

## **BRAZORIA COUNTY LANDSCAPING POLICY**

Landscaping is permitted within County right of way when such landscaping conforms to the following guidelines:

- Landscaping should not hinder, block, or misdirect the flow of water either from the roadway or that would enter into the ditch naturally from the land adjacent to the right of way, as well as the flow of water down the roadside ditch or to an outfall used by the roadside ditch.
- Landscaping should not impede the driver's sight of the roadway and oncoming traffic, cross traffic, or traffic entering the roadway in a manner that violates good engineering practices regarding clear sight distances on such roadways.
- Landscaping should not pose safety impacts to the clear zone around the roadway which could include the shoulders, front slope of ditches, bottom of ditches, and area behind the curb. Safety impacts are those that would hinder a driver who has left the roadway the ability to recover and regain access to the roadway.
- Landscaping should not cause any detriment to the roadway pavement, base, subgrade or any other element necessary to ensure the function, quality, and life of the roadway (ditches, shoulders, signs, etc.). Trees shall be planted in accordance with the Landscaping Within County Right of Way Tree Planting List attached to this policy.
- Landscaping should not impact the ability of the county to maintain the roadway or any facility within the right of way (ditches, driveways, culverts, signs, etc.).
- Landscaping should not hinder or block any person's legal right to access and use the roadway or any facility in the right of way (ditches, driveways, culverts, signs, etc.).

Landscaping placed along roadways intended for acceptance into the County maintenance system shall be placed according to the criteria outlined herein. Landscaping that is placed prior to acceptance that does not meet Brazoria County criteria could jeopardize roadway acceptance.

A permit to place landscaping in the public right of way must be obtained from the Brazoria County Engineering Department before any work can begin. Further, landscaping within all public and County easements and right of ways is on public property. Any damage to the landscaping by the County in any use of the easement or right of way, or any other member of the public lawfully using the roadway or easement, is at the cost of the individual that placed the landscaping within the easement. The County takes no responsibility for the landscaping and will not maintain or replace said landscaping.

**Brazoria County**  
**Landscaping within County Right of Way**  
**Tree Planting List**

**LARGE TREES**

**GrowSpace Requirement** - Minimum of 1,600 total square feet with minimum narrowest width of 16 feet.

**Minimum spacing between trees planted in R.O.W.** - 30 feet on center.

**Minimum Distance from back of curb or sidewalk**- 8 feet.

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>
Overcup Oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Chinkapin Oak	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>
Water Oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>
Nuttall Oak	<i>Quercus nuttallii</i>
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>
Post Oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>
Laurel Oak	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>
Durand Oak	<i>Quercus durandii</i>
Swamp Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>
Polymorpha/Monterrey Oak	<i>Quercus polymorpha</i>
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Montezuma Cypress	<i>Taxodium mucronatum</i>
Sweetgum(no improved varieties)	<i>liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Mexican Sycamore	<i>Platanus mexicana</i>
Winged Elm	<i>Ulmus alata</i>
Cedar Elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>

**MEDIUM TREES**

**GrowSpace Requirement** - Minimum of 800 total square feet with minimum narrowest width of 10 feet.

**Minimum spacing between trees planted in R.O.W.** - 25 feet on center.

**Minimum Distance from back of curb or sidewalk**- 6 feet.

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>
Gum Bumelia/Wholly Bucket	<i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i>
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Eastern Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Trident Maple	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>
Anacua	<i>Ehretia anacua</i>
Texas Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis 'texensis'</i>
Texas Ash	<i>Fraxinus texana</i>

**Brazoria County**  
**Landscaping within County Right of Way**

**SMALL TREES**

**GrowSpace Requirement** - Minimum of 200 total square feet with minimum narrowest width of 6 feet.

**Minimum spacing between trees planted in R.O.W.** - 20 feet on center.

**Minimum Distance from back of curb or sidewalk**- 2 feet.

East Palatka Holly	<i>Ilex x attenuata var East palatka</i>
Savannah Holly	<i>Ilex x attenuata var Savannah</i>
Texas Pistache	<i>Pistacia texana</i>
Texas Mountain Laurel	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>
Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>
Crape Myrtle - Arapaho	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
Crape Myrtle - Basham	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
Crape Myrtle - Biloxi	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
Crape Myrtle - Carolina Beauty	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
Crape Myrtle - Catawba	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
Crape Myrtle - Muskogee	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
Crape Myrtle - Natchez	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
Crape Myrtle - Red Rocket	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
Crape Myrtle - Sioux	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>

**DEFINITIONS / ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

**GrowSpace** shall mean an area capable of supporting tree establishment and growth and shall contain soil that has not been stabilized, or compacted to a point where water infiltration rates fall below 3.0 inches/hour. GrowSpace shall not include street, sidewalk, parking lot or other hardscape. Each GrowSpace shall include no more than one tree.

Large trees shall not be planted within 16 feet of overhead utility lines.

No tree shall be planted within visibility triangle of street intersection or driveway.

No tree shall be planted within 20' of traffic signal, stop sign, or other regulatory traffic sign.