12-0316.4 and adding Table 12.13B to read as follows:

12-0316.4 ~~When RPAs have been disturbed without prior approval by the Director, or are proposed to be disturbed as part of a construction plan, buffer areas must be restored or created as required under Chapter 118 of the Code and § 6-0000 et~~

~~seq., and planting must be consistent with Performance Criteria found in the “Riparian Buffers Guidance and Mitigation Guidance Manual” published by the Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. At least 25 percent of the area must be planted with trees as specified in § 12-0316.2. In addition, one seedling as specified in § 12-0505.5 must be planted for each 100 square feet of disturbed area and one shrub with a minimum height of 18 inches must be planted for each 100 square feet of disturbed area. Soil preparation, soil amendments, and/or seed mix is required as determined by the Director. The surface area associated with these plantings may be used to meet 10-year Tree Canopy requirements when being planted to offset allowable disturbances to RPAs. RPA Establishment and Restoration. When RPAs are to be established or restored (see [Chapter 118](#) of the Code), plantings must include a mix of: overstory trees; understory trees; shrubs or shrubs with shrub-equivalents; and both annual and perennial herbaceous seed mixes for groundcover planted at the densities listed in [Table 12.13B](#) and in accordance with the following:~~

- A. The planting plan must assure that the buffer functions set forth in §118-3-3(d) of the Code are met.
- B. Stock sizes must conform to the [American Standard for Nursery Stock \(ANSI Z60.1](#) current edition).
- C. Large caliper trees may not be planted on slopes steeper than 2:1.
- D. Plant materials from each of the required categories must be placed throughout the buffer.
- E. Plants and perennial seed mixes must be species native to Fairfax County, tolerant of site conditions and non-invasive. Native species are those known to occur naturally (i.e., not assisted by human movement) in Fairfax County as indicated in the [Digital Atlas of Virginia Flora](#). Wetland plant species should be used where warranted by site conditions.
- F. If non-native invasive plant species (NNIs) are present in the RPA and are likely to affect establishment or growth of plantings, control of NNIs must be included in the RPA planting plan.
- G. Undisturbed areas within an RPA to be restored are not required to be replanted or included in the planting density computations, except that if NNIs are to be removed, adequate ground cover must be established. Supplemental vegetation may be planted in undisturbed areas within RPAs when necessary to achieve buffer functions or when required as a condition of other approvals.
- H. For partially disturbed areas (e.g., some trees remain), planting densities may be adjusted with approval by the Director.
- I. The Director may require additional or more specific plantings to correct violations of [Chapter 118](#) of the Code.

- J. The surface area associated with RPA plantings may be used to meet 10-year Tree Canopy requirements when being planted to offset allowable disturbances to RPAs. See § 12-0310.4F.

These planting requirements should also be used for establishment of vegetated areas outside of RPAs used to mitigate RPA encroachments.

Table 12.13B Planting Density per acre for RPA Establishment or Restoration

<u>A. Trees¹</u>					
	<u>1.5-in. Caliper²</u>	<u>¾-in. Caliper²</u>	<u>Gallon Pot³</u>	<u>Tubelings⁴</u>	<u>Bareroot Seedlings⁵</u>
<u>Overstory Trees</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>1,210⁷</u>
<u>Understory Trees⁶</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>435</u>	<u>800</u>	
<p>1. Any overstory tree size may be paired with any understory tree size. Overstory trees and understory trees do not have to be the same size and more than one size of overstory tree and understory tree may be used. Using a 1-acre site as an example, a planting plan could specify 109 1.5-inch caliper overstory trees for the entire acre, 109 ¾-inch caliper understory trees for ½ acre and 218 1-gallon pot understory trees for ½ acre.</p> <p>2. Tree caliper is measured at 6 inches above ground as specified in ANSI Z60.1.</p> <p>3. A gallon pot contains approximately 1 gallon of soil, equivalent to a #1 or #2 container size in accordance with ANSI Z60.1.</p> <p>4. A tubeling is a tree grown from seed and offered for sale in plastic "plug" containers. Plants can vary in age from 1 to 4 years. Tubelings must be at least 0.25-inch diameter where the stem joins the roots (root collar).</p> <p>5. Bareroot seedlings may only be used with approval by the Director. A bareroot seedling is a tree grown from seed but sold without soil. Plants can vary in age from 1 to 4 years. Seedlings must be at least 0.25-inch diameter where the stem joins the roots (root collar).</p> <p>6. Up to 25% of the understory trees may be composed of overstory species.</p> <p>7. This number is the combined total of understory trees and overstory trees required. The proportion of understory trees to overstory trees is flexible and will be evaluated with the planting plan.</p> <p>8. The recommended planting window is November 1st through April 15th when the ground is not frozen (after the first hard frost and before bud break).</p>					
<u>B. Shrubs</u>					
	<u>12-24 in. tall in a 1 gallon or larger pot¹</u>		<u>1 quart or larger pot</u>		
<u>Shrubs</u>	<u>654</u>		<u>N/A</u>		
<u>Shrub-Equivalents²</u>	<u>N/A</u>		<u>2,616</u>		
<p>1. A gallon pot contains approximately 1 gallon of soil, equivalent to a #1 or #2 container size in accordance with ANSI Z60.1.</p> <p>2. Up to 25% of the shrub layer may be composed of other plant types that perform an ecological function equivalent to shrubs. These shrub-equivalents, as determined by the</p>					

Director, include various species of forbs, herbs, graminoids and vines. Unlike shrubs, shrub-equivalents may die back to the ground during winter. Using a 1.2-acre site as an example, 589 (0.9-acre x 654/acre) shrubs and 785 (0.3-acre x 2,616/acre) shrub-equivalents would be required.

3. The recommended planting window for shrubs is November 1st through April 15th when the ground is not frozen (after the first hard frost and before bud break).

4. The recommended planting window for shrub-equivalents is September 1st through October 31st and March 1st through May 15th.

C. Groundcover¹

	<u>Pure Live Seed</u>
<u>Perennial Herbaceous Seed Mix²</u> (minimum of 12 species)	<u>30 lbs.</u>
<u>Annual Herbaceous Cover Crop Seed Mix²</u> (1-2 species)	<u>60 lbs.</u>

1. Other types of groundcover such as leaf litter or mulch may be approved by the Director.

2. An herbaceous seed mix is a seed mix of perennial and/or annual grasses and flowers. The perennial herbaceous seed mix must be composed of native species. The annual herbaceous cover crop seed mix may be composed of non-native species.

3. The recommended planting window for the perennial herbaceous seed mix is September 1st through October 31st and March 1st through May 15th.

4. Annual herbaceous cover crop seed mixes may be planted year-round.

Amend Article 12-0400 (TREE SELECTION AND CANOPY COVER GUIDE), Section 12-0401 (Explanation of Tree Selection and Canopy Cover Guide), by revising Subparagraph 12-0401.1D.2 to read as follows:

2. Native (N). ~~A native tree is defined as a tree species that the Director determines to be indigenous to any of the forest or woodland communities that were likely present in Fairfax County immediately before European settlement of Virginia. Native species are those known to occur naturally (i.e., not assisted by human movement) in Fairfax County as indicated in the [Digital Atlas of Virginia Flora](#).~~ These trees may be used for additional canopy credits as provided in § 12-0310.4B.

This amendment shall become effective on June 23, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.

GIVEN under my hand this 22nd day of June, 2021.

Jill G. Cooper
Clerk for the Board of Supervisors