CITY OF VISALIA

Parks & Urban Forestry Guidelines

Street Tree Standards For Residential And Commercal Development

These guidelines have been established for the planting, long term care, maintenance, and protection of street trees within the city as authorized in Chapter 12.2 of the Municipal Code which authorizes the director to develop and administer guidelines for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of street trees. The guidelines shall include an authorized species list, spacing guidelines for each authorized species, specifications for street tree planting, and specifications for nursery stock quality of street trees.

Section 1. General Requirements

1. **Residential Development-** One to two street trees shall be planted per residential lot (depending on lot size) and three to five per corner lot.

2. **Commercial Development –**One street tree shall be planted for every 30′ of lot frontage along the transportation corridor(s).

A. Improvement Plans Requirements

Developer shall provide a street tree plan for all new developments. This plan shall specify tree species, location and spacing. The plan shall be submitted to the City of Visalia with the improvement plans. Street trees shall be managed through a Landscape and Lighting District is a district is created. Improvement and street tree plans shall show locations of any overhead utility lines.

B. Species Selection

On local streets in front of homes a single species shall be used on a given block however, different trees species shall be used throughout a development. The City shall not accept a street tree plan that features a single species of tree. No more than 20% of any street trees in a development may be of the same species unless approved by the city arborist. Street trees sited in parkways along arterials and collectors along sound walls shall be selected from the medium and large tree category unless there are over head utilies present. Trees planted in the area between sidewalk and sound wall shall be selected from the small tree category. Species selected for the parkways around sound ways shall be consistent is scale. If more than one species is desired in the parkways around a sound wall then no less that 5 trees of the same species shall be planted in a consistent corridor. Attach is a list of approved street trees.

C. City of Visalia Specifications for Container Grown Trees

The City shall require all street trees meet city specifications for container grown trees. City specification for nursery stock quality is attached.

D. <u>Planting Sites</u>

Street trees shall be planted in the public right of way, easements and medians along transportation corridors. Street trees planted along public corridors provide a dramatic visual impact while creating much needed shade. Street trees in parkways provide pedestrians with a shaded walking area separated from automobiles. Street trees shall be placed in the following locations:

1. **Commercial**
   a. Street trees are required along transportation corridors in tree wells in sidewalks or parkways.
   b. Street trees arre requiremed in street medians (which are in the center of a roadway separating the lanes of traffic).
2. **Residential**
   a. Street trees are required in parkways on residential streets and the landscaped area surrounding a development.
   b. Where there are no parkways, street trees are required within 10′ to 12′ of the edge of the right of way and/or easement that extends into private property.
   c. Street trees are required in street medians.

E. <u>Tree Spacing</u>

Tree spacing is an important element in a successful landscape. Tree spacing in some areas may vary because of drive approaches, lighting, and utilities.

- Small trees - 20′ to 25′ apart. Small tree shall be used when planting under the utility lines. Small trees should be considered in the area between the wall and the back of sidewalk in the landscaped area surrounding the development. Small tree will generally not be approved for uses as street trees unless overhead utility lines are present.

- Medium size trees - 25′ to 35′ apart. Medium size trees can be used as street trees in parkways in front of homes and the back of sidewalk in the landscaped area surrounding the development.

- Large trees - 30′ to 45′ apart. Large trees can be used as street trees in parkways in front of homes and in the landscaped area surrounding the development.

F. Tree Locations

1. Approximate spacing should be 30′ to 45′.
   -Trees are not to be planted within;
   - 5′ of drive approaches
   - 5′ of sewer lines
   - 5′ of water lines
   - 10′ of fire hydrants
   - 10′ of light poles
2. Trees are not to be planted within clear vision triangle on corner lots.
   - Local Streets (30 mph) – 25′ distance from side street curb face to first street tree.
   - Collector Streets (40 mph) – 50′ distance from side street curb fact to first tree.
   - Arterial Street (50′mph) – 90′ distance from side street curb fact to first tree.
3. Trees should not be planted where they will obstruct the views of stop signs or traffic signals.
4. No tree that grows taller than 25′ shall be planted under power lines.

Section 2. Planting

Planting a tree is an investment in time, money and the future. Correct planting procedures are critical to achieving a return on the investment. Good planting practices greatly improve plant establishment. The City of Visalia shall reject any street tree not planted according to standards. A planting detail is attached.

A. Digging the Planting Pit

In all but sandy soils dig the hole to the depth of the root ball (but no deeper) and two to three times as wide.

B. Installing the Tree

Remove the tree from the container and cut circling roots and those matted at the bottom. Set the root ball so its top is at grade. Backfill with native soil and gently firm the soil to hold the tree in place and minimize air pockets. All trees shall be watered in at planting. In turf areas a 3-inch berm shall be formed around the root ball.

C. Turf

Within six foot parkway there shall be no turf within a three foot ring around the tree. In an eight foot or greater parkway a five foot ring free of turf shall be formed around the tree. In the perimeter landscaped area around a development the trees shall be sited in a planter area free of turf. See attached details.

D. Mulch

Mulch can improve soil structure over long periods of time. Developer shall add mulch such as shredded bark or wood chips around the tree in the turf free ring. Mulch shall be three inches thick and be kept at least 3inches away from the trunk. Shredded bark and larger wood chips also discourages lawn mowers and weed-eaters from hitting the tree trunk.

E. Staking

The amount of support needed to keep the tree straight is largely dependent on caliper and taper of the trunk and the height and size of the crown. A tree with good taper and moderate crown will not require a great dealt of support. The tie should allow the tree to move and flex in the wind but keep the trunk from hitting the stake. If a single stake system is used, the stake should be installed on the windward side of the tree. If the double stake method is the stakes should be installed so that they are perpendicular to the prevailing wind.

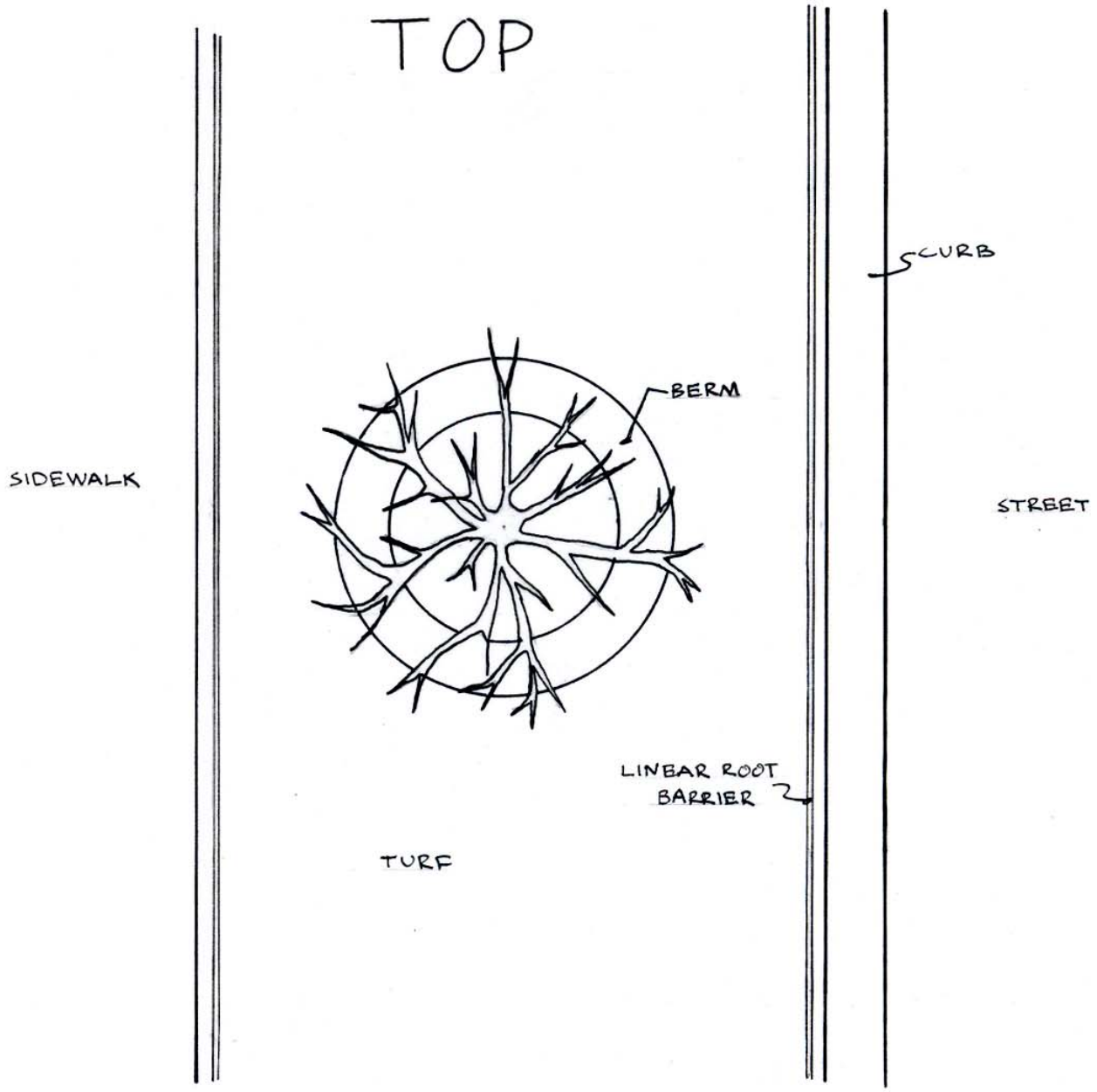
F. Irrigation

Trees planted in turf do not require a separate irrigation system. Water from the overhead spray is expected to be sufficient. Bubblers are required if there is no overhead irrigation.

G. Tree Replacement

Developer shall be responsible for tree replacement for a one year period after initial planting.

TREE PLANTING IN PARKWAY DETAIL



TREE PLANTING IN PARKWAY DETAIL

SECTION